

Farm Service Agency Tree Assistance Program (TAP)



VINEYARD TEAM
Promoting Sustainable Winegrowing

Program Description

The Tree Assistance Program provides funds to help growers replant or rehabilitate trees or vines that have died or been damaged by a natural disaster or disease. The program is administered by the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is no deadline; applications will be accepted until funding runs out.

Vineyards infected with the Red Blotch Virus or Pierce's Disease are eligible for the program. Vineyards infected with Grapevine Trunk Diseases may also be eligible, but those applications will have additional steps.

If you plan to apply for the program, do not remove any vines until a FSA representative has made a site visit.

Ten samples from each block to be replanted must be tested by a commercial lab. These samples can be combined at the laboratory for a single test as long as there is documentation that the lab received ten individual samples.

Eligible Losses

- Mortality loss or damage in excess of 15% after adjustment for normal mortality or damage (18%).
- The grower was unable to prevent the loss through any reasonable measures.
- A loss adjuster visited the site to assess the damage.

Eligible Growers

- The grower owned the eligible vines at the time of the disaster.
- Vines are replaced within 12 months from the application approval date.
- At a minimum to qualify for the program, an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under TAP if the average AGI of the individual or entity exceeds \$900,000 (adjusted average for 3 years).

Acreage

- A grower may receive TAP payments on up to 500 acres annually.



Photo per permission of Drs. James Stamp and Alan Wei.

Payments

- The maximum amount for the program is not more than \$125,000 total annual payments under TAP.

Payments are based on the lesser of:

- 65% of the actual cost of replanting, in excess of 18% mortality, or
- The maximum eligible amount allowed for the practice by FSA.

Resources

[Tree Assistance Program Fact Sheet](#)

Application Process

You must submit applications to the FSA office that maintains your farm records.

To start an application, contact your local **Farm Service Agency** office.

For San Luis Obispo County:

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