



Cold Climate Grape IPM News

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Greetings !

I hope everyone had a good winter. I, like the grapes, am getting ready for the growing season and looking forward to starting a new research project in evaluating cold climate winegrape cultivars and in updating the Cold Climate Grape website and newsletters for 2007. However, my main computer recently died so I temporarily do not have access to all the files and programs that I need to do the work that was planned. Please bear with me during my slow start to the season.

As you may know, I firmly believe that anyone who is growing grapes should be fully knowledgeable about the safe use and storage of pesticides and have a Pesticide Applicator's License. There is an excellent opportunity if you do not already have your Vermont Pesticide Applicator's License to attend a workshop where the pesticide safety material will be reviewed and the certification examine offered. The workshop will be held on April 11 at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, Vermont. Attached is a brochure describing the workshop. Please note that if you are interested in attending you need to pre-register by tomorrow. You will also need to obtain and study the manual before the workshop. If you have any question regarding this program or want to pre-register, please call Ann Hazelrigg at (802) 656-0493 or ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu. I apologize for the very short notice of this meeting.

If you cannot attend the Pesticide Applicator Training Program on April 11th, the following website outlines what you need to do to get your pesticide applicator license:

<http://pss.uvm.edu/pesp/>

Basically, there is a notebook which is purchased. You study the material in the notebook and then schedule the exam. The exam can be taken in Montpelier or at a few other locations (see website). You will find that some of the material does not apply to grape production but, hopefully, you will get a general foundation in the safe use and storage of pesticides. The two people who oversee the Pesticide Education and Safety program are Ann Hazelrigg at UVM and Matt Wood at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Their contact information is on the website.

Now -- onto **one of the first disease considerations of the growing season -- ANTHRACNOSE.** Grape cultivars differ in their susceptibility to this disease. I have seen particularly severe infection on Swenson White, Vandal Cliche, and Reliance. A very informative publication was developed at Ohio State which can be viewed at:

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/pdf/3208.pdf>

The publication includes pictures of symptoms and cultural practices which can impact the development of the disease, including pruning out during the dormant period diseased plant parts and removing the prunings from the vineyard. If the disease is established in your vineyard, the publication lists a dormant application of lime sulfur as an option for consideration. Note that lime sulfur is a *very caustic* material. As with any pesticide, all label instructions must be followed very carefully.

Just a further note on sanitation practices: The sanitation practice of removal of mummified fruit in the vineyard by pruning out those left in the canopy or burying those on the vineyard floor during the dormant or early spring period is an important component in **BLACK ROT** management. The black rot fungus overwinters in the mummies and removal reduces the amount of overwintering inoculum and thereby reduces the potential for disease during the following growing season.

Wishing everyone a great growing season !

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