



Grow vines in Finland

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# MANIPULATE THE GROWING SEASON

# First steps

- 1998 -99 Zilga and Supaga outdoors
- 1999 Beta, Frankenthaler, Boskoop Glory, Leon Millot and Marechal Foch in plastic house
- 1999 Riesling outdoors and in plastic house

# Comparison

## Plastic house

- Better sugar amount
- Too low acid level
- Diseases
- High winter damage %

## Outdoors

- Lower sugars
- High acids
- No diseases
- Nearly no damages

# Ideas in the dark

- How to find one trick to solve most of the problems = Key Factor Killer?
  - Longer growing season
  - Higher GDD
  - Frost protection
  - Winter cover
  - Disease control

# Field test – Blur logic, this sounds good enough...

- Around 80 varieties
- Several cover materials in early season/autumn
- Both rootstock and own rooted vines
- Extreme low growing method
  - Cheaper tunnel
  - Easier to protect in winter
  - Soil needed cover, too
  - When flowering, no tunnel

# Findings

## Positive

- Early flowering -> long day UV (found out later)
- Earlier ripening
- Good sugar/acid balance
- Nice wood hardening
- Extra heat from soil (found out later)
- Easy to protect
- Lighter trellis structure

## Negative

- Hard to work
- Some problems with weeds (moisture, shade)
- How to prune to get good crop
- Some varieties kept us busy

# Planting own rooted and Bianca in the first week of September 2003



# Bianca and Regent in the first week of September 2003





# Going further

- Later on some more steps to take

# In winter and spring



# Spring and early summer



# Autumn



# Some sugars 2011

- Liepajas Dzintars Brix 21,5 (30.8.)
- Liepajas Agra Brix 18,5 (15.8.)
- Bianca and Regent 14 (18.9.) (2003 both 21,5)
- Solaris 20 (18.9.)
- Pinot Noir Pré. 17 (18.9.)
- Leon Millot 18 (18.9.)
- Rondo 17 (18.9.)

# This summer

- Rainy and cold, but some vines flowered in the end of May
- Garant 19 (31.8.)
- Liepajas Agra 18 (6.9.)
- Rondo 19 (6.9.)
- Solaris 22 (26.9.)
- Leon Millot 19 (28.9.)
- Melna Skaistule 19 (23.10.)

# Next steps to take

- Real vineyard
- Early tunnel
- Wind nets
- Bird nets