

National EcoVineyards Program – open call

Selection of up to 4 x EcoVineyards participants (EcoGrowers) in each participating region to establish demonstration sites

Project ideas

In addition to the types of projects outlined in the information sheet, potential project ideas include (but are not limited to):

Soil health

- Ways to shift soil biology from bacterial to fungal dominant
- Trialling the use of compost teas to objectively assess improvements in soil and vine health (leaf brix/pH)
- Trialling the use of rock dust and enhanced microbiology to replace synthetic fertilisers
- The use of different mulch formulations to improve soil health and insectary plant establishment

Ground covers

- Establishing native grasses, forbs, and/or botanicals the capacity to collect seed for on-sowing (and a potential supplementary income cash crop)
- The use of hydroseeding technology to apply insectary plant seed using liquid mulch formulations
- Assessing the benefits of plant cover compared to bare earth on different soil types
- Trialling the use of regionally specific ground cover species in the mid-row and/or undervine area
- Understanding the role of weedy species as early successional pioneer/indicator plants and using non-chemical methods to manage them
- Trialling the use of different organically certified weedicides to manage weedy species and their impact on soil microbiology

Functional biodiversity

- Assessing the impact on soil carbon and water use by different insectary plant communities
- Assessing the impact on microclimate (temperature) associated with the use of insectary plants
- Incorporating ‘beetle banks’ in the vineyard
- The establishment of bio-hedges (biodiversity and biosecurity) plantings to improve biocontrol of insect pests and as a passive barrier to restrict entry into vineyards by visitors
- Assessing the use of insectary plants in saline areas
- Assessing predatory arthropods and/or insectivorous birds found in association with different insectary plants
- Assessing the microbat communities found in association with the vineyard
- Assessing the raptor bird species found in association with the vineyard
- Assessing different exclusion fencing/plant guard options to protect insectary plants against rabbits, hares, deer, kangaroos, etc.
- Trialling the use of insectary plants in mobile wicking beds (prior to incorporation in the vineyard)
- The development of biodiversity trails adjacent to cellar door facilities

For further details visit <https://ecovineyards.com.au/ecogrowers-open-call/>