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Nebraska Vine Lines

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture

Donna Michel, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program



May/June 2004 Vol. VII, No. 3

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS IN THE VINEYARD

Following a relatively mild winter, weather this spring has been highly variable throughout the state. Unfortunately, the roller-coaster ride of fluctuating temperatures – a series of warm days followed by precipitous drops in temperature – has caused bud, cane and in some cases, trunk damage. As a general rule, young vines are more vulnerable to winter and spring cold temperature damage than are old, established vines. However, cultivars such as deChaunac and Lacrosse, to name a couple, tend to fruit quite well on secondary buds, so in many cases a modest-to-good crop may still result. Extent of damage and crop reduction will vary from location to location and only time will tell as to whether or not the late frosts and freezes will significantly diminish yields in Nebraska vineyards.

Precipitation has also varied considerably throughout the state. Some areas were blessed with abundant snowfall (well, at least more than in recent winters) and many have experienced several nice rains. What the future will bring in terms of moisture is yet to be seen. If abundant rains occur, it will be imperative that a diligent spray program be followed. Dr. Mike Ellis, Ohio State Plant Pathologist who was featured at our 2002 Fall Workshop on Disease Management, has repeatedly made the point that attention to early disease management will truly “bear fruit” (disease-free, that is!). For guidelines regarding spray timing, rates and chemical selection, review the Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide – 2004. In addition, as always read and follow label directions.

We look forward to receiving your reports of both successes and problems in your vineyard. We hope that we will again have high quality fruit production and luscious Nebraska wines from the 2004 vintage.

Paul E. Read

WINTER INJURY and Spring 2004

As Tim Martinson, Extension Specialist with the Finger Lakes Grape Program said following the disastrous 2003 season experienced by New York grape growers, “Winter injury is not the end of the world”. In spite of bud mortality of 90% or more, many growers harvested modest crops of 1 to 2 tons per acre – certainly this is not a profitable enterprise if sustained at that level over several years’ time – no doubt the recent late freezes in Nebraska vineyards will drastically reduce or eliminate yields in 2004, but depending on cultivar, location, severity and length of the cold temperature event, vineyard site characteristics and subsequent weather, it is possible that low to modest yields may still be achieved.

Bud and Shoot Damage – reports will be compiled on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program web-site: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>. Send reports of estimated losses to pread@unl.edu or dmichel@unl.edu or by phone 402/472-5136 or 402-472-8747 or fax them to 402/472-8650. We will attempt to monitor the impact of the damage as it influences vine and crop development and ultimately fruit yield and quality. As Martinson also said, “Difficult years produce a lot of learning” – let’s hope we can learn as much as possible from the weather events of Spring, 2004.

**June 5, 2004 Field Day
Rolling Field Day to Washington and Burt Counties**

8 to 9am - Registration at Birdsong Vineyards - 12845 Birdsong Lane, Blair, NE

9 to 9:30am - tour Birdsong Vineyard, with comments from DeeAnn and Tim Hrdlicka

9:40 to 10am - travel to the Rich and Marlene Mullins vineyard – Arlington, NE

10 to 11am - examine the harvester, his other special equipment and tour his vineyards, with comments by Rich Mullins.

11:10 to 11:45am - travel to Tekamah for lunch

11:45 to 12:45pm – Lunch at “Slim Profits” in Tekamah.

12:45 to 1pm travel to Faltys

1 to 1:40pm - Visit the Allen and Connie Faltys vineyard and also have a look at his various other fruit ventures (some may find this interesting for personal interest and/or potential winemaking)

1:45 to 2pm - travel to Big Cottonwood Vineyard and Winery

2 to 2:45pm - Deb and Rick Barnett will explain their game plan and provide a look at their vineyards and winery building –Big Cottonwood Vineyards, 2865 County Road I, Tekamah, NE

2:45 to 3pm - Travel to Phil and June Simpson's Silvercreek Hill Vineyards

3 to 4pm - Tour (and tasting?) - discussion to be led by Phil and June

REGISTRATION FORM – June 5, 2004 Field Day

Name _____ **\$15.00** _____

Vineyard, winery, grower, other affiliation
name _____

Address _____

Email: _____ Telephone _____

Name of others attending with you: _____ **\$15.00** _____

_____ **\$15.00** _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Cost of attending this educational program:

\$15 in advance or \$20 on site (**includes lunch**).

