There is little absorption of N by roots prior to budbreak. The soil is cold and roots are inactive. Early vine growth depends almost entirely on N stored in the woody parts of the vine. It is unclear whether pre-budbreak application of slower release organic fertilizers confers an advantage in terms of N availability to the plant.

Example: Our grower applies nitrogen in the spring in one application about 1 1/2 weeks before bloom. Based on this practice, the grower selects ‘2’. Self-assessment scores can be recorded in the ‘Your Rank’ column following each question and/or on the Workbook Scoresheet included with this workbook. In deciding whether or not to modify current practice to reach the ‘1’ level, the grower will have to consider whether the benefits (e.g. increased efficiency in timing and rates of nitrogen fertilizer application and the associated potential savings) outweigh the drawbacks (e.g. increased labor, tractor use and other potential costs).