

Sustainable Viticulture

Water Conservation

Coonawarra's famous terra rossa soil lies above a porous limestone ridge, which is host to a precious permanent aquifer. Sometimes, to maintain vine health, a little irrigation from this aquifer is necessary. The installation of a state-of-the-art weather station allows us to monitor soil moisture, ambient temperatures and approaching weather patterns, to ensure the resource we use to protect the vineyard is used as sustainably as possible.

Soil Conservation

Whilst conventional viticulture leans towards a clean bare-earth under vine strip, we trial species of vegetation which will happily grow underneath our vines without competing with them. Our current use of clover not only attracts greater diversity of insect life, but as a legume, it draws nitrogen from the atmosphere and soil, fixing the nitrogen on its roots. When the clover dies in summer, the vegetation creates a mat of rich organic matter which acts as an insulation blanket and slows moisture evaporation, while the nitrogen becomes available to our vines.

Disease Management

We use natural based fungicides, such as Sulphur, which is accepted in organic production, to control any potential disease in the vineyard, while still allowing the insect life to flourish and not upsetting the natural balance and resilience of the vine. Our fungicide program is in keeping with the strict *Freshcare Environmental Viticulture Code 2nd Edition*. Our vineyard and winery have been accredited for four years with reporting conducted annually and an audit of procedures undertaken every three years.

Insect Control

We are proud to have maintained a non-insecticide program for over 25 years. In order to control undesirable insect populations, we encourage beneficial predatory insects such as spiders to do the work for us. To welcome the spiders to our vineyard, we provide them with a nectar source in the form of an under vine clover crop.