Make checks payable to **the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program** and send to:

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

377 Plant Science Hall

Lincoln, NE 68583-0724

402/472-8747 dmichel@unl.edu

Directions: Birdsong Vineyard, 12845 Birdsong Lane, Blair, NE

From Omaha or Lincoln:

1. Take I-80 to Omaha then take I-680 north.
2. Take the Irvington Blair exit off of I-680 (this is right after Fort street exit)go left at the exit which will take you back over the interstate. This is the Blair High Road, also known as hwy 133.
3. Stay on hwy 133 as if you are going to Blair.
4. Watch for a green sign that says "Kennard 3 miles" Turn left at this sign (paved county road P30).
5. Go a half mile to county road 31 and take a left (gravel)
6. The first lane on your left is Birdsong Lane. Turn left into the lane. Go all the way to the bottom of the hill to the second house. 12845 is the house number.

House is white with green shutters. Big red barn and red out-buildings. Big white Great Pyranees dog and an elderly German Shepherd will greet you. Despite the barking, there are very nice.

From Fremont:

1. Take Hwy 30 east.
2. Just after you drive through Kennard watch for a sign that says Blair and Missouri Valley. Just after this sign is the Papio creek and a right hand turn which is County Road P30.
3. Follow P30 to county road 31. Turn right on county road 31 (gravel)
4. The first lane on your left is Birdsong Lane. Turn left into the lane. Go all the way to the bottom of the hill to the second house. 12845 is the house number.

2nd Annual Four-State Viticulture Field Day
Nebraska City, NE
June 19, 2004

8:00 a.m. Registration and coffee

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

9:15 a.m. Agri-Tourism – Presentation by representative of Nebraska Department of Economic Development (All Attend)

9:45 a.m. Session Topics begin (to be repeated in afternoon).

Topics include: Trellis design, ground covers, variety evaluation, pruning and equipment selection, drip irrigation and chemical applications.

Noon – Lunch and State Updates

(lunch is included in registration fee)

1:00 p.m. Sessions Repeat

3:00 p.m. Adjourn for visit to Nebraska's newest and only co-op winery, Arbor Trails Winery

(included in registration fee).

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ **\$25.00**
(includes lunch and Arbor Trails visit).

Vineyard, winery, grower, other affiliation name _____

Address _____

Email: _____ Telephone _____

Name of others attending with you:

_____ **\$25.00**
_____ **\$25.00**

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Cost of attending this educational program:

\$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Lunch and Arbor Trails visit and tasting are included in registration fee. Make checks payable to the **University of Nebraska Viticulture Program** and send to:

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
377 Plant Science Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724

402/472-8747 dmichel@unl.edu

Directions:

Kimmel Orchard: Old Hwy 75 and County Road G, 1 mile north of Nebraska City, NE

FROM THE NWGGA BOARD!

Besides watching our grapes begin to bud and leaf out, the NWGGA Board and Committees have several new initiatives happening as well. There are lots of new things to share with you:

- **Welcoming our new Board members:** We have already met twice to bring our new members, Max McFarland, VP; Barry McFarland and Jackie Hopkens, Board members, up to date with the ongoing activities. Thanks again to Teresa McFarland, Terry Ryan, and Carol Ringenberg for all their hard work!
- **Welcoming our new Committee chairpersons:** There have been some changes to our committees as well. Barry McFarland is going to take over for Eric Nelson on the Marketing Committee and Rick Barnett will be assuming Tim Hrdlicka's chair position on the Web Site Committee. Thanks to Eric and Tim for all of their hard work in the past as chairmen!
- **More changes to NWGGA's structure:** One of the goals of the Board this year is to work on revising the current committee structure to make our organization more responsive to the needs of its members. Several ideas have been suggested including having separate committees (councils) so that we can focus on the needs of our grape growers and wineries separately. The existing committees would be worked into the structure of these councils based on their primary focus. It was also suggested to divide the state into regions and have a representative from each region. These ideas and others are still being worked through and it will require changes to the bylaws. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to a member of the Board.
- **Development of an NWGGA newsletter:** Members continue to express their concerns and confusion as to what our organization is doing for them. (We really do listen!) As such, the Board has made the decision to take on its own newsletter to keep its members informed since many of you do not have web access. This newsletter will be sent out to members after each board meeting. NWGGA will continue to support the VineLines, as it is an excellent educational resource for members. However, members will now receive a brief newsletter summarizing Board and Committee activities and featuring educational and promotional events in the very near future.
- **Improvements to the NWGGA website:** The website is currently being revamped to hopefully be less confusing to those using it. We have not gotten a lot of specific comments about how to improve it, but the website committee is using other grape grower websites to make some changes. We hope to have it back up and working in a couple of weeks! If you have any specific suggestions for improvements, please contact Rick Barnett, Web Chairman or volunteer to serve on the web committee.
- **Membership changes:** NWGGA members now have 4 categories of membership available to them. The *Student* (\$15, 1 VineLines subscription) and *Individual* categories (\$45, 1 discount, 1 vote, 1 VineLines subscription) are still in place. There is now a different *Joint* category (\$65, 2 discounts, 2 votes, 1 VineLines subscription) and a new *Corporate* category (\$125, 5 discounts, 3 votes, VineLines subscriptions to

