

Benchmark Custom Can-Am LLC  
PO Box 84 Hector, NY 14841  
P: (607) 319-6843  
johnandrewchallen@hotmail.com  
<http://www.benchmarkvineyardplanting.com>

## **Planting Terms and Conditions**

We take great pride in the high quality of the planting services we provide. It is the responsibility of the grower to properly prepare the field for planting. The success and accuracy of the planting will be directly affected by the quality of the soil preparation.

Deep Ripping (Minimum 20" with a fixed shank, not a spring mounted chisel plow) every 3 feet in 2 directions is of the utmost importance, this will break up subsoil compaction and bring up any rocks at planting depth (the planter runs about 20" deep). Rocks will not only shift the planting machine away from where the row should be, but can also be a serious hazard to operator safety and our precision equipment. We require any rock larger than a football to a depth of 20" be removed.

Excessive vegetative matter or large soil clots in the planting zone will result in poor soil/root contact, poor planting accuracy and a poor start to the vineyard, especially if weather conditions are less than ideal prior to/following planting. Therefore, it is necessary to "finish fit" the field with a cultivator/ roller combination that will pulverize and subsequently pack the topsoil to provide good soil flow back into the planting trench and solid footing for our equipment.

We recommend using as large as possible equipment to prepare the fields. There is no substitute for the size, weight and power of larger equipment. If you do not own large field cultivating equipment, we recommend finding a local farmer and inquire about custom tillage for your fields. Proper field preparation can be a multi-year process and depends on the prior state of the field. The process we recommend for pre-plant field preparation is as follows:

### **Late Summer-Fall prior to planting:**

- kill existing vegetation with systemic herbicide
- subsoil to 20" with a fixed shank every 3 feet in 2-3 directions.
- de-rock
- mouldboard or chisel plow
- fit field, de-rock and plant winter cover crop

### **Spring prior to planting:**

- kill cover crop with systemic herbicide
- mow cover crop (Very Important)
- mouldboard or chisel plow
- de-rock
- disc/ cultivate field
- de-rock
- final fitting with field cultivator/roller combination just prior to planting

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We reserve the right to adjust our quote due to an inadequately prepared site.

It is also important for you to establish the alignment of the first row in each block. For example, it may be parallel to an existing row in an older vineyard, a roadway or a lot line. If you are unsure of the exact alignment, we can show how various possible orientations (building off existing blocks, North-South, specific degree headings) will fall in the field when we are set up and on-site. In addition to this establishment of row orientation, we will require a "limit-line" of approximately where to start and finish each row. Painting a "start" and "finish" line along ground at either end of the vineyard or placing numerous survey flags is effective as a visual aid.

In most cases we will require a minimum of two workers to assist us in planting. These individuals are to assist in confirming that vines are planted to your specifications including variety, rootstock, clone, vine locations, graft height, etc. The goal is to keep the planter moving by helping ensure that vines are available where/when needed and in "ready-to-plant" condition, and providing other help as required. One individual walking behind the machine as we plant, functioning in the "QC/Cleanup" capacity is crucial. Generally speaking: *The more hands you provide, the smoother the planting will go.* These workers will be the client's responsibility for compensation.

Vine roots should be trimmed to approximately 4-6" prior to our arrival for planting. Our equipment is designed to efficiently plant bare-root grafted vines. It is capable of planting un-grafted (own bare rooted) vines but at a much slower pace. Please note the difference in vine planting cost between bare-root grafted and own-rooted vines. There will also be a destination charge to cover a portion of the overhead costs involved in getting to and from your area. This charge is dependent on if there is additional work in your immediate area; we can estimate the destination charge ahead of time to be used for your planning. Please note that for smaller plantings, a minimum total cost of \$3000 + destination fee may apply.

We will make every effort to plant your vines as soon as possible in the spring as site, weather and schedule permit. For scheduling purposes, please confirm your intention to use our services ASAP via email or phone so that we may include you on our confirmed planting list. Please return a signed copy of the attached work sheet along with a check for the amount indicated as deposit required by March 1, 2026. By signing the attached work sheet you acknowledge having understood the planting terms and conditions and accept them as outlined above. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We sincerely look forward to working with you, and helping to establish your new vineyard.

Respectfully,  
Andrew Challen