

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

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Note: Bees do NOT pollinate tomatoes as I incorrectly stated in the last e-newsletter. They do pollinate apple, pear, cherry, blueberry, strawberry, squash, pumpkin, alfalfa, clover and other crops. The point was, of course, to be thoughtful and careful in your use of Sevin and all insecticides and pesticides in general. I apologize for the mistake.

I will be out of my office from June 26-July 7 but will continue to check e and voice mail. Thank you.

ASEV Eastern Section Annual Conference - July 9-11 in Rochester, NY

Wine makers and grape growers, vendors and academics involved with wine and grapes in Pennsylvania should belong to the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, certainly the regional Eastern Section of the society but also the national. ASEV is the professional association of the wine industry. In the East, ASEV hosts an annual meeting in a wine growing region each year and brings together important researchers in enology and viticulture with the wine industry. It is the best way to keep current with the latest research information that is relevant to your wine business. Funds from ASEV-ES are used to support a scholarship program for graduate students in viticulture and enology. These young people represent the future of our industry, both in research and commercial production. Research is essential to drive the quality and production of our industry in an intensely competitive global market. We need to cultivate young and enthusiastic minds to enter our industry either as professionals or researchers.

This year's conference is in Rochester, New York from July 9-11. This is a terrific opportunity to visit the Finger Lakes and hear about the latest research into multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle and other research topics including progress reports from Viticulture Consortium researchers. It is the best way to catch up with recent research and network with scientists and fellow growers. Plus, it is in the beautiful Finger Lakes region so you can use it as an excuse to enjoy the scenery and terrific wine and food. You should not miss a chance to visit the newly opened New York Food and Culinary Center in Cananadaigua.

A tour of vineyards and wineries has been organized for Sunday, July 9. You really do not want to miss this. Previous conference tours in Ontario, Virginia and other locations

have been interesting and fun. It's a great way to see vineyards and enjoy the company of fellow wine growers, good food and wine and not have to worry about driving. You may learn as much or more from conversations on this day than during the meeting.

Membership and conference registration can be found at:
<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/faculty/henick/asev/>. Please come!!!

As long as we are on the topic of membership, please consider WGA

The **Wine Grape Growers of America** is the national trade organization that represents the interests of all grape growers in the U.S. Yes, Pennsylvania growers, too. If you are not a member, please consider joining WGA. There are issues at the national level that affect all grape growers, not just California. Jim Bedient, a grower from the Finger Lakes, is currently the president of WGA. Fowler West is the lobbyist in DC who carries important grape issues to the legislators such as immigration reform, estate tax and funding for viticulture research. This is really important work and well worth supporting. You may not know it, but WGA is working to help you. Please visit the WGA web site at <http://www.cawg.org/wga/>.

New York Sustainable Viticulture

A sustainable viticulture plan was developed by Alice Wise and Libby Tarleton at Cornell University Cooperative Extension on Long Island with the help of some of the area's best wine growers. That plan was almost completed by then it merged with a state grant that included other regions of NY, including the Finger Lakes. The outcome will be a sustainable viticulture program that will be the first of its kind in the Eastern US and have direct relevance and practicality for grape growers in Pennsylvania. Once again, NY has demonstrated how it can accomplish key objectives in support of its wine industry, including new faculty positions in vit/enol at Cornell, the new food and wine center in Canandaigua and \$5.3M to build a new grape research lab in Fredonia. I'm impressed and envious. This sustainable viticulture program amounts to a best practices guide to viticulture and may be considered the foundation and guiding principles for any wine grape vineyard in our region. It will be a terrific supplement to the new regional grape growers guide coming out later this year from Virginia Tech. A web site dedicated to the NY sustainable program is in the works. I'll announce it when it appears. The first newsletter is attached.

Observations from the Field

I have visited a bunch of vineyards in SE PA in the past few weeks and feel very good about the way this vintage is shaping up so far. Vines look very clean so far - disease and bug free except for a bit of phomopsis and cane girdler, some hail damage in York and Berks counties and what I generally refer to as "spring fever" which is due to the cool and dry season we've had resulting in some nitrogen deficiency along with either potassium or magnesium deficiency. The K can be deficient enough to cause leaf margin burning but I never saw it in any vineyard to the extent that it was a concern. Weed control in

most places is excellent. I saw Chateau in action and it is very impressive. It looks like it will offer good residual control into the summer months. Mechanical devices have also been used very effectively, sometimes in combination with herbicides like Roundup or Rely. The warm weather kicked in the shoot growth so keeping up with canopy management has been a challenge recently but most vineyards are tucked and positioned. I have seen lots of shoot thinning in both vinifera and hybrids which I like. Heads of vines are particularly crowded so take out a few shoots but be sure to leave renewal positions below the fruiting wire, a must for cane pruning, a good insurance measure for cordon. Watch for the bull canes on the end of fruiting canes, they can grow now but cut them off before they begin to shade their neighbors. Leaf pulling on one or both sides should commence as we pass fruit set as well as hedging. When pulling leaves, try to get some of the interior leaves, especially the big ones and also the little watersprouts with no fruit on them. It will really help to open up the canopy. Right now the crop looks big. Set was good in most places. I sure hope everyone will consider doing a lag phase crop estimate and adjusting accordingly. Even with a good year shaping up, regulating yields on vines intended for high quality wine is a good idea. In most PA vineyards fertilizer needs are very modest if necessary at all. Let the vines or a bloom petiole test be your guide. As you manage the vines, strive for uniformity in size and shape. We are at the tail end of the critical post bloom spray period and you should still be using your best materials at full rates and coverage. I like the use of directed fruit zone applications of botrytis and late season rot fungicides at bloom and bunch close. Having the leaves pulled will facilitate these applications and insure that they get into the interior of the clusters. It has been dry. I worry a little about vines planted this spring. If the shoot tips get very small and internodes lengthen and tendrils tips turn black it is time to get some water on the vines any way you can. Controlling weeds and cover crop systems will also help young vines to get established. If they get set back now, they may never become as productive or healthy as they would have if they were not stressed during establishment. Some growers are still coping with winter injury in vines from the 03 and 04 winters - cracked trunks and canes, crown gall and shoot collapse are still occurring. Grub these vines out and get ready to replant next year. The sooner the vines are out the better the soil can rest.

Some growers do not have commitments yet for their fruit. I suggest growers and wineries get together as soon as possible to plan for the upcoming vintage. Crop level is especially important. Wine makers should consider a first visit to vineyards where grapes are being purchased to look at canopies and crops. We have some new vineyards coming on line in the state that are just terrific - well financed and developed and capable of producing high quality fruit. I think the industry is really moving in the right direction.

Pennsylvania Association of Winegrowers Annual Summer Vineyard Walk Around
Please mark **Thursday, August 17** on your calendar and plan to attend the PAW walk around at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville (Adams County). Dr. Jim Travis has established a 2- acre vineyard with hybrid and vinifera varieties for his plant pathology and compost research. It is a terrific site and an excellent research and teaching vineyard. Jim will talk about his disease and compost research and Dr. John Halbrecht will talk about nematodes and viruses in vineyards. There will be

plenty of other issues to discuss such as a possible variety trial and how the wine industry can better cooperate with Penn State on research and extension issues. Visit FREC at <http://frec.cas.psu.edu/>. Registration and information will come out soon.

Attachments:

[NYSustainVitNewsl_no1.pdf](#)

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