

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

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Harvest Bunch Rot Diseases

I wish there were more PA wine growers in the audience in Hershey on Tuesday. I know for a fact that a lot grapes have gone down to late season bunch rots in recent vintages and we ALL need to educate ourselves about how to cope with this new challenge. Dr. Turner Sutton from NC State Univ and Dr. Jim Travis from Penn State gave provided an excellent overview of the harvest bunch rot diseases - botrytis, bitter rot, ripe rot and sour rot including identification, biology and control strategies. I tried to summarize their presentations.

See ATTACHMENT - "Bunch Rot"

The National Wine and Grape Initiative and Old Zinfandel

If you believe, as I do, that research and extension education can drive quality, development, profits and success (see Australia) then you should know about NGWI. It's mission is to push the national grape and wine industries to a position of world leadership (dominance?) by organizing, promoting and funding research, extension and education in viticulture and enology, health and sustainability. NGWI formally adopted a board which I am proud to serve on. Now the process begins. If it works it should help R&E in Pennsylvania which we need to provide more grower education and solve our problems in the vineyard - no shortage of those.

I had a chance to see some 136 year old Zinfandel vines in the Sierra Foothills. If you do not believe that vine age contributes to wine quality, you should see and taste these vines. I continue to learn by visiting other growers. Ann Kraemer is a grower and consultant in Napa and the foothills and she had much viticulture wisdom to impart. She is a grower's grower, not a winery grower. Please see ATTACHMENT - NGWI-ZIN

Vineyard Manager Needed

Jan and Kim Waltz grow some of the best wine grapes in Pennsylvania. They have a 16 acre vineyard outside of Manheim in Lancaster County. They are looking for someone who can help them improve upon their already outstanding reputation. This is a great vineyard working and learning opportunity. See ATTACHMENT - "Vineyard Manager"

Upcoming Meetings

Blending and Tannin Workshop. Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, Gettysburg, PA, Wednesday, February 22nd from 8:30 am-5:30 pm. This workshop focuses on the variety blending, style blending, and tannin manipulations that can be employed to make wines that fit specific market niches, either local, regional, national, or international. Speakers include: Chrstine Lawlor-White, owner/winemaker of Galena Cellars of Galena, Illinois. Larry Biagi, widely respected winemaker/consultant, and current senior winemaker at American Tartaric Products; and Marco Bertaccini, Winemaker and USA representative for AEB. Pre-registration is by February 15, 2006. For more information call Stephen Menke, PSU Extension Enology Educator, at 717-334-6271 ext. 320 or menkewine@psu.edu.

February 13 - Farming on a Few Acres: Growing Winegrapes, Clinton County Cooperative Extension. 6:30 p.m. Call 570-726-0022 for information

February 16 - Vineyard Development Workshop at Crossing Vineyard. Program focuses on all aspects of starting a vineyard. Cost \$75. Call 717-394-6851

February 22 - **Blending and Tannin Workshop. Registration and Information Attached**

March 13 - Core Credit Workshop in Lancaster. 6 core + 6 category credits available. 9 a.m-4 p.m. Registration to be sent out soon.

March 15 - New Grower Workshop at Wineries Unlimited in Lancaster, PA. Registration will be mailed shortly. Cost \$135. Full day of how to start a commercial vineyard.

See full 06 regional calendar for more vit/enol events.

Attachments:

[Events Calendar Feb06.doc](#)

[Blending and Tannin Wkshp.doc](#)

[Bunch Rots.doc](#)

[NGWI-ZIN.doc](#)

[Vineyard Manager-Waltz_Jan06.doc](#)

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