



L'innovazione in viticoltura

TIPS FOR SOIL PREPARATION BEFORE PLANTING

- An appropriate preparation of the soil is a mandatory condition to ensure a proper vegetative restart and the development of the vineyard. When dealing with heavy soils, it is desirable to carry out the preparatory operations, such as deep soil processing, subsoil tillage and plowing, during August-September, whereas in light lowland soils these operations can be performed later. Finishing operations must be carried out before planting to facilitate planting by machine or with mechanical forks.
 - In case of replanting on parcels which have previously been grown with vineyards, it is always desirable to carry out a 1-to-3-year crop rotation before proceeding with planting the new vineyard. In the presence of nematodes virus vectors, assessed with nematological analysis, it is necessary, where permitted, to resort to chemical disinfestation or to the cultivation of nematocidal plants (e.g. horseradish); otherwise crop rotation must be extended for at least 6 years.
 - Should ground levelling be necessary, it is not advisable to overlap the surface soil with deeper layers, as it would be rather preferable to carry over soil from areas with different pedologic characteristics. It is preferable to level out the unevenness using deep soil and eventually coat it with the surface soil previously accumulated at the edge of the field.
 - Similarly, we do not recommend performing deep soil preparations, especially in the presence of shallow soils, this in order not to bring the underlying inert materials to the surface and not to damage the fertile upper layers. As an alternative to deep break-up, a double-layer processing is advisable: a first 80-100cm deep tillage (especially useful when dealing with heavy and compact soils) and then a shallow - 40cm-deep - ploughing. When dealing with soils rich in skeleton, it is possible to shatter the aggregates with special equipment or to remove large inert blocks.
 - Soil sampling and chemical-physical analysis are also good practices when choosing the correct ground (preparatory) fertilization and the most suited rootstock.
 - Ground fertilization before ploughing is of paramount importance. If available, the use of mature cow manure (50-60 tons/ha) is recommended. Manure will provide both micro and macro-elements as well as organic matter useful for the improvement of the soil structure.
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