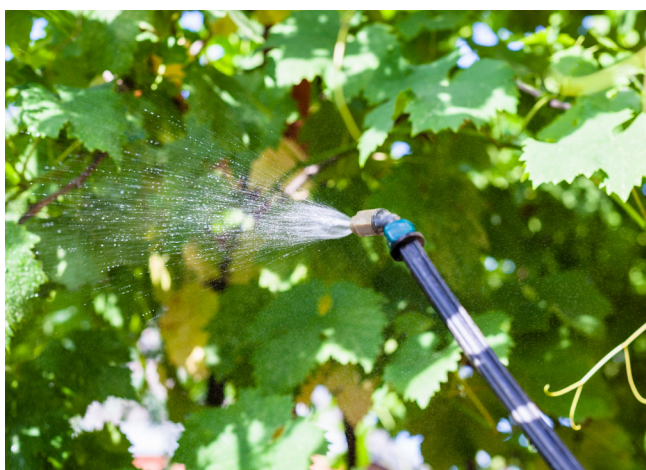


WINE INDUSTRY

Effective management of water resources is essential for vineyards and wineries. Saving water can have economic and production benefits for your business.



Why save water?

By becoming water efficient you can:

- save our precious drinking water supplies
- reduce your water bills and maintenance costs
- improve grape quality and yield (more grapes per area of land)
- reduce your impact on the environment
- improve your business image
- increase your resilience to drought and mains water supply failures.

Water Use Efficiency

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) means applying the available water effectively and efficiently, to get the best possible return on its use.

WUE can be expressed as grape yield per the amount of water applied (tonnes/ML) or wine produced per the amount of water applied (kL wine/kL water).



Saving water in wineries

Most of the water used in winery operations is for single-use cleaning processes, so reducing water use can save money. Wineries may be able to reduce water use by over 25 per cent by:

- conducting a site 'water use' audit to identify problem areas and prioritise solutions
- training staff
- retrofitting equipment
- investigating recycling opportunities (eg. treating and reusing winery wastewater for vineyard irrigation; using rainwater and stormwater for wash-downs).

Saving water in vineyards

The largest water use in vineyards is irrigation and a 'whole of site' approach is required to ensure the best use of available water.

This involves managing the relationships between vineyard and irrigation design, soil characteristics, climate, runoff and water quality.

Other water saving tips

- Rate irrigation highly within the management system.
- Design and maintain irrigation systems correctly.
- Install water meters to monitor all aspects of each irrigation event.
- Use objective monitoring tools to schedule irrigation.
- Use more than one tool for scheduling irrigation.
- Retain control of irrigation scheduling.
- Sweep down surfaces rather than hosing.
- Engage a certified irrigation designer (visit irrigationaustralia.com.au for more information).
- Get a deeper understanding of your soil profile by engaging a certified soil scientist (visit soilscienceaustralia.org.au for more information).

Saving water in business

Visit hunterwater.com.au/savewater for more water saving tips for your business



hunterwater.com.au