

# SUSTAINABLE FARMING

As 5th generation farmers, the Giguere family is committed to preserving the land for future generations. We work to keep our vineyard and its environs healthy to sustain future generations of people and wildlife. Here are some of the sustainable farming practices we employ in our 1,600 acre Matchbook Vineyard.



## BUILDING HEALTHY SOILS

Annual clovers and grasses planted between vineyard rows are multi-functional, they:



- Protect against erosion
  - Break up the soil, allowing air and moisture to reach the vine roots
  - Provide a healthy habitat for numerous beneficial insects that promote a healthy root environment
- We apply compost at rates as high as 5 tons per acre. Compost is a great source of organic matter for healthy soil structure and slow nutrient release.
- We mulch the vine canes after pruning and use them in the vineyard.



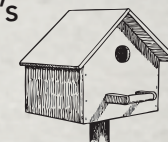
## WATER CONSERVATION

- Underground center row irrigation encourages the vines to develop an expansive root system and conserves water.
- Above ground drip irrigation system emitters are targeted directly over the roots to efficiently deliver water to the vine and prevents waste.
- Deficit irrigation limits watering during critical stages of vine development. This practice results in increased grape flavor and color intensity, while conserving water.
- Precisely schedule irrigation events using real time evaporation information from our vineyard weather stations.



## NATURAL PEST MANAGEMENT

We use mother nature's natural predators and other non-invasive techniques to help keep our vines healthy throughout the year. Some of these techniques include:



- Owl boxes: Owls feed on rodents which are very troublesome in the vineyard. A nesting owl will catch up to 6 gophers a day to feed the brood.
- Leaf pulling is performed to increase air circulation, keep the grapes dry and reduce bunch rot.
- Techniques such as mate disruption and natural predators are used to control harmful insects.