

Wine Grape Information for Pennsylvania and the Region

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

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Smart Visit: Hold the date!

Richard Smart, the well-known and respected "flying vine doctor" will make a return visit to Pennsylvania on Tuesday, August 12 for an all-day viticulture workshop. Dr. Smart was last here in 2002 before a large crowd of growers preaching his gospel of canopy management for quality, which he began to develop as a graduate student at Cornell. Now, Dr. Smart consults and teaches internationally. He will address a variety of topics, from canopy and crop management to climate change effects and the need for clean vine materials. It is sure to be an interesting day for everyone! Half of the day will be in a vineyard with demonstrations and time for lots of questions. The other half will consist of classroom presentations from Dr. Smart and other speakers. This workshop is the annual Pennsylvania Association of Winegrowers Summer Vineyard Walk Around. Please plan to attend! More information and registration is forthcoming. This meeting is generously sponsored by the Pennsylvania Wine Marketing and Research Program, Pennsylvania Wine Association and PAW.

Date: Tuesday, August 12

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA and a vineyard TBA.

Dr. Smart is available for private vineyard consultation visits on Monday, August 11 in the SE PA-MD-NJ region. Please contact me if you would like to have him visit your vineyard.

If you miss him in PA, he will be featured at a Virginia Vineyards Association field day in the Charlottesville area on Thursday, August 14th. Please contact VVA if you would like more information.

5 CORE CREDITS!

Pennsylvania grape growers who need core credits to maintain their private applicator's license should take advantage of this excellent opportunity. A workshop offer FIVE CORE CREDITS is being offered at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville, PA (Adams County) titled: *Orchard and Vineyard Spray Application Field Day: Improving Deposition While Reducing Drift*. The featured speaker is Dr. Andrew Landers, ag engineer from Cornell

and probably the best spray guy you will ever meet (and the most entertaining!). This is a topic that should be near and dear to the heart of every wine grower in the region. Andrew always has lots of practical information to offer that you can use the next day in your vineyard. The program is from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25th. Cost is \$20. For information and registration, please call 717.334.6271.

NY-PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes

It is my understanding that this important annual bulletin is no longer being sold in PA extension offices. I regret the inconvenience to our growers. You now have two options to obtain a copy.

1. You can order it directly from Cornell Extension Publications. Go to: <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/pmep/shop/>. Click "Pest Management Guidelines" in the light blue bar.
2. You can view and download a copy on-line at: <http://ipmguidelines.org/grapes/>

I suggest the hard spiral-bound copy for growers for ease of use and durability. This is the most important disease, insect and weed control document available to commercial wine and grape growers in the Eastern U.S. Every serious wine grower should have a copy. It should be supplemented by Dr. Wayne Wilcox's **Grape Disease Control 2008** which has been published in numerous places.

The season began cool and wet. A grower recently told me they recorded 11" of rain in May. Shoots were stuck in a holding pattern for quite a long time which makes them super susceptible to disease. As we head into bloom this is the absolute critical time for your best control practices. Use the best chemicals, application methods, proper rates and timing for maximum effect/protection. 2007 was a fine vintage but it started out wet and warm. We still have a long way to go but now is the time to control disease.

Maryland Grape Growers Association Summer Field Day

MGGA will host its annual summer field day at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard in Dickerson, MD (<http://www.smvwinery.com/>) on Saturday, June 14. The theme for the meeting is "Boosting Disease Management Organically." Speakers include plant pathologists Dr. Jim Travis (Penn State), Anne DeMarsey (UMd) and viticulturist Joe Fiola (UMd). Lucie Morton and Carl Dimano, wine maker and vineyard manager will lead a guided tour of the vineyard and winery. This is a very fine property, one of the more contemporary in the region and I encourage PA wine growers to attend, not just for the program but to see a well designed and managed wine vineyard. Registration for non-MGGA members is \$50. Information and registration can be found at the MGGA web site: <http://www.marylandgrapes.org/main/index.shtml>.

Other events: There are plenty of other events coming up this summer, particularly in Virginia and New York. You can check the Virginia schedule of field days at <http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com/events.php>.

American Society for Enology and Viticulture Eastern Section Annual Conference. I would like to also highlight the ASEV-ES Annual Conference in St Catherines, Ontario. You have heard me say before that the wine and viticulture on the Niagara Peninsula is among the best in Eastern N.A. It is, and if you love wine and growing grapes you should see it. It is a beautiful area. The meeting has an outstanding program focusing on aromatic white wine varieties. Olivier Zind-Humbrecht will be a featured speaker. Domaine Zind-Humbrecht is simply one of the greatest wine estates in the world. The Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University is hosting a full-day Riesling symposium with lots of wines to taste. I strongly urge PA growers to join ASEV-ES as a professional member and to attend this conference.

Mark Update

Five months into a sabbatical leave that has gone by very quickly I am still scribbling away at a vineyard development manual and almost done with the first draft. I am very excited about this book that should arrive about the same time as the new book edited and inspired by Dr. Tony Wolf at Virginia Tech: Wine Grape Production Guide for Eastern North America (it will replace the old Mid-Atlantic Wine Grape Growers Guide). My manual will be very practical and focus on vineyard planning and development up through the first year. Dr. Wolf's text will focus on many key production topics into a mature vineyard. I am finishing my last required course work, and if I can survive comprehensives will be in the stretch run towards earning my degree. I appreciate the support and patience of the wine grape community and all of my colleagues. I have also been able to enjoy some interesting activities, including a USDA mission to the Republic of Serbia to assess their wine industry and a technical visit to vineyards in the Piedmont region of Italy. I'll make my reports available when I return.

On a personal note: two partings have affected our wine industry. Dr. Stephen Menke, our extension enologist for five years, left to become the research enologist at Colorado State University. I miss him because he so capably handled the enology side of the wine growing equation. Penn State has assured the industry that his position will be refilled. Stephen's move was both practical and beneficial. It was a good position and offer and his grandchildren live in Arizona so he is closer to family. Nonetheless, I miss his wry sense of humor. Also, Sherry and Glen Sowers sold Folly Hill Vineyards in Chester County and moved to St Martins in the Caribbean Islands. Well, so we can't feel too sorry for them but Sherry was the president of PAW for three years and we greatly appreciate her service and miss her southern drawl, interminable good cheer and smile and excellent cooking. We certainly wish them well in their new lives and hope they will come back to visit us.

Some other notes: Bob Mazza of Mazza Vineyards in Erie is the new president of PWA. Fran O'Brien, the long time lobbyist for PWA has stepped down to pursue his law career and has been replaced by Wolff Strategies. MeeCee Baker and John Barley will now be representing the issues on behalf of the wine industry. Vintage 2012 continues to be a key priority for the industry and needs your support. They have already successfully formed the foundation of a wine caucus in the legislature. Rich Blair of Blair Vineyard in Berks County is the new president of PAW, and David Othmer, Haywagon Vineyard in Chester County is the VP. I

encourage (demand?) that all wine growers in the state become members of PAW and come to the walk around in August. The 2007 Farm Bill finally got through the House and Senate and contains some goodies for the wine industry, including \$20M (4yrs) for the National Clean Plant Network. We are working hard in the region to develop a foundation source for clean vines for wine and grape growers in the Eastern US. Also, specialty crops funding will be made available through state departments of agriculture for research, education and marketing and our industry should seek to take full advantage of these funds.

See you at the walk around!