

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

CORRECTION: The Chardonnay Focus twilight meeting on Wednesday, May 16 is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please arrive at Old Stone Farm by 3:30 so we can get started promptly at 4 p.m. I apologize for the earlier incorrect time.

**** Program and directions are attached (see Twilight)**

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1. Winter Injury
2. 2007 NY-PA Disease and Pest Management Guide
3. Site Selection Short Course in Wooster, OH - May 22

Winter Injury

I have been receiving reports about damaged vines - trunks and buds - from cold injury apparently experienced this winter. It was by most measures a very bizarre and unpredictable winter with both very warm and very cold temperatures. I had no sense of how the vines would come out of it and hoped for minimal problems. But apparently there are some problems and I wanted to alert growers to be aware of them and, if you see problems, to report them to me so I can assess the extent of injury in the state.

Managing damaged vines at this point is a challenge since pruning is almost certainly done and bud counts set. Growers should keep a close eye on the growth of new shoots and the condition of older wood. There could also be problems associated with winter injury such as crown gall. There is a bit of irony that with all of the world focused on climate change that our region has experienced winter injury events in three of the past five years. But these extremes appear to be a part of climate change and grape growers will have to learn to adapt. There is a lot of information about winter injury on the internet. You might want to start on these sites:

<http://winegrapes.wsu.edu/coldposter.htm>

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/pool/trunkinjury/tihtml/trkinjtablecontents.html>

FYI - A comprehensive book on winter injury - causes, effects and response will be published this year by Michigan State University. The authors are Drs. Tom Zabadal, Tim Martinson, Martin Goffinet, Imed Dami and myself. The first four being among the foremost experts on this topic. Managing the aftermath of damage is a real challenge and any of us would be willing to consult with growers on what to do if vines have been injured or killed.

2007 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes

It's here! You can call your county extension office in NY or PA for copy or contact the Publications Distribution Center at Penn State at 814-865-6713. Cost is \$10.

Did you know that Pristine will cause damage to Concord and Noiret grapes? If you did not, then you need to read the NY-PA Pest Guide. I cannot stress enough how important this book is as a core resource to all commercial vineyard management in NY, PA and surrounding states. The breadth of the content is incredible. It covers topics such as...

- The effect of insecticides on honey bees
- How to use pesticides safely
- EPA worker protection standards
- The neighbor notification law
- Pesticide record keeping
- How to develop a vineyard pest management strategy
- Additional publications and resources on weeds, insects and disease of grapes
- A comprehensive grape disease section that includes the biology of major disease, relative susceptibility of varieties, fungicides and their mode of action and resistance risk, and effectiveness of fungicides on major grape diseases
- A pest management schedule for diseases and major/minor insects
- Weed management with pre and post emergence herbicide recommendations
- An extension section on sprayer calibration, use and maintenance.
- It even has tips for laundering pesticide contaminated clothing

This book is an amazing resource. If you combine it with the Wilcox 2007 Grape Disease guide, the Maryland disease guide and regular local recommendations from Dr. Jim Travis and his pathology team you will have the upper hand on controlling grape diseases and pests this year. Jim will be providing twice monthly updates on the disease situation and recommendations that develop during the season. He cautions that early season conditions are very favorable for powdery mildew development. Please adjust your spray programs accordingly.

Recent Advances in Site Selection

Here's a great 1/2 day workshop for anyone who is planning to start a vineyard or who owns one and wants to understand it better. Dr. Imed Dami, extension viticulturist at Ohio State has brought together some of the best regional viticulture minds to offer a program on site selection. I always promote site selection as THE most important decision you will make that will determine the ultimate quality, success, profitability and sustainability of any vineyard. You want to get this one right! The workshop is being held at the Shisler Conference Center, OARDC in Wooster, Ohio on Tuesday, May 22nd from 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. I would especially encourage growers from Erie, SW and western PA to attend.

Please find registration and information at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeweb/>

Attachments:

[Twilight0516.doc](#)

Mark L. Chien
Wine Grape Educator
Penn State Cooperative Extension
1383 Arcadia Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
Tel: 717-394-6851
Fax: 717-394-3962
E: mlc12@psu.edu