

Viticulture Notes - September 7, 2007

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Beware of Botrytis!

Usually, botrytis is not of major concern in most of Oregon's vineyards. However, with the period of rain and cloudy weather in late August, cluster fungal infestation may be impending. With the rains, many vineyards have experienced berry cracking, allowing a great medium for infestation. Monitor your sites for signs of Botrytis. If early season sprays for Botrytis control were applied from flowering to fruit set, the inoculum may not be present. Often times the initial infestation of botrytis is at flowering and signs of the infestation remains latent until véraison when the clusters create a nice environment for it to thrive and allows for increased growth of the mycelium. Botrytis can infect the berry directly through the skin or through wounds and likes temperatures from 59 to 68+°F and 90% humidity for infection. Spread can be rapid during the ripening phase! Despite being known as a bunch rot (which conjures up images of a fuzzy, wet rotting mess), botrytis-infected berries often dry up and shrivel in dry weather.



What do you do if you have botrytis?

There are some fungicides that can be applied for prevention of latent outbreaks or eradication of spores post-infection. Remember, good spray coverage is essential to reach tight areas of clusters and must be used in accordance with pre-harvest intervals. *Rovral*, the long-time champion for botrytis control is only moderately effective as an eradicant. For more information on control of botrytis, please see the following link: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8413-e/#botrytis>

Most efforts should be made to *prevent* botrytis. Also, it is good to note that some of the fungicides used for powdery mildew control may have limited or no influence on botrytis control. However, *Pristine* is has excellent control for powdery mildew and has good results on botrytis control.

Mites and Short Shoot Syndrome

This summer has been an interesting season for winegrapes. Many producers applied early season sulfur sprays starting at woolly bud and have noticed fewer bud and rust mite problems and the associated short shoot syndrome. Dr. Vaughn Walton and Dr. Amy Dreves, OSU entomologists, have not found high of populations this season as observed last season in studies investigating rust mite infestations. This may be due to several factors, including the year, potential cyclical population patterns, or the early spray programs implemented by growers. Although



Scarring and shortened internodes are visible on shoots affected by mite-related short shoots.

populations may be down, some growers have experienced symptoms of short shoots and damaged grape clusters, earlier in the season. Because the year is a relatively heavy fruit set year, there appears to be little economic crop loss in specific vineyard sites with the symptoms of mite-related short shoots. Although the early spring sulfur sprays may have provided some control of mites this season, a long-term solution to rust mite and/or bud mite damage is being addressed and is subject to further research.

Some symptoms observed on mite-related short shoots later in the growing season include scarring on shoots, shortened shoot length, compressed internodes at the base of shoots and/or smaller or deformed clusters. In many cases, the shoots often grow out of the “short shoot syndrome” and more normal growth progresses throughout the growing season. Late season leaf bronzing may or may not be found in all cases with rust mite problems.

Take a look at areas in your vineyard that had damage earlier or late in the season due to “short shoot syndrome” and make note by flagging vines with the symptoms you find. This way you will better track the locations that may need treatment early in the spring.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

Grape Maturity Workshop – Chemeketa and OSU

September 14, 2007 9 am – 4 pm. Registration is required.

<http://www.chemeketa.edu/aboutus/locations/eola/news.html>

OSU Grape Maturity Workshop – Columbia Gorge/Hood River

September 20, 2007 9 am – 1 pm at the OSU Extension Office in Hood River. For information, please contact Suzanne Burd at sburd@cgcc.cc.or.us

OSU Winery Sanitation Workshop – Columbia Gorge/Hood River

September 20, 2007; 1 pm – 4 pm at the OSU Extension Office in Hood River.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Burd at sburd@cgcc.cc.or.us.

This program will be immediately following the OSU grape maturity workshop.

Table Grapes: Open House and Grape Tasting

September 8, 15, 22 – Open house and tasting of table grape varieties at Broadacres Nursery, 18335 Butteville Rd NE, Aurora, OR (503) 981-6509

Table Grape Workshop

Sept 18 – 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – A workshop on the economics of establishing a table grape vineyard will be offered for current or potential commercial growers.

This event will feature speakers from California and Clark Seavert, OSU

economist. Location: Broadacres Nursery, 18335 Butteville Rd NE, Aurora, OR, (503) 981-6509