

Research area: VITICULTURE: IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

Regional cluster: LIMESTONE COAST

Is organic weed control beneficial for winegrape production in the Limestone Coast?

Background

Synthetic chemicals (insecticides and herbicides) and fertilisers are commonly used in viticulture to counter the threats of nutrient deficiency, weeds, pests and diseases. Aside from the cost of such treatments, chemicals impact the surrounding environment by contaminating soil and water and reducing overall biodiversity. In contrast, mulching in the undervine area effectively inhibits weed germination and growth, as well as enhancing natural nutritional uptake and soil biota. The impact of such practices on vine performance and grape quality varies between locations.

Why is it important?

Future vineyard practices that protect natural resources and the environment are essential to sustain a profitable future for grape and wine production. This project will investigate whether use of mulch to control weeds on the vineyard floor will improve the growth, performance, disease/pest resistance and fruit quality of grapevines grown in the Limestone Coast, as compared to traditional methods of chemical weed control.

What would success look like?

Results from this project will assist producers in the Limestone Coast with weed control in the vineyard, by providing a viable alternative to chemical use. Reduced reliance on costly high-intrusion synthetic chemical inputs by using natural and recycled solutions can reduce risk of disease, weeds and pests, whilst enhancing production and quality and ensuring the sustainability of the sector.

For further information and to develop an application please contact:

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