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Everything we do now is to make the vines healthier

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Background

- Climate change and its impact on vine health, grape and wine quality, rising costs and environmental impact are major concerns for Australian viticulture.
- Ecologically based practices could address these challenges, delivering multiple BENEFITS.
- But implementation is constrained by a range of BARRIERS that are not well understood.

Aims and method

- To understand growers' experiences of the barriers and benefits of ecological practices they are adopting, trialling or considering.
- A qualitative study across 8 regions, interviewing 33 NSW growers.

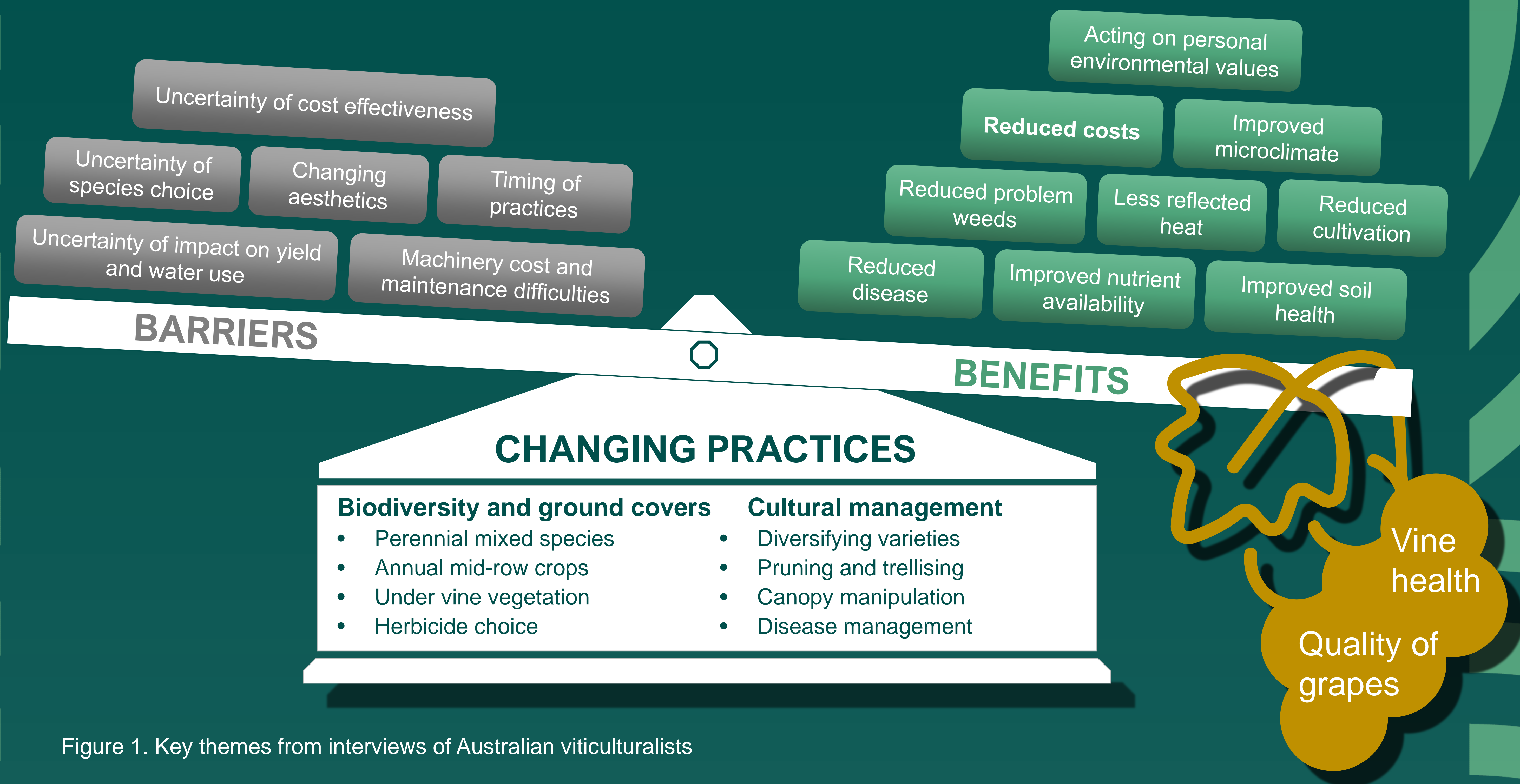


Figure 1. Key themes from interviews of Australian viticulturalists

Take home

- Growers are changing practices to improve vine health including:
 - Adopting varieties better adapted warmer temperatures.
 - Improving biodiversity on the vineyard floor.
 - Reducing synthetic inputs by utilising the natural processes of plant competition, soil microbial activity and insect biocontrol.
- The tipping points that outweigh the BARRIERS for changing to ecological practices include the multiple BENEFITS of improved vine health, soil health and their farm environment for future generations.

