



## Northwest Grape Foundation Service

The Northwest Grape Foundation Service represents a culmination of effort by the grape and wine industry in the Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The NWGFS combines elements of publicly funded programs with self-supporting fee-for-service activities and is a collaborative effort between the viticulture and virology programs within the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University. The function of the foundation vineyard appears similar to a conventional nursery but the business practices provide services and materials that are unique to a Grape Foundation Service which are described below.

### **The Service Role**

The clean stock program is unique in the Pacific Northwest and is dedicated to the production and distribution of grape plants that are properly identified and tested free of specified diseases to satisfy the needs of the grape industry. All grape plants are tested prior to inclusion in the foundation vineyard to ensure freedom from prescribed virus diseases and crown gall disease. They are routinely re-tested to maintain that status. NWGFS is a source of grape foundation stock for state-operated certification programs in the Pacific Northwest. Nurseries in the certification programs increase stock to commercial levels in their 'mother blocks' registered with their respective State Departments of Agriculture. All testing procedures performed at the NWGFS meet the most stringent requirements of participating State Departments of Agriculture for inclusion in certification programs.

### **Public and Private/Proprietary Foundation Material**

Both public and privately sponsored plant material will be maintained in the foundation vineyard. Public accessions are selections of grape stock that are available to all interested parties. Privately sponsored and proprietary accessions are selections that are available only to the sponsor and his/her consignees. Private and proprietary selections in the NWGFS are subject to the same standards as public material and will have an introduction fee and annual maintenance fee that is the sole responsibility of the sponsor.

### **Orders, Allocation, Order Confirmation, Order Status**

Orders placed for foundation plant material (dormant hardwood cuttings, green tissue-propagated potted plants, and tip-culture-propagated potted plants) will be by a written and signed order form only, and sent by mail or faxed to the NWGFS office. Orders may be placed anytime of the year, but December 1 is the final date for allocation of plant material.

When demand exceeds supply, NWGFS grape materials are allocated among customers who order before the December 1 deadline.

Priority is given to customers in the following order:

- 1) Idaho, Oregon and Washington nursery participants in their respective state grape nursery certification programs;
- 2) University and federal research programs;
- 3) Customers within the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington; and
- 4) Customers outside these states.

Propagation materials that remain after the allocation deadline are sold on a first-come-first-served basis. When supplies are limited, customers that are not participants in their state grape nursery certification programs may receive very little or no plant material regardless of the date ordered.

Upon receiving an order, confirmation is sent to customers. A confirmation does not guarantee that NWGFS will supply the quantities requested. The quantity supplied will depend on other orders received by the deadline, the amount of material harvested, and the ranking in the allocation system. Before any plant material is supplied, a signed NWGFS grower agreement is required.

Dormant hardwood cuttings are collected in mid-December and made available for delivery early January. Mist and tip propagated material will be started after an order is placed. The amount of time to make plants available depends on the season and the number of plants ordered. Approximate dates for delivery for mist and tip propagated plants will be provided with order confirmation.

### **Pricing**

Funding to support the NWGFS activities is generated through a combination of sales, private/proprietary user fees, nursery assessments, state and federal grants, and industry donations. Prices reflect the high cost of establishing and maintaining the foundation vineyard to its certification status. Refer to the price list on the website for current pricing of materials and services.

### **Payment**

A down payment of 1/2 the total is required at the time of placing the order with the balance due at the time of pick-up, or prior to shipping.

### **For more information:**

<http://nwgfs.wsu.edu>

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