

# Top Ten List: Things Prospective Grape Growers Should Know

## Chris Carroll Crossing Vineyards And Winery

WASHINGTON CROSSING (Bucks Co.) — We did three years of planning and research before planting our first vines at Crossing Vineyards and Winery in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

We attended workshops, visited other vineyards, extensively tested and amended our soil, and enlisted the help of

experts. Still, like many new vineyard owners, we were forced to make critical decisions without sufficient knowledge. If only we'd known then what we know now.

### • Number Ten: Choose Your Site Carefully

Elevation is the single most important consideration in choosing a site for your vineyard. 1500-1800 feet above sea level is the upper limit for growing grapes. An elevation of 820-1500 feet is considered most desirable.

Drainage is also important. Grapes don't like water-logged soil.

A southeast facing slope is best; 3-10 percent is preferable. Sloping ground helps to accelerate the dispersion of water and cold air.

### • Number Nine: To Vinifera Or Not To Vinifera

Your chance of success will improve if you plant the more cold-hardy vinifera varieties which have been grafted onto hardy, pest-tolerant root stocks.

If frequent, sustained temperatures below minus 5 degrees Fahrenheit occur more than once in ten years on your site, growing vinifera may not be realistic.

### • Number Eight: To Grow Tube Or Not To Grow Tube

Many grape growers swear by the grow tube, a protective sheath that covers the young vine during the first season to protect it from disease and pests.

Some disadvantages of the grow tube: promotes the growth of only one shoot; hardening off of the vine can be more difficult; can actually promote

certain fungal diseases.

Again, making the proper choice depends completely on your site.

### • Number Seven:

#### Metal Or Wood Posts

If we could do it over, we would use metal posts. They last forever, and the catch wires can be moved much more easily. Unless the aesthetics offend, we recommend metal posts and plan to use them in future plantings.

### • Number Six:

### Trellising Systems

Experts currently favor the divided canopy method. Some of the more popular training systems including Scott Henry, Smart-Dyson, Geneva Double Curtain.

After much research, we decided to use the VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioning) method. Since we now know that we have a high vigor site, we are considering Scott Henry for future plantings, which will be largely vinifera.

### • Number Five:

#### Vine Spacing

This decision is a critical one. It affects how many vines can be planted on your site and how the grapes will eventually be harvested. If you decide to plant closer together to maximize the use of your ground, you might not be able to harvest mechanically.

We used an 8 x 5 spacing plan: 8 feet between rows, 5 feet between plants. An ideal row length is 600 feet.

However you choose to lay out your plants, be sure to allow 25-30 feet of usable turnaround space for your tractor at the end of the rows.

### • Number Four:

#### Size Of

#### Initial Planting

So much can be learned about your site from the first planting. A good idea would be to limit it to two acres, an acre each of two different va-

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## Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

February 4-6, 2003

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**Educational Sessions - Expert Speakers from Across the Nation**  
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### Tree Fruit

February 4, 2003

Honeycrisp Salvation or Problem Child?  
How to Grow Big Gala - Dr Peter Hirst, Purdue University

Current Status of MCP  
Reducing Spray Drift  
Wood Borers - Dr Henry Hogmire WVU Kearneysville

Cost of Orchard Removal/Replacement  
Use of Rapeseed for Soil Renovation in Orchards

February 5, 2003

Pesticide Security Regulations  
Control of Black and White Rot in Apples  
Flower and Spur Development in Apple  
Global Positioning System (GPS)  
What's New in Sprayer Technology  
The FQPA As It Is - An EPA Perspective  
Apple and Cider Quality Assurance  
Pa Apple Marketing Board and US Apple Association Working for You  
National Peach Council  
- Optimizing Peach Yields Through Training Systems - Dr Kathryn Taylor, University of Georgia  
- Unique White Peach Varieties  
- Nematodes  
- Increasing Organic Matter

- Update on Plum Pox Virus  
- Can We Grow Peaches Without OP Insecticides?  
- Skinny Peach Trees

February 6, 2003

Control of Pear Diseases  
Organic Asian Pears  
Woolly Apple Aphids - Dr Henry Hogmire WVU, Kearneysville  
Deer Control - a New Jersey Perspective  
Bitter Pit, Calcium Deficiency or Plant Bug Damage - Dr Mark Brown, USDA Kearneysville  
Controlling Insects Without OP Insecticides  
Irrigation System Design  
Value of Trickle Irrigation in the Eastern U S - Dr Mike Glenn USDA Kearneysville, WV  
Orchard Herbicide Application the How To's  
National Peach Council  
- Peach Thinning - panel  
- Efficient Water Management in Peach Orchards - Dr Kathryn Taylor, University of Georgia  
- Precision Forecasting for Insects & Diseases

### Small Fruit

February 4, 2002

British Soft Fruit (Berry) Production - John Berry, Haygrove Co., Ledbury, UK  
Strawberry and Bramble High Tunnel Production  
Fumigation Options  
Bramble Breeding Program

