



Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing Inc.

Certification Program

2016

Why 18 Core Criteria?

The base of the Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing certification program is the **VineBalance Sustainable Viticulture Workbook** created by a team of Cornell University viticulture researchers and extension agents and local Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County viticulture agents. The workbook is a 122 page document that covers the management of the vineyard soil, vine nutrition, vineyard practices, irrigation, weed control, and pest control. It is a massive and thorough collection of **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) and contains at least 136 separate vineyard management issues that a grape grower must address each and every year, comparing their management practices to the Best Management Practices.

All of the issues contained in the workbook are important, but as we developed our program, tailored to the terroir of the East End of Long Island, we felt it important to highlight the most critical of these management practices, and make it mandatory to adhere to them at a good to excellent level. Hence, the 18 Core Criteria were selected. They are delineated in the following **Core Criteria Section**.

These Criteria include BMPs that help us protect our soil, and ground and surface waters, use the safest agriculture chemicals, reduce the use of pesticides through astute physical vineyard management, and use materials only when necessary and in the least amount possible. The Core Criteria causes us to use the most progressive pest evaluation techniques developed over the years, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which includes regular vineyard inspections (scouting), which can help us reduce pesticide use.