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Nebraska Lincoln EXTENSION
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Summer Edition
Nebraska Vine Lines

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

Volume XI Issue 3
June/July 2008

Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture
Donna Michel, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

EASTERN FIELD DAY WELL-RECEIVED

Sandell Highlights Weed Management

Weed management and principles of weed biology were one of several topics featured at the Eastern Nebraska Field Day held May 31st at the Kimmel Education and Research Center near Nebraska City. **Lowell Sandell,** UNL Extension Weed Specialist, used live weed specimens and an audience interactive system to describe weed characteristics and how their biology influences their control. Participants were able to express their level of concern about a specific weed and almost instant compilation of the results provided feedback with respect to the perceived seriousness of the weed depicted on the screen and/or as a live specimen. Sandell discussed principles of weed management and provided examples of control practices. He also listed weed management resources that will be helpful to growers, including the Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide.

Additional timely topics included a review of the structure and anatomy of the grapevine with special reference to the characteristics of the grape flower and how to recognize the time of flowering (capfall). When referring to the recommendations in the Spray Guide, an understanding of the structure of the grapevine and its growth stages is critical to application of appropriate pesticides in a timely manner (see also article on disease and insect control elsewhere in this issue). **Steve Gamet**, Research Technology Specialist, presented an overview of trellis construction, relating choice of trellis systems to cultivar characteristics and to vigor imparted by the site, including soil factors.

Excitement Building for the March 2009 Spring Forum - Save the Date March 5-7, 2009

The afternoon part of the Field Day was spent in the University of Nebraska Viticulture Research Vineyard, with special attention given to relative performance of the more than 40 cultivars on trial. As might be expected there were a number of cultivars that have performed at a high level and a few that were demonstrated to be questionable choices for that location. For more details, check the Viticulture Program web-site: http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture, or give **Paul Read** or **Steve Gamet** a call for further commentary.

Participants were warmly welcomed by **Dr. Connie Reimers-Hild**, Asst. Extension Educator, Southeast Research & Extension Center, and both Dr. Reimers-Hild and **Vaughn Hammond**, Extension Technology Specialist, described the mission of KERC and its many programs servicing the clientele of eastern Nebraska. Their generous hospitality was greatly appreciated.

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TIMELY PEST MANAGEMENT

With the extended cool and wet weather experienced by grape growers in many parts of Nebraska, it is important to be especially diligent in timely fungicide applications to control Black Rot, Downy Mildew, Phomopsis and Powdery Mildew. If the wet weather has prevented timely applications of protectants that are not rain-fast (such as Mancozeb), it may be necessary to try to obtain control by use of sterol inhibitor chemicals such as Rally or Elite, which offer some degree of systemic activity. Strobilurins such as Abound, Sovran or Flint will also provide control of Black Rot and the mildews, but will only have slight impact on Phomopsis. If using Abound, do not use it near susceptible apple cultivars (McIntosh, Cortland, Empire or other cultivars related to McIntosh) because it can cause severe phytotoxicity.

Although sulfur is a standard protectant used throughout the world for control of Powdery Mildew, it should be remembered to avoid use of sulfur on sensitive cultivars, such as Chambourcin, Cynthiana/Norton, Concord, deChaunac, Marechal Foch, Leon Millot and Chancellor. Pristine, Nova, Abound, Elite, Quintec and Sovran are effective against Powdery Mildew. Organic alternatives include Armicarb O, Milstop, JMS stylet oil and Purespray.

For further advice on vineyard disease management, consult the Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide, and the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program web-site (http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture) and **always read and follow label directions when using any pesticide.**

Use of cultural practices can also help in managing disease and insect problems in the vineyard. **Canopy management** that provides good air circulation can help control fungal diseases. Air movement through the canopy dries susceptible foliage and fruit, thus reducing opportunities for fungal spores to germinate and cause infection. **Clean-up** is also important. For example, dried-up infected berries ("mummies") should be removed at harvest time or soon after, thus reducing inoculum for Black Rot infection. Removal and destruction (burning, if possible) of prunings will partially eliminate disease inoculum and destroy insects residing inside the prunings (e.g. Grape Cane Borer, a.k.a., Apple Twig Borer). A more detailed discussion on Grape Cane Borer can be found on our web-site. Additional insect management advice can be found in the Spray Guide and on the Viticulture Program web-site.

TIPS AND TENDRILS

- With bloom upon us, or rapidly approaching, be sure to consider sprays for Downy Mildew control: good protectants are Mancozeb or Captan, which also will help with Phomopsis and Black Rot.
- The timing is also right for **Shoot Thinning.** This important canopy management practice will help with air movement through the canopy, thus helping to minimize fungal diseases. Aim to leave about four shoots per linear foot of trellis for VSP.
- **Shoot Positioning.** Now is the time to begin shoot positioning for VSP and it is especially important for Scott Henry or Smart-Dyson systems.
- Remove unwanted shoots to achieve the desired density. Weak and late-developing shoots can still be snapped off by hand.
- Trunk Bud Rubbing should have been accomplished by now to reduce competition with desired shoots and help build a strong trunk. This is particularly important for young and newly established vines.
- Open canopies allow for good light penetration to the clusters, which contributes to uniformly ripened fruit with good color and potentially high quality wine.

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- Speaking of **tendrils**, accomplishing shoot positioning in a timely manner avoids the problems of tendrils attaching to catch wires or other trellis parts. Once they have attached, shoot breakage is more likely during the shoot positioning operation.

FIELD DAY OPPORTUNITIES – 2008

Plan to attend one or more of the following Field Days. They are an opportunity to learn, to network with fellow growers, to see how others have approached (and hopefully solved) vineyard problems and challenges. We learn from each other !

