

Rā Tuatahi - Rāpare 17 Mahuru 2026

Day 1 - Thursday 17 September 2026

Wāhanga (session) 2: Leaf Cover vs Quality



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CHARDONNAY LEAF REMOVAL

COSTS & PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

COSTS

- Assuming 2.5m rows and 2000 plants per hectare. Contractor rates
- Collard 3-5km/hr
- \$220-320/ha
- Hand removal 25-35 cents/vine
- \$600-830/ha including Commission

YIELD REDUCTION COST

Treatment	T/ha	Tons difference from CV1	Yield Difference from CV1 @ \$2360/t	% difference in yield
Control	11.8	1.6	\$ 3,705	13.3
Cv1	10.2	0.0	\$ -	0.0
Cv2	11.1	0.9	\$ 2,148	8.2
Hand Full	12.1	1.9	\$ 4,484	15.7
Hand East	14.3	4.1	\$ 9,770	28.9
Hand Internal	14.6	4.4	\$ 10,408	30.2

COLLARD YIELD INFLUENCE QUESTIONS

- Is a 15-30% reduction in yield acceptable?
- Are there certain situations when it would be acceptable?
- Is a 15-30% reduction a normal result?
- Do high yield vines have a higher yield reduction from a Collard pass?

COLLARD

- Should a Collard be used specifically for trash removal at lower operating settings than as a leaf removal tool?
- Different machinery exists for leaf removal that can be done later.
- A quick Collard pass allows time for detailed labour work at a slower pace

COLLARD DISEASE REDUCTION

- Flower cap removal allows sprays to contact flower cap scar
- Un-fertilised berry removal
- Yield reduction, can help bunch architecture especially in a wet year
- Leaf removal helps spray penetration at highest disease risk period (EI 19 to 6 weeks after)
- Increased disease risk if Collard is done later than EI 31 as leaf cut promotes a higher Botrytis risk.

COST REDUCTIONS

- A Collard pass at set (EI 27) can possibly reduce cost if a labour pass is planned later if yield reduction is acceptable
- A leaf sucker such as an Ero can be used once bunches have dropped (EI 31).
- Fruit wire on the morning side for easier East leaf plucking

SEASON SPECIFIC

- Collard at EI 19 for trash removal
- This gives time to consider vintage variation and wine style
 - Dry year, leave more leaf
 - Wet year, remove more
- Acid retention vs exposure
- Disease acceptance

OPTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Trellis conversion
- Tactical tucking for afternoon overhang
- Canopy height and the angle of the sun that will hit the fruit
- Kaolin clay to prevent sunburn
- Osmotic regulators