

SIX STEPS TO A PERFECT GRAPE HARVEST

RLF Return Customers Showcase their Vineyard's Story

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'Returning to the Beginning'

The RLF Team in Hu County, Xian City, Shaanxi Province are looking forward to the time when the delicate and delicious Hu County grapes mature. It is with anticipation that they can then present the results of yet another bumper harvest.

This story features the loyalty and trust that the grape growers have in RLF products.

This trust has seen them reserve this season's crop nutrition requirements well in advance because they know first-hand the crop quality and economical benefits that RLF products bring.



The grape grower's reserved products in RLF's Manufacturing Facility

Showcasing Six Steps to a Successful Season

1

Shoot growth stage

When the springtime temperature rises to 10°C, the grape's annual growth cycle begins. The new shoots germinate, the first new leaves appear, and the shoots begin to grow.

During this period the RLF products used were as follows :

10th April 2017	Fertigation with Plant Milk High-N at the rate of 5kg/Mu (30kg/acre)
20th April 2017	Fertigation with Plant Milk High-N at the rate of 5kg/Mu (30kg/acre)

Through this first stage the excellent results of growth being observed were :

- ✓ The grapes grew in an even and orderly manner
- ✓ The new shoots grew vigorously, and the leaves were thickened and dark in color



No. 1 The grapes in shoot-growing stage

2

Tassel stage

After the two applications of the RLF **Plant Milk High-N**, by the 20th April 2017, the grape spike had grown to about 12cm.

Through this second stage the excellent results being observed were:

- ✓ The plants had thick, large leaves with high surface gloss. There were no symptoms of deficiency.
- ✓ The plants had large flower spikes and a beautifully formed spike shape.



No. 2 The grapes send up tassel stage

3**Panicle shaping stage**

The senior agronomist of the Hu County Agricultural Technology Extension Centre, Yao Jianbin, delivered a panicle shaping training session for the local farmers.

By attending to the plant's development needs at this stage correctly, the grapes are not only nutritious, but also have a beautiful uniform appearance.



No. 3 Panicle shaping training

4**Flowering and flower shed petals stage**

The grapes began their flowering during this stage of growth. They formed the little grapes after the petals had shed. In general, the grapes usually take 90-100 days from flowering to fruit ripening.



No. 4 The flower shed petals stage

5

Fruit thinning stage

The busiest and most meticulous job for the grapes growers is during this stage of development to make every new shoot hold tightly to a bunch of fruit by thinning.

During this period the RLF products used were as follows :

13th June 2017	Fertigation with Plant Milk High-K at the rate of 5kg/Mu (30kg/acre)
23rd June 2017	Fertigation with Plant Milk High-K at the rate of 5kg/Mu (30kg/acre)

Throughout this fifth stage the excellent results of growth were supported by the supply of highly available potassium because :

- ✓ It delivers the required nutrient elements to the vine to promote and prolong the development of the fruit. In addition it promotes root growth and improves crop disease resistance and sustains the crop during adverse weather conditions.



No. 5 The fruit thinning stage

6 Fruit bagging stage

The grape growers ordered white sterile clothes to protect the grapes from the damage inflicted by birds, pests and the burning effects of the sun. Normal crop protection chemicals were utilised during this period as well, but growers needed to be careful not to spray these chemicals onto the grape ear.

During this period the RLF products used were as follows :

7th July 2017	Fertigation with Plant Milk High-K at the rate of 5kg/Mu (30kg/acre)
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Throughout this sixth stage the excellent results of growth were again supported by the supply of highly available potassium because :

- ✓ It promotes the enlargement of the fruit and its colouring, bearing beautifully formed fruit. It also prevents cracking, ensures early market selling opportunities and extends the harvest period.
- ✓ Grape storage capacity can be greatly enhanced if the RLF crop nutrition program is followed.



No. 6 Fruit bagging period

About the Grape Growing Location

The Hu County, Xian City, Shaanxi Province is located in the central part of the Guanzhong Plain.

It benefits from a warm tropical semi humid continental monsoon climate with four distinctive seasons. The area has excellent light and warmth qualities as well as the water resources that vineyards need. And it has the local reputation of being the hometown of China's grapes. It is also listed in China's top ten, high-quality grape growing bases.

The verse comes to mind : *"He was about to drink the grape wine in the moonlight cups, heard the sound of battle horn coming from the horse"* written by Tang Dynasty poet, Wang Han. The grapes mentioned in the lines of this verse refer to the Hu County grapes. This makes us aware of the long history of planting grapes in Hu County, Xian City, Shaanxi Province.

Hu County, Xian City, Shaanxi Province

Summarising the Success

The RLF Team Sales Manager for the Shaanxi Province paid a visit to the loyal customer grape growers in Hu County, Xian City, Shaanxi Province recently. Since the previous season they had introduced a concrete production management situation for the grapes, supplying the framework upon which the vines could be trained.



The Hu County grapes showing the concrete growing platforms

Apart from the growth stage excellence shown in the foregoing photographs, the grapes treated with RLF specialty liquid crop nutrition products have the added features of large leaves with a dark green colour and no sign of crop deficiency symptoms.

This is an excellent start to the grape growing season.



The large grape leaves

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