multiple addresses). If you received your renewal letter, please return the enclosed membership form and dues by May 31st to the NWGGA Treasurer, Deb Barnett. If you did not receive information and are interested in joining (or renewing), call or email Deb.

- **Survey information:** Members were also asked to complete information on their membership form concerning their grapes and acres planted and their interest in volunteering and/or serving the organization. This information will be put into the membership database. Members can update us at renewal time if this information changes, but we hope that it will decrease the number of requests our members get for the same information.
- **Increasing income to the organization:** This was a goal defined by last year's Board. With the assistance of some dedicated members, we have raised some additional dollars to help support our organizational costs via the trade show at UNL's 2004 Spring meeting and the Silent Auction (Kudos to Max and Holly!). We are currently working with other members who have helped us tap into some alternative agricultural grants through the Governor's office and we will be working on applying for some available marketing grants in the near future.

We need your help! Right now, we are counting heavily on a small number of dedicated members to accomplish this and other tasks as we try to move the grape and wine industry in Nebraska forward. We will be contacting those of you who indicated your willingness to volunteer to determine where you would like to help. Specifically, help is needed on the Marketing and Web Site committees and in organizing next year's Trade Show, however, if you have an interest in something else, your help will not be turned away. If you have not indicated your interest in helping and wish to do so, contact any Board member or Committee chair.

2004 Board Members

NWGGA Officers:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| DeeAnn Hrdlicka, President | deeannhrdlicka@aol.com |
| Max MacFarland, VP | mcfarlandm@unk.edu |
| June Simpson, Secretary | silvercreekhill@yahoo.com |
| Deb Barnett, Treasurer | usdwrbs@huntel.net |

NWGGA Board:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Barry MacFarland | bmcfarla@esu10.org |
| Dale Lilyhorn | djlilyhorn@webtv.net |
| Eric Nelson | ericnelson@inebraska.com |
| Jackie Hopkens | southfrk@megavision.com |
| Rick Barnett | usdwrbs@huntel.net |
| Vaughn Hammond | vhammond.kimmel@arbordayfarm.org |



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June 5, 2004 – Rolling Field Day – Washington and Burt Counties

See web-site (<http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>) or Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu or 402/472-8747 for more information.

June 19, 2004 – Multi-state Field Day. Kimmel Education & Research Center, Nebraska City, NE.

See web-site (<http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>) or Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu or 402/472-8747 for more information.

November 5, 2004 – “Vines, Wines and You”, Workshop. East Campus Union; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Open to the first 50 people to register. \$25.00 pre-registration required. More information to follow in upcoming issues of VineLines. Contact Paul Read, pread@unl.edu, or Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu

November 6, 2004 – Fall GrapeGrowers Workshop. East Campus Union. “Instrumentation for Vineyards and Wineries. Contact Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu or 402/472-8747 for more information.

June 18-19, 2004 – Value-Added Products Workshop Comb Honey, Creamed Honey, Soap and Mead Agricultural Research & Development Center (near Ithaca and Mead, NE). Send registrations to Dr. Marion Ellis, University of Nebraska, Department of Entomology, 202 Plant Industry Building, Lincoln, NE 68583-0816.

Planning Ahead - Future Forums

2005 - March 4 and 5 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

2006 –March 3 and 4 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

2007 – March 2 and 3 – Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

FIELD DAYS REGISTRATION MATERIALS ENCLOSED!