RAINBOW AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
RAINBOW
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POWERING THE VINEYARD INDUSTRY

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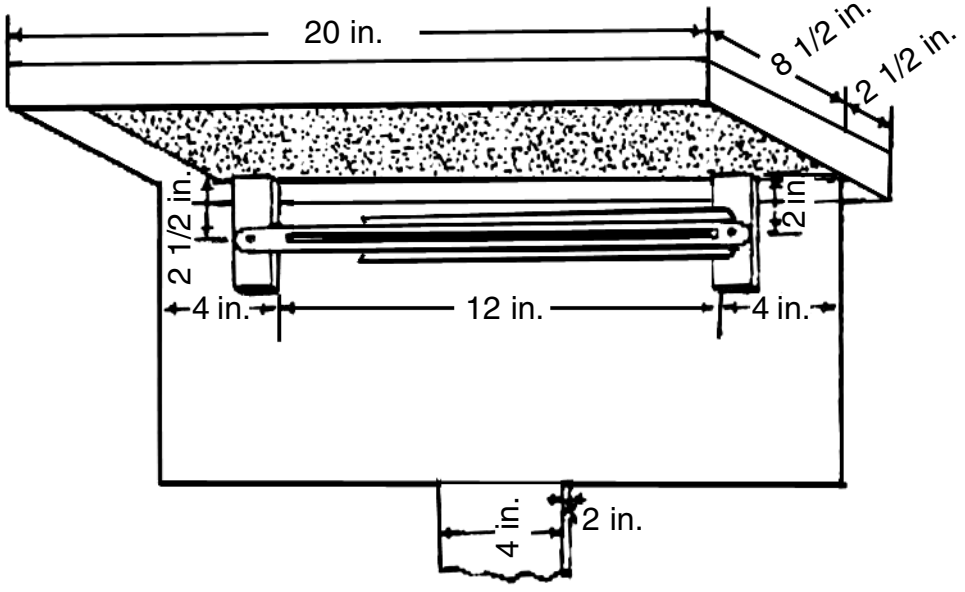
Constructing a Standard Thermometer Shelter

courtesy of Rainbow Ag

All your decisions about irrigating for frost protection are based on reliable readings from your vineyard thermometer. The National Weather Service has designed a thermometer configuration they believe is the most reliable. It consists of a straight-tube alcohol thermometer mounted about five feet above the ground, facing north, under a shelter (see the diagram below). The thermometer is mounted so that it's bulb end is set to just below horizontal.

Inside the thermometer, a float remains at the line of the minimum temperature experienced since the previous setting. Daily, reset the thermometer by swinging the upper end of thermometer downward, to a position perpendicular to its horizontal mounting line. When you do this, the float sinks to the current temperature.

Rainbow suggests that it's always helpful to keep a log of minimum temperatures so that, over time, you'll come to intimately understand conditions in your vineyard.