June 28, 2008. Western Nebraska Vineyard Management Field Day. 17 Ranch Vineyard, Lewellen, Nebraska. Registration 8:30 a.m. Program begins in the vineyard at 9:00 a.m. with a focus on canopy management as affected by pruning and trellis systems. Observe 17 Ranch's furrow irrigated Edelweiss, Marechal Foch, Traminette, St. Vincent and more. Lunch will be provided at the 17 Ranch Winery in downtown Lewellen, followed by a tour of the winery and discussion of challenges for new wineries, along with explanation of a new marketing approach in collaboration with Prairie Vines and Table Mountain wineries. Pre-registration is encouraged to help with plans for lunch. Send check for $20 to University of Nebraska Viticulture Program, 377 Plant Science Bldg., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0724. or call or e-mail Donna Michel (402-472-8747, dmichel@unl.edu) to reserve your spot and pay upon arrival. Directions to 17 Ranch: follow US Route 26 west from Ogallala through Lewellen, turn north about a mile west of Lewellan – watch for a sign and balloons! From the west, travel U.S. Route 26 east from Oshkosh (about 10 miles) and watch for sign and balloons. – if you get into Lewellen, you've gone too far.

July 28, 2008. Multi-State Field Day – Lexington, Missouri. This will be the fifth in this series of Multi-State Field Days, hosted this year by the University of Missouri's Institute for Continental Climate Viticulture and Enology. Although a long distance to travel for growers from western Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota (and from northern Iowa), this Field Day promises to be well worth the trip. An outstanding program has been developed that will showcase an excellent newly developed vineyard, Farmeier Brothers and a more established vineyard and winery, Baltimore Bend Vineyard and Winery.

Tentative Program

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 – Cultivars – An overview of Lisa Smiley's M.S. work at Iowa State University – **Dr. Paul Domoto**, Iowa State University.
- 10:00 To Tube or Not to Tube? A review of tube types, their characteristics and value when establishing a vineyard. **Dr. Keith Striegler,** University of Missouri
- 11:00 – Trellis Construction – "Bull-Strong" End Assemblies. **Eli Bergmeier**, University of Missouri
- Noon – lunch. Discussions by Vendor and Exhibitor Representatives.
- 1:00p Travel to Baltimore Bend Vineyard, Waverly, MO.
- 1:15p – Canopy Management – Crop Load Estimation and Control. **Andy Allen,** University of Missouri.
- 2:00p – Trellis Systems – What's Right for You and Your Cultivars? **Dr. Paul Read,** University of Nebraska
- 2:45p – Weed Management – **Dr. Reid Smeda,** University of Missouri
- 3:30p – Adjourn to Baltimore Bend Winery Tasting Room. Sample Award Winning Wines.

Cultivars being grown at Baltimore Bend include Vignoles, Chardonel, Cabernet Franc, Norton and Chambourcin. More details will be available on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program web-site:
http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture
Including directions to the vineyard and a list of area motels.

August 16, 2008. South-Central Nebraska Field Day, Superior Estates Winery. More details will be forthcoming.

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The Calendar

Around Nebraska in the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

June 28, 2008—Western Nebraska Vineyard Management Field Day

July 28, 2008—Multi-state Field Day, Northwest MO area.

August 16, 2008—South-Central Nebraska Field Day, Superior Estates Winery, Superior, NE.

November 1, 2008. University of Nebraska Fall Workshop. **Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln, NE.** There will be a 3 hour Wine 101 Class also at the Holiday Inn Downtown on **October 31st – appro. 6:00p – 9:00p.** Snacks will be served.

Future Nebraska Winery & GrapeGrowers Forums

2009—March 5 - 7, Holiday Inn, Kearney
2010—March 4 - 6, Holiday Inn, Kearney
2011—March 3 – 5, Holiday Inn, Kearney
2012—March 1 – 3, Holiday Inn, Kearney

Around the Country

July 14-16, 2008 ASEV Eastern Section Annual Conference, Four Points by Sheraton St. Catharines Niagara Suites, Ontario. The conference will focus on aromatic whites, and will include winery tours and local cuisine, presentation of student papers, followed by a half-day tasting conference that will take place just across the street at Brock University on Thursday July 17. This conference, entitled "The Riesling Experience", will include technical talks from regional and international experts, tastings, and a gourmet lunch. For conference information, visit : http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/conference.php; for hotel information, visit http://www.starwoodhotels.com.

August 8, 2008. The UNL Food Processing Center is offering a one-day seminar for all individuals interested in exploring the idea of starting a food manufacturing business. The "From Recipe to Reality" seminar will be offered on August 8, 2008. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration deadline is July 28. Contact Jill Gifford at 402-472-2819 or jgifford1@unl.edu for an information packet.

2009

January 27, 28 & 29, 2009. 2009 Unified Wine & Grape Symposium, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. For more information visit www.unifiedsymposium.org

February 7-9, 2009. The Midwest Grape and Wine Conference, featuring "Sustainability in Vineyards and Wineries". Contact Rozanna Benz, Conference Coordinator: at 573-486-5596, rozannabenz@centurytel.net or visit our new website: www.midwestgrapeandwineconference.com.

February 12 – 14, 2009. MGGA Cold Climate Conference, Bloomington, MN. Contact Nicole Walsh, Conference Coordinator – nrwalsh1@yahoo.com.

March 10-13, 2009. Wineries Unlimited, the largest wine trade show and seminar program east of the Rockies, will hold its 33rd show at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA. Program information, exhibitors and registration will be available online at www.wineriesunlimited.com.

12th Annual Forum – March 5-7, 2009
Great Program Planned – Chien, Pierquet, Fennell, and more!
Put this one on your calendar!
Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

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VITICULTURE PROGRAM

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