Careers in viticulture and wine

Seasonal operations in Australian vineyards

Spring

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Young leaves

Shoot growth

Flowering

Bunches developing

Budburst

TASKS

Irrigation scheduling

Using drones to collect data

Frost protection

Petiole nutrient testing

Nutrient management

Vineyard floor management

Pest and disease monitoring and management, including use of beneficial insects

Summer

DECEMBER–FEBRUARY

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Canopy growth

Grape ripening

Veraison

Sugar accumulation

Berries increase in size

Peak ripeness (varies by variety and regional climate)

TASKS

Heat management

Checking grape maturity: sugar and acid testing

Irrigation scheduling

Canopy trimming/thinning

Soil moisture monitoring

Pest and disease management (as required)

Grape harvest (timing varies by grape variety and region)

Winter

JUNE–AUGUST

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Vines conserve energy for next season

Vines store nutrients

Vine dormancy

TASKS

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia reporting

Trellis maintenance

Pruning

Sow cover crops

Mulching

Infrastructure maintenance

Budgeting and operations planning

Autumn

MARCH–MAY

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Late ripeness (varies by variety and regional climate)

Leaf colour change

Leaf fall

TASKS

Grape harvest (timing varies by grape variety and region)

Cover crop selections and planting

Vintage reporting or harvest data analysis

Composting

Irrigation shutdown maintenance

Soil testing and improvements (e.g. composting, fertilising)

SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Wine Australia

Australian Curriculum content:
AC9TDE8K01, AC9TDE8K02, AC9TDE8K04

Scan the QR code to access curriculum aligned Seasons in Australian Vineyards lesson plans from the Careers in viticulture and wine website