

Organic Vineyard Management in Germany

Long Term Experimental Plot 5

Experimenting crop diversification and low input farming



Experimentation plot of 3 ha with vineyards located in Kanzem (Germany)

ORGANIC MANAGEMENT TESTED IN THIS VINEYARD

AGRONOMICS BENEFITS

1. Active and fertile soil
2. Beneficial insect/animal network
3. Stable yields
4. Verifiable very good quality wine

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

1. Higher biodiversity in the vineyards
2. Increased soil health
3. The organic vineyard as part of a biotope-network in the landscape

WHY IMPLEMENT THESE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Wine as a luxury good does not have to be mass produced. Lower but organically produced wine volumes can lead to a "healthy" price increase in a region. Wine regions are usually attractive to tourists, organic wine production can increase regional attractiveness. Ecological wine-production is not the best for the biotic and abiotic environment but verifiably better than the "conventional" viticulture



DIVERFARMING



AGRONOMICS DRAWBACKS

1. Production of organic wine is more expensive (market for these wines must be found and opened)
2. No chemical lifeline for catastrophic natural conditions (risk of total crop lost)
3. Objections by conventionally working colleagues/neighbours

ENVIRONMENTAL DRAWBACKS

1. Heavy machinery can cause soil compaction
2. Copper as a heavy metal is still an important plant protection agent in organic viticulture. Its use must be reduced as much as possible

FINAL CONCLUSION

Is it beneficial to adopt these sustainable practices?

It should be in the interest of every winegrower to work in a resource-conserving and sustainable manner. Organic viticulture is a proven way to do this.

Organic farming can mean a "TopUp" for the wine quality



DIVERFARMING