

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

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Sorry to keep pushing these meetings on you but they are both really good ones and the highlights of the viticulture summer here in Pennsylvania. I hope you will attend one or both of them. I apologize that they are run right together but this was the only weekend Dr. Anamosa could come to PA this summer. So get a gigantic dose of viticulture in mid-July and relax the rest of the summer.

The **Vineyard Soils Workshop** will visit Allegro Vineyards (York County), Waltz Vineyard (Lancaster) and Round Ridge/Pinnacle Ridge (Berks). These are three of our best vineyards on very different soils. I'm thrilled to get a chance to see and understand them with Paul Anamosa. If you have any curiosity about what makes Pennsylvania's wines unique, you should come to this workshop. The lecture portion on Friday, July 20, will give us the background we need to understand what we are seeing in the soil pits on Saturday. Soil tests have been done so we will discuss the chemical and physical properties of the soils in each vineyard. Yes, it's only dirt but it is oh-so important to what we do, whether you are growing native, hybrid or vinifera grapes. **Information and registration is attached.**

ASEV-ES: As a grower I always firmly believed that research was at the core of advances in viticulture. Along with my own observations in the vineyard, it allowed me to improve the quality of the grapes I grew. I still believe that. It's important to keep up with contemporary vit/enol research and there are many ways to do that like reading journals but coming to a meeting and mingling with those who did the research is the best way to inform yourself about what it all means. The **American Society for Enology and Viticulture Eastern Section** conference is coming to Pennsylvania which is an honor in itself and we should demonstrate our interest by attending and learning. The obvious aside this is such a good chance to learn, network, and maybe best of all, enjoy and pay tribute to the wines we grow with great food! Chef Robison at the Holiday Inn Conference Center has created special menus for this meeting and has worked with Stephen Menke to match the food to Pennsylvania and regional wines. The meals alone are worth the price of admission! The bus tour should be outstanding and it's not just for those visiting Pennsylvania. This is a wonderful chance to familiarize yourself with wineries on the Lehigh Valley Wine Trail and enjoy some great food, wine and hospitality. **Find information and registration to the ASEV-ES conference on their web site at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/>.** I also encourage everyone who is in the wine industry or has an association with the industry to become a member of ASEV-ES. Dues is only \$35/yr.

2007 I am having deja vu all over again when it comes to this growing season. After a late and troubling start (Easter Freeze) we have caught up or are ahead in some cases. On cue the warm, humid and stormy weather arrived in mid-June, al la 2006. The storms are localized so while I have the sense of being very wet in Lancaster, growers in other areas complain of almost drought conditions. Understand your mesoclimate. Most growers I have talked to have been on their spray game very well but reports of downy, phomopsis, black rot and powdery are coming in. So, what can I say? The lesson from last year is to tighten up those intervals, get the best coverage with the best materials at the proper rates. If you have any question about this at all you should contact me or Dr. Travis. More time on the tractor is not what any of us want to do but in this kind of weather there is really no choice. Understand your microclimate. Canopy management now should emphasize shoot positioning and thinning, especially in crowded areas around the head/shoulders and inter-vine areas. Leaf pulling should have occurred a very recently to avoid sun burn on fruit and get maximum aeration and spray penetration. That first hedging pass has probably gone by. Try to minimize shading in both the fruit zone and canopy interior. If berries are at bunch close, think about a fruit zone directed rot sprays meaning protection for botrytis and other late season rot organisms. Now is the time to protect yourself. When it shows up it is too late. Oh, and JB's are here, early as the rain has softened up the ground and a close eye on grape berry moth is also strongly advised.

And speaking of disease, I am not a pathologist, as you have surely noticed and sometimes the complexity of the grape pathology makes my head spin. In a recent article about Pinot Noir viticulture I tried to explain some of the disease challenges but may not have properly explained the relationship between diffuse powdery mildew and late season rots. Dr. Wayne Wilcox, the grape pathologist at Cornell University, offers clarification. In an earlier summary of discussions with Cornell colleagues regarding production of quality Pinot Noir, I said that Dr. Wilcox "does not think there is a connection [between diffuse powdery mildew and bunch rot] since powdery does not infect fruit after bunch close". That's not quite right. As Wayne subsequently clarified:

"I strongly believe that there can be a connection between PM and bunch rot, and that excellent PM control is a prerequisite for growing good Pinot Noir (or Gris), in good part for that very reason. Allowing even inconspicuous ("diffuse") infections to develop on berries greatly increases the chance that bunch rot will follow, since Botrytis and wine spoilage micro-organisms can become established at these infection sites. However, PM infections occur during the first few weeks after bloom, and berries are resistant to the initiation of new infections around the time of bunch closure (actually, about 4 weeks after the start of bloom). So, the time to control PM--and reduce the opportunity for Botrytis and other organisms to establish themselves at PM infection sites--is during the first 4 weeks after bloom. A post-veraison spray of Stylet Oil might knock out any active PM that's there, but the damage has already been done by then, i.e., the PM injury sites have long been present and available for invasion by these other bad guys."

Grapes for Sale: Eric Miller has asked me to post a list of vinifera grapes for sale including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Pinot Noir. Please see attachment.

The Wine Grape Network: Please be patient with the new version of the Wine Grape Network web site which is still under development. Thank you!

Attachments:

[2007 Grapes for Sale CFW.doc](#)

[2007 Soil Wkshp Reg Info.doc](#)

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