

Position Description

Position	Vineyard Field Scout
Department	Viticulture
Reporting to	Viticulture Manager
Location	Seaview Vineyards (with travel across Marlborough as required)
Date	20 th October 2026

Position Purpose:

Responsible for collecting, analysing, and reporting vineyard health, nutrition, crop estimation, operational quality, and trial data across company-owned and managed vineyard blocks. The role supports informed decision-making by the Viticulture Management Team through accurate monitoring, sampling, field assessments, and reporting while contributing to vineyard performance, fruit quality, sustainability objectives, and continuous improvement initiatives.

Key Relationships:

External	Internal
Fruitfed PGG	Viticulture Management team Grower Liaison Sustainability Manager QA Manager

Key Accountabilities & Tasks:

Pest and Disease Monitoring

Monitor Vineyard health and identify potential risks across all company-owned and managed vineyard blocks

- Conduct regular visual assessments for:
 - Mealybugs
 - Powdery Mildew
 - Downy Mildew
- Complete pre-harvest Botrytis assessments.
- Identify and report abnormal vine health issues including:
 - Sick or declining vines
 - Water-stressed or dry vines
 - Nutritional disorders
- Identify and report vineyard damage resulting from:
 - Frost events
 - Herbicide injury
 - Spray damage
 - Machinery operations
- Report unusual vineyard observations and emerging issues to management.

Soil Sampling Programme

Coordinate vineyard soil sampling and laboratory testing programmes.

- Collect post-harvest soil samples from designated vineyard blocks.
- Accurately label and record sampling locations and information.
- Prepare and submit samples to Hills Laboratories.
- Maintain sampling records and distribute results to relevant personnel.

Plant and Petiole Nutrition Monitoring

Support vineyard nutrition programmes through field and laboratory testing.

- Conduct in-field nitrate assessments using handheld testing equipment.
- Collect petiole and tissue samples according to established protocols.
- Process and submit samples to Hills Laboratories.
- Analyse and compile results into nutrition reports.
- Provide nutrition-related information to the Viticulture Team.

Yield Assessment and Crop Forecasting

Collect crop estimation data to support production forecasting and harvest planning.

- Conduct post-pruning bud counts.
- Complete spring floret assessments.
- Collect bunch counts, bunch weights and berry weight data.
- Collect grape maturity samples throughout the season.
- Assist with development of crop forecasts and yield estimates.

Leaf Plucking Assessments

Evaluate canopy management outcomes to ensure vineyard objectives are achieved.

- Undertake visual assessments of leaf removal.
- Measure and record leaf plucking performance.
- Report percentage leaf removal and canopy outcomes.
- Provide information to support management decision-making.

Herbicide Efficacy Monitoring

Monitor weed control programmes and herbicide performance.

- Assess herbicide efficacy during routine vineyard inspections.
- Identify and record:
 - Missed rows
 - Weed escapes
 - Weed species present
- Report areas requiring follow-up treatment.
- Assist with identifying trends in weed pressure and control effectiveness.

Spray Coverage Assessments

Support spray application quality assurance and optimisation programmes.

- Install and retrieve water-sensitive papers.
- Assess spray coverage effectiveness.
- Analyse and interpret results.
- Prepare reports for the Viticulture Management Team.
- Assist in identifying opportunities for improving spray application quality.

Pruning Quality Assessments

Monitor contractor and operational compliance with pruning specifications.

- Assess vine pruning quality against company standards.
- Monitor:
 - Cane numbers
 - Spur numbers
 - Bud counts
- Provide performance data to vineyard managers.
- Identify and report areas requiring corrective action.

Trial and Research Data Collection

Support vineyard trials and innovation programmes.

- Assist with establishment and maintenance of vineyard trials.
- Collect and record data accurately and consistently.
- Maintain data integrity and adherence to trial protocols.
- Assist with compiling and reporting trial results.

Environmental and Sustainability Projects

Assist with vineyard sustainability initiatives and environmental enhancement projects.

- Support native planting programmes.
- Assist with environmental restoration and biodiversity projects.
- Provide operational support for projects coordinated by Sustainability Manager and the wider business.

Key Accountabilities & Tasks:

Health, Safety, Compliance & Standards

- Always abide by legislation and the company's policies and procedures whilst acting within the capacity as an employee or whilst acting on behalf of The Company.
- In relation to Health and Safety, environmental management, ethics, quality and food safety responsibilities:
 - Comply with relevant legislation and related company's policies, procedures and standards are always adhered to.
 - Actively participate in related training.
 - Inform your manager where adhering to policies or procedures could be hard and if there is an improved or better way.
 - Report any improvements or incidents in the System (Mango). Be available to help with investigations as needed, and any changes are implemented/adhered to.
 - Promote and engage in positive Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Sustainability, Food Safety and Quality cultures.
- Work with 'best practice' regarding food defence and food fraud procedures.
- Actively participate in audits as required.

Person Specifications:

Education	• N/A
Experience	• Ideally viticulture/horticulture experience
Specific Skills & Attributes	• Understanding of vineyard operations and viticulture principles. • Ability to identify common vineyard pests, diseases, weeds, and nutrient deficiencies. • Competence in collecting, recording, and analysing field data. • Proficiency with Microsoft Excel and data management systems. • Ability to prepare concise technical reports. • Strong observational skills and attention to detail. • Self-motivated and capable of working independently. • Good organisational and time-management skills. • Effective verbal and written communication. • Commitment to continuous improvement and learning.

This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed. It is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, or skills required, and the employee may be required to perform other duties (that they are skilled to perform) as needed.

Employee & Manager Acknowledgement:

Employee Signature

Date

Manager Signature

Date