

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

Note: The workshop about Multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle sponsored by PDA has been postponed. It will be rescheduled for some time after harvest. In the meantime, if you need information about MALB, please go to www.brocku.ca/ccovi/news/MALB_QA_2004_update.pdf for an excellent summary. I'll send out information about the rescheduled meeting.

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North East Update - by Bryan Hed

Weather: We have accumulated about 1377 growing degree days so far this year (about 1350 since April 1), and 6.34 inches of rain so far in July.

Phenology: Concord berries are currently about 14.9 mm in diameter and 1.8 grams in weight.

Diseases: We had another bout of weather last weekend that was just about perfect for downy mildew. From late Thursday through early morning Sunday our weather station recorded 2.4 inches of rain and over 60 consecutive hours of saturated air (humidity never dropped below 98% for parts of four days). Combine this with warm temperatures and downy mildew can quickly get out of control. Be vigilant about scouting for downy mildew on leaves and cluster stems (berries of most varieties are resistant at this point) of susceptible varieties (Niagara, Catawba, French hybrids, vinifera). Phosphorus acid products (Prophyt, Phostrol, Topaz) will work well to contain a developing downy mildew problem.

Black rot infections from the wetting period occurring back on the 12 th of this month (about 4 weeks after the start of bloom) started showing up on Concord last Sunday/Monday (about 11-12 days after infection). Although they will be easy to see on clusters at this point, they have not developed to their fullest extent yet. That may take another week or more. Scouting your vineyard for black rot in late July/early August will help you see where extra attention to black rot control may be needed during next year, if conditions are wet. Don't wait until veraison or later to scout Concord for black rot. Damage from black rot is much easier to assess when berries are green. The wetting period late last week occurred after Concord berries should have developed a high degree of resistance (5-6 weeks after the start of bloom) and should not have posed much of a threat for further black rot damage. Vinifera reach that point of resistance about 7 weeks after the start of bloom.

Mark's comments: The situation in SE is eerily similar to Erie (no pun intended). The afternoon thunder showers that rumble through every day keep the dew point in the 70s. This means we have almost a constant wetting period. This is a bad situation to get stuck in. Spray intervals need to be short and coverage excellent. Rotation of fungicides should be very carefully considered. Spreader-stickers may be preferable in these damp conditions. As Bryan mentioned, black rot fades in vinifera beginning at 7 weeks after bloom but be vigilant and PM and DM continue as big threats. have you read Dr. Wayne Wilcox's GRAPE DISEASE CONTROL 2006 recently? If not, it would be good to look at it again as you formulate a spray strategy for the rest of the season. However, I spoke with a grower in SW PA today and she told me that the rain has been very moderate there so location is everything. The Japanese beetles are still running rampant. It seems that every summer they extend their season a little more. Sevin, Imidan and Danitol are your best choices for control. Again, rotate materials and just spray the tips unless you see them moving to more mature foliage. Young vines need thorough coverage. They will go away, eventually. You know the drill on canopy management. Not easy in these unpleasant conditions but all the more necessary. Pull leaves in the interior of the fruit zone and remove excess clusters that are touching each other. It is almost time when we could see some effects of bitter and ripe rots as berries expand and clusters tighten up. I haven't seen any nutrient issues in vines so far. Have you? You know my position on crop load. If lag phase has arrived I hope you will consider doing an accurate crop estimate. The best thing that could happen now, of course, is 60+ days of dry weather. If we all wish hard enough for it, maybe it will happen.

[PAW Walk Around - Thursday, August 17th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in Adams County](#)

The Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center has 2 1/2 acres of 5 year old vineyards. The vineyards are established as research vineyards and contain 5 hybrid and 5 vinifera grape cultivars. Scott Henry, Smart Dyson, VSP and High Wire Cordon trellis systems are demonstrated in the vineyards. The morning session will provide the opportunity to visit vineyard experimental research plots and observe the effectiveness (and failure) of various disease management programs. Botrytis, black rot, downy mildew, powdery mildew and ripe rot are present in the research plots. You can find information and registration attached to this message.

[Herbaceousness in Red Wines](#)

One of the big challenges in Eastern wine growing is to get our red wine grape fully ripe. If you have tasted the bell pepper, asparagus, herbal character in red wines then you know what methoxypyrazines tasted like. This chemical is the nemesis to wine makers all over the globe. Interestingly, two forms of MPs are responsible for problems caused by Multi Colored Asian Lady Beetle and unripe fruit. Neither is very easy to deal with either in the vineyard or the cellar. But if you understand what you are up against, maybe you can solve the problem before it becomes one. Dr. Bruce Zoecklein is the research enologist at Virginia Tech and brilliant at bring information to wine growers that can really help them make better wine. In his Enology Notes #114 he talks about the issue of

methoxypyrazines and strategies to deal with them. In the vineyard, the steps are quite well known but easier said than done, including controlling vegetative growth, soil moisture leaf maturity, fruit exposure to light, regulating crop load and the rate of fruit maturation and uneven fruit ripening.

Wine Maker Technical Group Heads-up - Please mark the date on your calendar

The next wine maker technical meeting on Wednesday, August 30 will feature Lisa van de Water for VinoTech Napa. Lisa is the former owner of The Wine Lab and she is one of the best wine microbio people in the business. Lisa will talk about the five most serious problems she encounters in wineries during her many decades of experience and elaborate on how to prevent and solve them. The meeting will be at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. More details to come.

Note: For our friends further south, Lisa will be conducting a wine micro workshop with Dr. Bruce Zoecklein on August 7th at 1 p.m. in Blacksburg, VA. For more details please visit his web site at <http://www.vtwines.info/>

Attachments:

- [Methoxypyrazine BZ Enol Notes 114.doc](#)
- [2006 PAW summer walk info reg1.doc](#)

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