

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

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POST-HARVEST NOTES

Harvest is over except for some ice wine grape hanging around. Probably the most important thing to do is to relax for a while and then reflect on the past year. Tony Wolf, viticulturist at VA Tech, summarized the vintage very clearly in his recent "Viticulture Notes"

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/news/periodicals/viticulture/06septemberoctober/06septemberoctober.html>/ I hope growers will pay close attention to his "what helped" and "what hurt" comments. They are very important to us. There is also a fine article by Ashley Myers on grapevine trunk diseases. Before the vines really settle in for the winter there are some chores to be done around the vineyard. Here is a list of some of the things we always did after the harvest:

- pick up all bins left at wineries
- return everything you borrowed
- send out grape invoices
- clean up around the vineyard - lugs, buckets, harvest things
- maintenance work - tractors, sprayers (drain hoses and pumps), lubricate
- nets off and stored, bird scare gadgets collected and stored
- mow one more time if you haven't yet had a hard frost to trim winter annuals
- hill up young grafted vines
- some growers apply copper to help with disease control and help to harden off the wood
- some growers will rip along tire tracks to reduce soil compaction
- weed control - see "timely viticulture" attachment from Dr. Joe Fiola, UMD Cooperative Extension

It is really hard to assess vintage quality so soon after the wines have gone to tank or barrel. In my experience, wines need a resting period in order to show their true potential. I preferred to wait until spring to assess wine quality with the wine makers. If there were issues about grape quality, it is a good idea to wait until the dust settles around the crush pad and then talk to the wine maker frankly and honestly about the grapes and how they were grown. In the spring, taste the wines and make some judgments about price adjustments (up or down) and figure out what to do in 2007 to make the wine even better.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: It seems like we always have a lot of meetings but these are really helpful to wine growers who do not have formal training in viticulture. Mark Greenspan is a top-notch viticulturist - if you are serious about grape growing you just can't miss an opportunity to ask him questions. The new grower workshop, while targeted at people who are planning to start vineyards, would also be a great refresher for the beginning or intermediate commercial wine grower. We offer these workshops because they bring the latest in knowledge and technology to you. I hope you will take full advantage of them, especially as we swing into the busy meeting months of January through April. A full regional viticulture and enology events calendar is forthcoming.

MARK GREENSPAN WORKSHOP IN LANCASTER (attachments)

Mark Greenspan has become well known for his excellent viticulture column in Wine Business Monthly. Mark has advanced degrees in viticulture and agricultural engineering and his knowledge is grounded in experience in the vineyard. He worked for a number of years for Gallo Sonoma and more recently started his own viticulture consulting company called Advanced Viticulture. He works closely with Integrated Winegrowing, the outstanding viticulture team led by Daniel Roberts in the North Coast. I like Mark because his articles are practical, easy to understand and almost universally applicable. He is also an extremely nice guy. Mark will be coming to Pennsylvania to take part in a general viticulture workshop covering diverse topics such as fruit set, grape maturity, understanding vineyard soils and water management, crop and canopy management and much more. It is a great opportunity for growers of all skill levels to interact with an outstanding viticulturist and grower.

You can read more about Mark and Advanced Viticulture including his articles for Wine Business Monthly and Practical Winery and Vineyard at his web site...<http://www.advancedvit.com/>

Here are the meeting details

When: Tuesday, December 5, 2006
Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA - <http://lancaster.extension.psu.edu/> for location and directions.
What: General Viticulture Workshop and Discussion
Cost: \$25 per person (to help with travel expenses)

Pre-registration for this meeting is required. Please see attached registration information. Registration deadline is December 1.

Mark will also be available at a meeting on Long Island on December 6. Please call Alice Wise for information and registration.

MULTICOLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLE WORKSHOP IN ERIE (attachments)

While it was not a lady bug year growers, processors and wine makers need to be aware of this potential pest that can dramatically reduce the quality of wine and juice and cause significant economic losses. From Minnesota to Ontario there has been a lot of research being done on MALB taint and the biology and control of the bug. Much of this information will be presented at a workshop on in North East, PA on November 29. The meeting is free but pre-registration is required in order to receive a lunch. A meeting program and registration information is attached. This meeting is co-sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the National Grape Cooperative.

When: Wednesday, November 29, 2006
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Where: American Legion Post 105, 17 S. Mill St. North East, PA
What: Multicolor Asian Lady Beetle
Cost: FREE and includes lunch and breaks

NEW GROWER WORKSHOP IN WINCHESTER, VA (attachment)

To: Persons interested in starting a commercial vineyard
From: Shortcourse organizers (T. Wolf, M. Chien, and J. Fiola)
Ref: Vineyard establishment and operation shortcourse

What: This one-day workshop targets those who are exploring wine grape growing opportunities in the mid-Atlantic region. Topics will include economics, site selection, varieties, and vineyard establishment, including materials and methods. Various aspects of established vineyard management (canopy management, pest management, pruning and training, cold injury avoidance, etc.) will be discussed at an introductory level. Classroom principles will be reinforced with a hands-on review, including dormant pruning principles, in the AHS AREC research vineyard. The workshop will be team-taught by Tony Wolf, Fritz Westover and Ashley Myers (Virginia Tech), Joe Fiola (University of Maryland), and Mark Chien (The Pennsylvania State University).

When: Thursday, **7 December 2006**; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Where: AHS, Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, Winchester, VA.
Information: Tony Wolf, 540-869-2560 x18 (vitis@vt.edu) or Fritz Westover 869-2560 x11

Registration: Pre-registration is required and registration is limited to first 60 persons

(use the attached registration form): \$135 per person, to include morning coffee/danishes, soft-drinks, catered lunch, class materials binder, and to cover our invited speaker expenses. Check to be made payable to "Virginia Tech Foundation", and mailed to "Grapes", Virginia Tech, 595 Laurel Grove Rd. Winchester, VA 22602. Payment must be received by 30 November 2006 to guarantee lunch. **Note:** This course fills quickly. Registrants are confirmed as registered in the order that registrations are received.

Directions: Virginia Tech's AHS Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) is located approximately 7 miles southwest of Winchester, VA in Frederick County. From Interstate-81, take the Stephens City exit (exit 307) on the south side of Winchester. Go west into Stephens City (200 yards off of I-81) and proceed straight through traffic light onto Rt 631. Continue west on Rt 631 approximately 3.5 miles. Turn right (north) onto Rt 628 at "T". Go 1.5 miles north on Rt 628 and turn left (west) onto Rt 629. Go 0.8 miles to AREC on left.

Motels: Two suggestions: Holiday Inn Express (540-869-0909) or the Comfort Inn (540-869-6500), both located at I-81 exit # 307 in Stephens City (about 4 miles from the AHS AREC).

Attachments:

- [Fall Weeds.doc](#)
- [Greenspan info reg.doc](#)
- [MALB Program.doc](#)
- [MALB Reg Info.doc](#)
- [New Grower Wkshp Reg Form.doc](#)

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