

Duarte Nursery

Proactive Commitment to Clean Plant Health

Location: Hughson, CA

Web: www.duartenursery.com

WIN Profile: Duarte Nursery



Since its inception in 1989, the Modesto-based Duarte Nursery, Inc. has been a company way out in front of current technology when it comes to plant health.

Duarte Nursery is the largest, permanent crops nursery in the United States. It got there by a proactive commitment to healthy, disease-free plant material - and by taking aggressive action before symptoms become problems.

"We have a policy of responding to virus symptoms before the disease is really detectable," company president John Duarte says. "If we see any suspicious signs, we'll tear out and replace vines at our own cost, as well as remove products from our program, simply because they might be diseased."

Newly discovered red blotch associated virus (GRBaV) is a case in point. Researchers from UC Davis and Cornell have only recently identified red blotch, a graft-transmissible agent that first surfaced in the Napa Valley in 2008, as a serious issue for growers. According to Duarte, his company has been removing grapevines symptomatic of the disease for years.

"When we heard concerns from our customers, we took out and replaced the vines, removed the subjects from our own blocks and quit producing from them," Duarte says.

"We've conducted more than 800 tests to see if we could find any red blotch in our program. We came out very, very clean."

Duarte points out that his company's goal is to provide customers with highly productive, long-lived vineyards and that starting with clean plant material is imperative. He's proud of the fact that Duarte Nursery's clean foundation stock and highly audited mother blocks exceed state certification standards.

"There's no reason to plant red blotch positive or untested material this season," Duarte says. "Clean material is available from our nursery."

Duarte Nursery offers customers red blotch tested material ready for delivery in 2013 as well as dormant material for 2014.

Contact Information

For information and orders call (209) 531-0351 or email sales@duartenursery.com

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