2025 Field Study

Plant Type: Primitivo/Zinfandel Grapevines

Summary: On 11 July 2025, we planted ~150 Primitivo/Zinfandel grapevines in a commercial vineyard in Amador County, Ca. About 1/3 were planted as "control", presoaked in water, no tag. The other two thirds received various treatments, including some prosoaked in water or presoaked in Mycogenesis + Pepzyme, marked with a blue tag; JB (biochar+plant compost+manure compost+helpful bacteria), marked with a red tag; BeGrow (a water retention ingredient), marked with a white tag; and multiple comninations.

Observations: on 24 October 2025 we visited this vineyard, to inspect the plants. Here are some of the observations.

- There was a surprising "mortality rate". It seems that the highest mortality rate was at the highest elevation in the vineyard, and as the rows sloped downhill, the survival rate improved, and the vines got taller.
    - We suspect this might be related to plant available water in the soil.
- The "best performing plants" (the tallest, with the largest leaves) were the plants that received all three treatements (marked with red, white and blue tags). The next best were the plants receiving the BG and Mycogenesis presoak. The JB only plants were marginally better than the control plants.
- Few of the control plants grew taller than the paper sleeve, under 32cm (photo 1)
- The tallest SAI treated plants (92cm) grew above the 2nd wire on the trellis (photo 2); several made it to or past the 2nd wire.

Photo 1 (left): a surviving control plant, that did not grow tall enough to emerge above the sleeve. (top of vine is visible below the drip line)

Photo 2 (right): one of many SAI treated plants that grew above the 2nd wire on the trellis. This plant was 92cm tall.

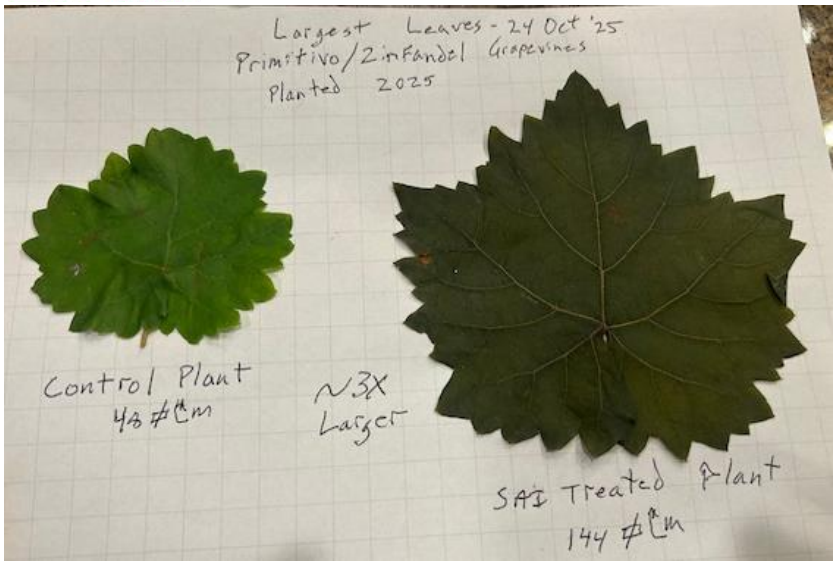

Photo 3: left, the largest leaf from a control plant (48cm^2), vs right the largest leaf from a SAI treated plant (144cm^2).

Comparing the largest leaf from a control plant, to the largest leaf from a SAI treated plant, the SAI leaf is about 3x larger surface area than the largest leaf from a control plant. This is in line with what we observed in tomatoes (typically 2-3x larger leaves). Also note the darker green of the control leaf; the darker green suggests a higher contentration of chlorophyll.