



Grape IPM Update

Lorraine P. Berkett

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Reminder:

The Vermont Grape and Wine Council is Sponsoring a Conference on May 20 --

The Agenda and the Registration Form are at:

<http://www.vermontgrapeandwinecouncil.com/assets/Uploads/2009VGWCAgenda-and-Registration.pdf>

The Conference will be held at The Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT. Directions to the Inn can be found at: <http://www.3stallioninn.com/directions.htm>

All are welcome. However, seating at the Inn is limited and registrations will be accepted on a “first-received” basis. **Deadline for discounted registration is May 6.** Please see registration form for details.

Hope to see you there !

Reminder:

Cold Climate Grape Industry Survey Underway - We have already received a good number of completed surveys ... thanks to all that have completed the survey! The survey is located at: <http://pss.uvm.edu/grape/ColdClimateWinegrapeIndustrySurvey2009.html>

If you have not completed the survey.... please take the time to do so. The survey will only be meaningful and useful if most of the current cold climate winegrape industry in the state and region participate. Please carve out time to complete the survey over the next 3 weeks. Thank you.

Insect Management Update:

Grape Flea Beetle -- This insect has been reported to have caused damage to buds in past years in some Vermont vineyards. The adult beetle chews holes in the sides and ends of the buds. Pictures of this relatively small, dark, shiny metallic greenish-blue or steel-blue beetle and the bud damage it causes can be seen at:

http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/grapes/pests/gfb/gfb_fig1.asp

http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/grapes/pests/gfb/gfb_fig5.asp

Bud swell is the time to monitor your vineyard to determine the need to manage this insect. Although damage is often concentrated along vineyard borders near wooded areas, scouting for adult beetles and damage should be conducted around the perimeter and in the center of the vineyard. At least 25 vines should be surveyed at each of five locations in the vineyard. Scouting should continue until the first leaf separates. If 4% or more of buds are damaged, an insecticide is warranted at bud swell. See page 43 of the 2009 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes for details on insecticide application. [Note: A second application may be warranted in June when larvae are on grape foliage to help manage a further outbreak in 2010.]

Cultural techniques to help manage this insect -- This insect primarily attacks buds of wild and cultivated grapevines and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). There is only one generation of the insect per year; the insect overwinters in the pupal stage in the ground about 0.5" to 2.5" below the surface. Non-chemical ways to help manage this insect are to remove alternate hosts surrounding the vineyard (e.g., wild grape vines) and to cultivate the land around the vineyard if feasible to expose the delicate pupae in the soil and thus cause desiccation and death.

[Sources of information: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b861/> and <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/grapes/pests/gfb/gfb.asp>]

Disease Management Update:

Anthracnose -- This disease can become very destructive if left to build up in a vineyard. The following slide is from a presentation that I gave last summer at the joint NH-VT Cold Climate Grape Workshop. It shows the various symptoms of the disease.



I bring this disease up at this point in time because in the colder regions of the state where the buds are still in the dormant stage it would not be too late to apply a fungicide (i.e., liquid lime

sulfur) to manage this disease in vineyards where it has been a problem in the past. However, an application should not be made if the buds are beyond the dormant stage.

The following is a quick synopsis of some major points about the disease:

Anthracnose

- The fungus overwinters in the vineyards as sclerotia (fungal survival structures) on infected shoots.
- All succulent parts of the plant can be attacked, but lesions on shoots and berries are most common and distinctive.
- Conidia are spread by splashing rain to new growing tissues and are not carried by wind alone.
- Young leaves are more susceptible to infection than older leaves
- Clusters are susceptible to infection before flowering and until veraison.

All is not lost if your buds have started to swell and beginning to open. Sanitation is very important in management of this disease -- prune out and destroy diseased plant parts. Remove wild grapes from as far away from the vineyard as possible since they can become diseased and serve as a reservoir of inoculum for your vines. And, any practice that opens up the canopy to allow good air circulation and light penetration that reduces drying time when vines are wet will be beneficial.

A Review of Grape Disease Control for 2009

Every year, Dr. Wayne Wilcox of Cornell University summarizes key aspects of the diseases affecting grapes and the various fungicide options available to manage the various diseases. It is a very informative summary. I highly recommend it. It can be found at:

<http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/grapes/files/2009/04/wilcox-grpdis-409.pdf>

Where trade names or commercial products are used for identification, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Always read the label before using any pesticide. **The label is the legal document for the product use. Disregard any information in this newsletter if it is in conflict with the label.**

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