

Research area: VITICULTURE

Regional cluster: GREATER VICTORIA

Which grapevine rootstock performs the best for Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir?

Background

The Mornington Peninsula region of Victoria has a cool, maritime climate and it has gained a reputation for producing premium Pinot Noir wines. Approximately three years ago, the Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association established two Pinot Noir rootstock trials (Pinot Noir MV 6 grafted to 14 different rootstocks and an own root control). These trials have undergone one year of evaluation to determine which rootstocks perform the best under Mornington Peninsula conditions, and a second year would add value to the data. Analysis will include grape composition, wine composition and wine sensory assessment.

Why is it important?

The adoption of rootstocks in regions such as Mornington Peninsula is critical to help protect against the risk of phylloxera, as Mornington Peninsula is located close to phylloxera-infested zones in Victoria, and is currently classified as a Phylloxera Risk Zone (PRZ). The majority of vines in Victoria, and across Australia, are currently planted on own roots and are therefore susceptible to phylloxera infestation. Also, the adoption of rootstocks may help vignerons manage future water scarcity and overcome soil health problems such as soil salinity and sodicity.

What would success look like?

The identification of key rootstocks best suited to the Mornington Peninsula for producing ultra-premium Pinot Noir.

For further information and to develop an application please contact:

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