

# BUD BURST

The next growing season will be starting shortly! As it is the beginning of May, the main pruning should be almost finished or even completed, with the majority of shoot canes tied up.

It is good to remember that the shorter season varieties (which can be hybrids or some *Vitis vinifera*) or the varieties which were pruned earlier in the season will usually be the first ones to have bud break. Ideally before bud break, shoot canes will be tied in the desired position to avoid complications in bud development and to avoid losing buds by damage from the wire or during tying.

Therefore, due to these different grapevine variety characteristics it is recommended to prioritize activities depending on the recorded developmental milestones of each variety on your property. For example if a block of Baco noir is traditionally the earliest block to show bud burst, then consider pruning and tying that block first. When pruning, if it appears that a block or variety will burst soon then these grapevines have to be pruned as soon as possible to diminish the impact of any potential damage. In the case of tying, again the varieties with historically early bud burst have to be tied before the later ones.

Additionally, it is important to keep the between-row spaces clean of weeds and the pruned material from earlier in the season. This will allow better movement of machinery, improved plant development, enhanced establishment of the cover crop and reduce potential diseases by removal of infected plant material. If the vines removed by pruning do not show any signs of disease, they could be incorporated to the soil, if necessary. Ideally the

area under the vines will be kept free of weeds to avoid the competition for nutrients, and to avoid expansion and multiplication of the weeds. The control of weeds through the season will be more complicated if they are not controlled at the beginning of the season.

