

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2.0

Public Summary - March 2023

Summary of progress during this quarter

After a very busy summer season, the programme has achieved it's growing the collection Sauvignon Blanc (SB) vines to 6,000 plantlets ahead of winter 2023. Leaf samples are now being collected from each plant for DNA extractions, so that a database of known genetic diversity can be produced while the plants are dormant over winter. The first draft of the SB genome has been assembled, which will form the reference that the new vines will be compared with. Data also has been collected on the initial vegetative growth and establishment of SB vines grafted to fifteen different rootstocks during the establishment phase of the new rootstock trial.

Key highlights and achievements

- Plant production for 2023 has been completed ahead of schedule. Over 6,000 new SB plantlets have been produced from tissue culture and are now being prepared for winter dormancy.
- Each vine has been given a unique QR code and has been added to a digital record. Leaf samples of the vines are being collected so that their unique genetic traits can be identified.
- DNA sequence data of NZ's commercial Sauvignon Blanc vines is being used to construct a reference genome with which the genetic traits of the new vines will be compared.
- Data has been collected on the effect of rootstock type on new vine growth and development, as part of the new rootstock trial.

Upcoming

- A plant management plan will be established for the safe long-term maintenance and selection of vines in the collection.
- A searchable database will be created to store genetic and physical data about plants in the new collection.
- The preliminary Sauvignon Blanc genome will be further improved so that it can be used to detect small genetic changes among the new vines.
- Year 3 workplan details will be finalised.

Investment

Investment period	Industry cash	Industry in-kind	MPI cash	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 195,908	\$ 24,150	\$ 130,605	\$ 326,513
Programme to date	\$ 1,131,655	\$ 95,973	\$ 754,436	\$ 1,886,091