

# *Vineyard Applications of Wormcastings & Wormcasting Tea*

## **Fall Fertilization**

Put down 1-5 tons per acre of **Wormcastings** in the Fall as top dressing.

## **Spring Soil Drench**

Initially apply 15 gallons of **Wormcasting Tea** per acre each fall. Put the **Tea** directly on top of the compost and/or Wormcastings in the Fall.

## **Spring/Summer Foliar Sprays**

For foliar sprays in the first year use 5 gallons of **Wormcasting Tea** per acre for every 6' of height/canopy each month mixed in the correct amount of water during the growing season starting at 2 weeks before bud break. After 4-5 years and the vines and soil are healthy, solution usage will decrease to seasonally or during pest, disease alert or problem.

## **Additional Nutrients Needed?**

The first and possibly the second year may need additional nutrients while nutrient cycling is getting started, so add nutrients to the **Wormcasting Tea** or with the **Wormcastings** according to requirements. For any nutrient deficiencies that show up, do a petiole analysis, add the nutrients lacking to the **Wormcasting Tea**, and apply. The organisms in the solution increase the ability of the plant to take up the nutrients faster.

## **Transplanting**

For transplanting vines use 30-50% wormcastings with site soil. Gradually mix into site soil away from the plug so there are no sharp demarcations. Water in with **Wormcasting Tea**.

## **Bare Root Planting**

For new bare root plantings use a slurry mixture of **Wormcastings** with additional nutrients (if required) and **Wormcasting Tea** to dip the bare roots in to coat the roots. Fill holes with native soil and water with **Wormcasting Tea**. New vines should be planted 6-9 inches away from the drip emitter.

## **Pesticides**

If any pesticides are used, apply **Wormcasting Tea** 3-5 days after application and continue with prescribed program. Sulfur will always kill some of the beneficial organisms, and as applications

of sulfur increase, the resulting effect is to have more disease, unless the biology is brought back. If Sulfur, Kaligreen or other fungicides are used, apply ***Wormcasting Tea*** 3 days after application to inoculate the full range of beneficials once again.

### **Cover Crops**

Thyme or marjoram (perennials, shortest seeded variety available for your area) can be planted as an under-story crop. These can be mowed before harvest, otherwise allow them to flower & seed to full maturity.

### **Between Rows**

Grasses can be planted in strips between the tree rows, with a nitrogen fixer in the middle. These can be mowed before harvest, if necessary, otherwise allow them to flower and seed to full maturity.

### **Disease & Pests**

When the extension service gives disease (mildew) or pest warning alerts, apply the ***Wormcasting Tea*** weekly until the alert stops. Then continue monthly until harvest. If a disease outbreak occurs, apply the ***Wormcasting Tea*** immediately, every 3-5 days until disease leaves. Getting a fungal Compost Tea on later in the season is the only way not to have problems with mildew. Teas with bacteria alone are rarely effective in protecting plants from mildew fungi.

### **Water Usage**

Water usage will decrease as the soil microbiology rebuilds the soil health. Typically, in the first year a 30% decrease in water use has been seen, and by the second and third years, up to 50-60% total decrease in water use. Please remember to reduce water applications when using ***Wormcasting Teas***.

### **Decrease Usage**

After 4-5 years and the soil is healthy, solution usage will decrease to seasonally or during pest or disease alert.