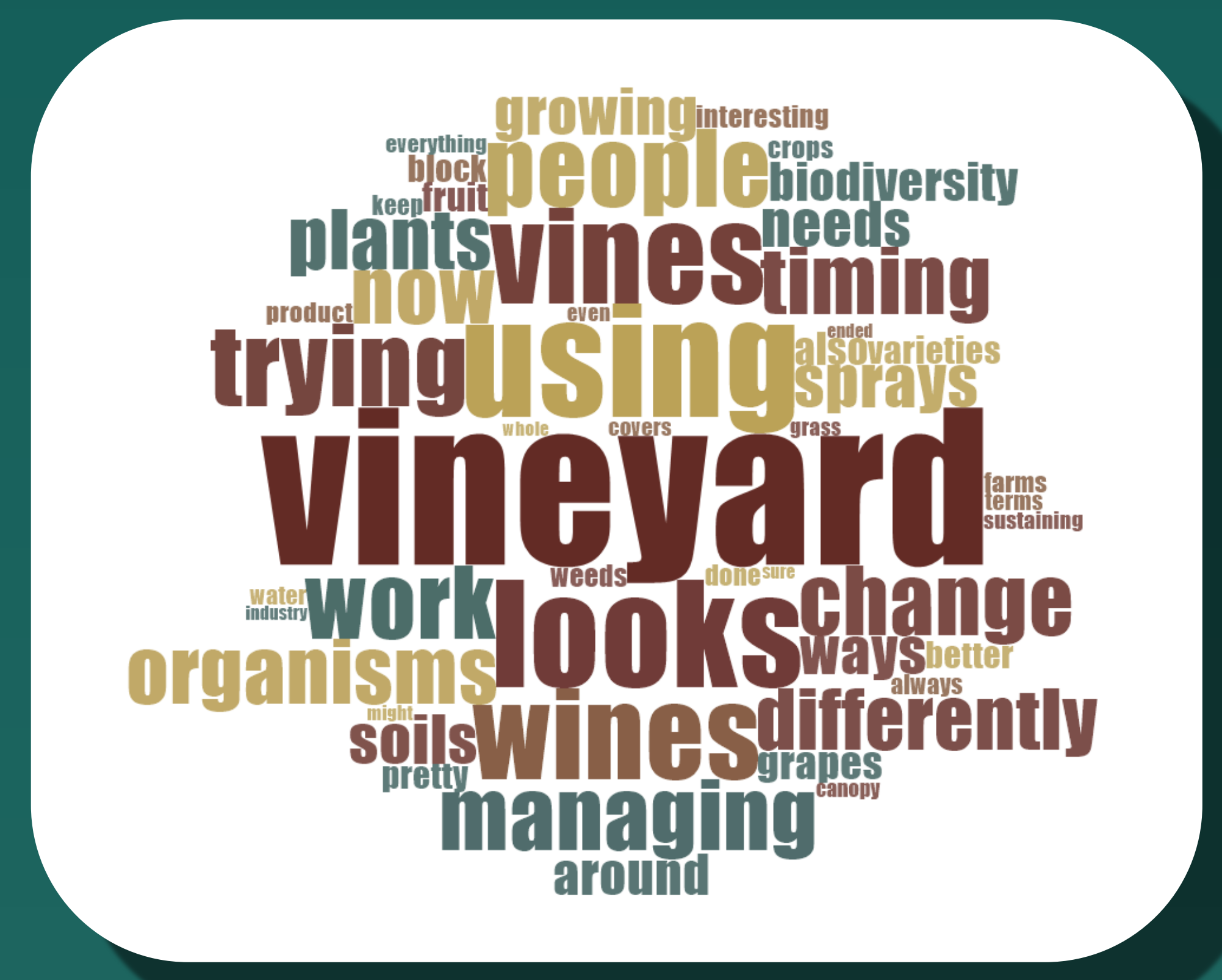
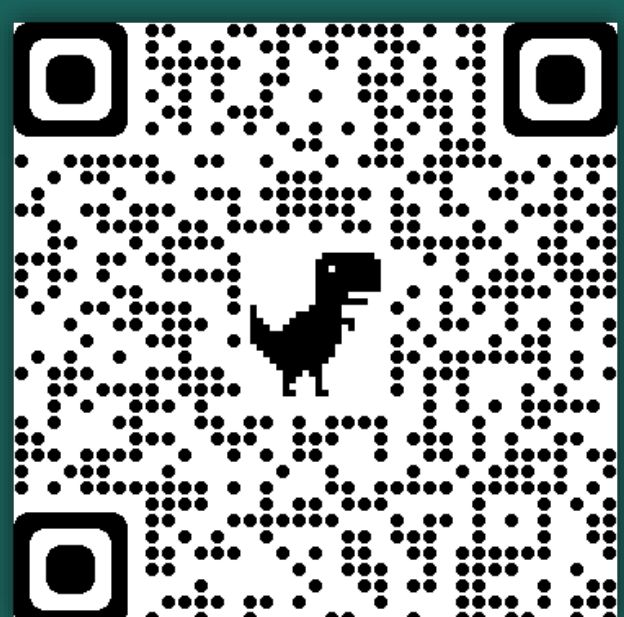


Figure 2. Common terms from interview transcripts



More details