RYMILL
COONAWARRA

PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE VITICULTURE

Rymill Coonawarra embraces the principles of sustainable viticulture, the goals of which are to guarantee the stewardship of our human, economic and natural resources, such that we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the future.

Sustainable viticulture comprises:

Ecology

- Maintaining an ecological balance of our land such that our vines are healthy and our wines express its terroir
- Enhancing our environment, and ensuring the preservation and renewal of natural species

  (eg: red gums at Three Mile Lane)
- Maintaining the health of our natural resources, including responsible waste disposal and avoiding any pollution from chemical residues
- Endeavouring to leave the land and its resources in better condition than when we acquired them

Soil health

- Avoiding the use of chemical fertilizers
- Using organically-based fertilizers, such as Earthcare (seaweed-based), and Guano Gold (bat droppings), chicken manure, and natural rock phosphate

Weed control

- Maintaining soil health and structure by applying no long-acting, soil-residual pre-emergent weedicides which remain active in, and poison the soil
- Using on foliar herbicide sprays (Spray seed, Glyphosate) for weed control that are deactivated by contact with the soil (as guaranteed on the label), leave no residual contamination and do not leech into the groundwater
- Minimising the use of herbicides by employing mechanical under-vine weeders

Insect control

- Maintaining an integrated eco-system in which all beneficial organisms can flourish, by applying no synthetic, chemical insecticides
- Using only naturally occurring, biological sprays for specific moth control, so as not to compromise the pest control provided by existing beneficial insects
- NB: Dipel (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is 'a natural bacterial preparation which is mixed with water and sprayed on to the vines' (as stated on the label)
- Using pheromone lures to disrupt the successful mating of female moths

Fungus control

- Achieving fungus (botrytis and mildew) control by using the safest preventative sprays in the lowest possible volumes; usually a Bordeaux Mixture comprising elemental sulphur and copper compounds
- Minimising the use of such sprays by applying them only when required, as predicted by our weather stations and disease monitoring

Water conservation

- Conserving water by minimising summer irrigation, by means of weather station data, soil moisture-probe data and water meters
- Minimising frost control irrigation, by means of accurate weather forecasts and on-site temperature monitoring