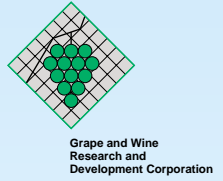


# PRECISION VITICULTURE

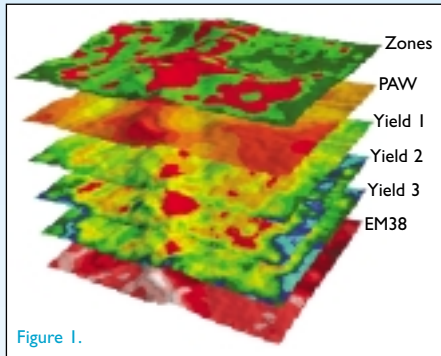
## Some tips on Data Management

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**Precision Viticulture (PV) is fundamentally about data - lots of it!**



Whatever the vineyard attribute of interest (eg grape yield or quality, soil properties), a lot of data is needed to characterise vineyard variability with sufficient resolution to explore options for targeted management (Figure 1). One consequence of all this is that the typical PV practitioner ends up with many data files; another is that such files may be quite large; and yet another is that the potential for confusion is very large indeed! So just as PV demands some careful thought as to how we use and manipulate our data, it also requires quite a lot of effort in simply managing it.



### Some Golden Rules:

- 1 **Keep all raw data and files containing critical data manipulation steps-in addition to final maps**
- 2 **Construct a logical directory structure in which to store your data (Figure 2)**
- 3 **Use meaningful names and a standard naming convention for data files (Figure 2)**
- 4 **Be precise!**

As the name implies, Precision Viticulture suggests a more precise way of managing blocks. If this is good enough for your vineyard, it should be good enough for you too!

### 5 Use Metadata

To have 100% confidence in your data it is important to have metadata – information about data. It is essential to know what the data actually refers to, when it was collected, how and by whom, etc. This could be included in a summary text file located with each file and/or folder.

### 6 Make your computer do what you want it to do

It might be hard to believe sometimes, but a computer will only do what someone has told it to do. However, the more recent versions of many software packages have tried to take some of the decision making away from the user, supposedly to make things easier. In our view, the recent use of icons in Windows (Figure 3a) does not help with PV data management; simply changing the settings on your PC can make things much simpler – note the similarity between Figures 2 and 3b.

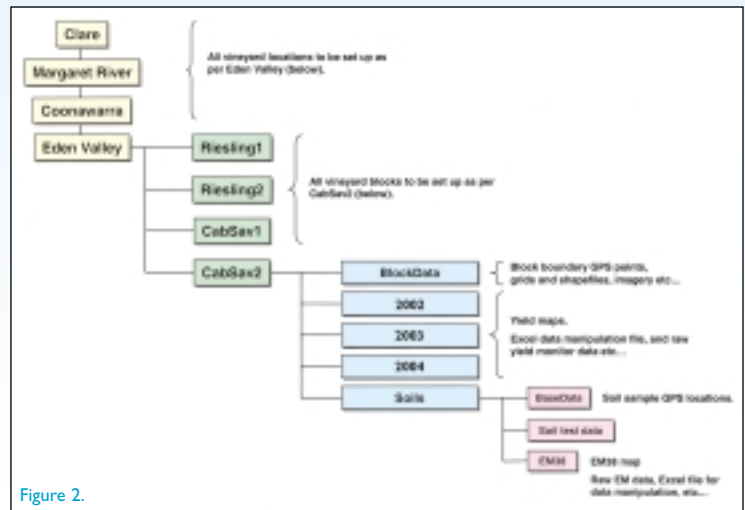


Figure 2.

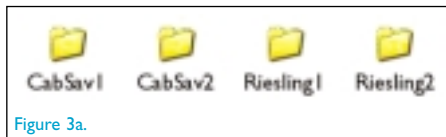


Figure 3a.

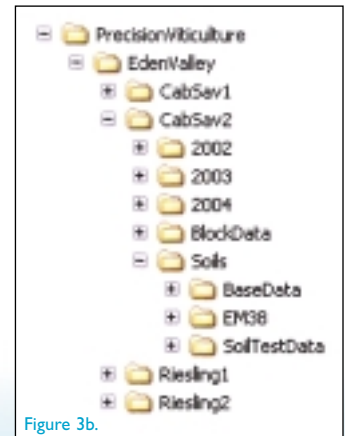


Figure 3b.

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