

Longtime Member Perspectives: What is the Most Important Farming Practice You Have Adopted?



VINEYARD TEAM
Promoting Sustainable Winegrowing

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Some of our members have been continuously active in the organization for fifteen years or more. We recently spoke with a few of them about what practices they learned about through the Vineyard Team that are still important to them today.

Is there a particular practice that you learned about through the Vineyard Team that has proven to be very important to you?



"I think the biggest 'practice' I have learned and carried forward is the idea of constantly trying to improve all aspects of our farming. The great thing about being in SIP (Certified) is looking at every part of your growing operation and finding ways to improve. So I would have to say the practice of constant improvement." - *Bart Haycraft, Jackson Family Wines - Los Alamos*



"We were inspired to check our irrigation distribution uniformity, which has dramatically improved our irrigation efficiency, a critical issue in our ongoing drought." - *Brian Talley, Talley Vineyards*



"My best practice came from the use of cover crops and the alternating row removal allowing the beneficial insects (to) stay in the vineyard and control the mealybug pressure. It worked." - *Jim Palmer, Malibu Vineyards*



"My direct participation in previous research projects with the Vineyard Team such as the BIFS project and winterization of roads on slopes with erosion control cover crop." - *Jean-Pierre Wolff, Wolff Vineyards*



The Vineyard Team is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote sustainable vineyard practices such as water conservation, protection of water quality, integrated pest management, habitat diversity, and human resources. Established in the mid-1990s when the term "sustainable," was far less mainstream than it is today, the Vineyard Team has enjoyed an impressive track record, earning awards and recognition from a wide variety of entities including the Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Pesticide Regulation.