February 6, 2003

Strawberry Production from Florida to Erie  
Strawberry Plasticulture  
Grower-Proven Trickle Irrigation Set-ups  
Disease and Weed Control  
Eastern Seedless Table Grape Production

### Vegetables

February 4, 2003

Season Extension -  
- Cut Flower Production  
- Maximizing Solar Radiation to Heat Low Tunnels - Dr Katrine Stewart, Quebec  
- Controlling Diseases  
- Equipment for Use in High Tunnels  
- Mulches for the Future  
- Potato Production  
- Twelve Month Vegetable Production in Unheated Greenhouses

Basic Vegetable School -

- Produce Growing Systems  
- Marketing Produce  
- Variety Selection, Cover Crops & Crop Rotations  
- Season Extending Techniques  
- Trickle Irrigation Systems  
- Managing Weeds, Diseases and Insects  
- Crop Scheduling

Sweet Corn

- Varieties  
- What is Sweet Corn Worth Am I Selling It for the Right Price - Gary Sweet, Cleveland, OH  
- Sweet Corn Populations  
- No-Till/Strip-Till Sweet Corn  
Onion, Garlic and Leeks

Beans

- Use of Gaucho  
- Weed Management  
- Bean Viruses  
Greenhouse Vegetables and Herbs  
- Raising Greenhouse Tomatoes - Dr Richard Snyder, Mississippi State University  
- IPM - Dr Les Schipp, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
- Producing Herbs in the Greenhouse

February 5, 2003

Weed Control  
- Non-Chemical Weed Control - Dr Clyde Elmore, Weed Specialist, Univ Calif  
- Herbicide Rotations  
Irrigation  
- Water Management Crop Management  
- Drip Tape Characteristics and Performance  
Wildlife Management  
- Fencing for Deer Control  
- Groundhogs, Birds, and Canadian Geese  
- Animal Repellants

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Pumpkins  
- Seventeen Acres of Pumpkins from Transplants  
- Managing Phytophthora and Other Diseases  
- Comparison of High vs Low-Input Production  
Tomato Pest Management  
- New Options for Insect Control  
- Use of Actigard  
- Biological Controls for Spot  
Organic Production  
- Media and Nutrient Additions for Transplants - Dr John Biernbaum, Michigan State  
- Organic Production of Medicinal Herbs - Dr Jeanine Davis, North Carolina State Univ  
- Making and Using High Quality Compost  
Vine Crops

- Seedless Watermelon Production - Dr Jonathan Schultheis, North Carolina State Univ  
- Spacing and Fertigation in Winter Squashes  
- Varieties of Summer Squash and Melons  
Tomato, Pepper and Eggplant  
- Physiological Disorders  
- New Colored Bell Pepper Varieties  
- What's New in Eggplant Cultivars?  
Processing Tomatoes  
- Yellow Shoulder and Yellow Eye Disorders  
- Using Stoller Products  
- Insights in Managing Tomato Flow from Planting to Harvest  
- Variety Update

### Marketing

February 4, 2003

Food Trends - What's Hot What's Not  
Impacts of Consumer Trends on Produce Commodities  
Dr Joseph Lord, St Joseph's University

February 5, 2003

Produce Pricing - Adding Margin  
Promoting Your Direct Marketing Activities  
Employee Motivation and Incentive Programs  
Strictly Sweet Corn - Gary Sweet, Cleveland, OH  
Entertainment Agriculture at Iron Kettle Farms - Bonnie Jensen, Iron Kettle Farms

### Labor & Legal Issues

February 4, 2003

Worker Protection Law(s) in PA  
How to Maintain Good Relations with your Hispanic Workers  
Farm Bureau Perspective on Seasonal Workers  
PA Migrant Education Programs  
Pro-active approaches to Labor Management

### Potatoes

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Quality Oriented Potato Management  
Potato Production in Ontario  
Weed Control in Potatoes-including Volunteer's

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Organic Potato Production  
Getting the Rocks Out  
Insect and Disease Management  
Influencing Chipping Quality in the Field  
Marketing Specialty Potatoes

### Greenhouse Ornamentals

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Fertility  
Natural Ventilation  
New Varieties  
Pest Control  
Dollars and Sense of Growing

### Cut Flowers

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Plug Production Techniques  
Marketing Cut Flowers -panel  
Optimizing Fertilization  
Perennials and Woodies  
Insect and Weed Control

For fruit program and registration fee information, contact

State Horticultural Ass'n. of Pennsylvania - 717-677-4184  
www.shaponline.org

New Jersey State Horticultural Soc. - 908-475-6505 - www.ccnj.net/~njshs/

Maryland State Horticultural Soc. - 301-271-7491

For vegetable, potato & flower program registration fees information, contact

Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association - 717-694-3596 -  
www.pvga.org