

# Ohio Grape-Wine Electronic Newsletter

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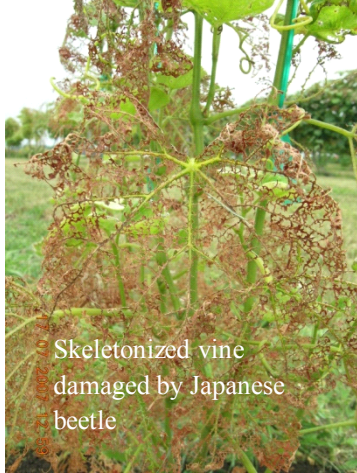
ASEV-E Conference

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## Japanese Beetles are Emerging

*By Roger Williams and Dan Fickle The Dept. of Entomology, OARDC/OSU*

Weather conditions in most areas of our state have been ideal for the emergence of adult Japanese beetles. Remember that the adult beetles emerge from the sod covered areas in and around your vineyard. These areas have received plenty of rain this season making soil conditions favorable for adult beetle emergence which is why we seem to be experiencing earlier than normal adult emergence. Last year we experienced high populations of Japanese beetles in



many areas of the state so we are expecting similar conditions this season. Peak numbers will probably be evident by mid-July with adults continuing to be active well into late summer. Remember severe defoliation can result in vine stress and directly affect the vines ability to mature its crop. Young vines are extremely susceptible to defoliation as shown in this picture. There are several pesticides labeled for control of Japanese beetle but Sevin XLR is probably the chemical of choice since it demonstrates good efficacy and is more rain fast than the pyrethroids.

**Phylloxera Reward:** We are offering a \$50 reward or a Banquet ticket, for the 1<sup>st</sup> grower that lets us know of a Concord vineyard with foliar phylloxera. We need some Concord Phylloxera for a special research project we are starting this year.

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REGIONAL UPDATE:

### 1)Southern Ohio Grape Update

*By Maurus Brown, Small Fruit Crops Specialist OSU South Centers, Piketon*

Despite excessive rainfall in the last 2-3 weeks in Southern Ohio, grape growing conditions appear to be very good. Several growers have reported that fruit set looks very good and they are expecting a “bumper crop.” Insect pressure seems to be under good control, although Japanese beetles have been reported in some vineyards. Vine growth ranges from adequate to

vigorous in some vineyards. A good, well-balance fertility program should be followed, along with retaining the proper number of fruiting buds during dormant pruning. Downy mildew and black rot are being observed in vineyards due the humid, wet growing conditions. Growers are following very tight spray schedules (7-10 days, or more frequently depending on rainfall). Recommendations for insect and disease spray schedules can be found in OSU Bulletin 506B2, “Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide” (<http://hort.agriculture.purdue.edu/pdfs/08SprayGuide.pdf>).

For rainfall, growing degree days, and other climatological data log onto the OARDC Weather Stations website: <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/newweather/>

Cluster thinning is a very important part of growing high-quality winegrapes. Specific recommendations on cluster thinning can be found in OSU Extension Bulletin 919, “Midwest Grape Production Guide” (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/b919/0009.html>). Growers are reporting that they are removing excess fruit from several varieties of Vinifera and French-American to help balance the crop load. We continue to recommend to new growers that 3<sup>rd</sup> year vines (3<sup>rd</sup> - year planted in the vineyard) should be cropped, if the vines have enough vigor, at ½ of the normal crop load of a fully-mature vine.

Shoot positioning should also be closely followed for all grapes grown using the vertical shoot position (VSP) training system. Double-check the distance (recommended: 12-inches) between each set of catch wires to assure proper positioning of each shoot as growth occurs. In some cases new shoots may have to be tied carefully to direct them to grow up through the catch wires. The practice of “combing” shoots refers to the positioning of the shoots along the cordon in an even and orderly manner. This will allow more sunlight exposure for developing clusters, and as the shoots mature into canes there is less tendency to have an unruly, intertwined canes. Refer to OSU Bulletin 919.

***New Grower Visits*** – If you are a new grower (or know of a new grower) that would like to have an OSU Specialist visit your vineyard this summer, please contact me at the OSU South Centers (office phone: 740-289-2071, Ext. 123; cell: 740-708-5016). This is a great opportunity to get first hand input about your vineyard site and to receive answers to your production questions.

OSU Extension hosted the Grape and Wine Clinic at Rainbow Hills Vineyard and Winery on June 18. There were 37 growers/winemakers who participated in the clinic. We would like to thank Marissa Mullet, Extension Educator, and Tammi Rogers, Extension Program Assistant, OSU Extension-Coshocton County for all of their hard work in coordinating the program. **Thank You** to Lee and Joy Wyse for hosting the event at their winery and vineyard.

## 2) OARDC Vineyard Update

*By David Scurlock, HCS - OARDC*

The past two weeks the vineyards have put on a tremendous amount of growth with the above average rainfall and the heat we have been receiving. The Japanese Beetles have finally arrived in our area and they have brought their appetites along with them. Dr Roger Williams has an update about the Beetles in this issue. Shoot positioning, cluster thinning, removing trunk suckers, lateral shoot removal and leaf pulling are the main cultural practices that we are performing now. Shoot positioning is a practice that is an essential component of the high cordon and vertical shoot position systems. This is supposed to be performed toward the end of June and again at the end of July. This not only exposes the fruit to the sun light it also slows for better drying of the vines and better spray penetration. The crop for next year will also benefit from the increased exposure. Cluster thinning is usually done on French hybrid varieties and some vinifera varieties to help promote quality of the fruit as well as promote balance for the vine. Over cropping can make the vines going into winter more susceptible to winter kill. Removal of suckers on the trunk is another aspect of good canopy management. This year we have been through the vineyard for the third time to remove suckers. These suckers are important to retain close to the ground if you need to replace a trunk in the future. These new potentially new trunks need to be tied up and trained or they will be either damaged by herbicide applications or mowing operations. Lateral shoots are those shoots that are formed in the axillary portion of the leaves on the shoots. At the time of leaf pulling these laterals can be easily removed. These laterals if left unchecked can produce blooms which are referred to as *off bloom*. This bloom will set fruit that at the time of harvesting will decrease your fruit quality if picked with the mature fruit. Leaf pulling at this stage allows the berries on the clusters to acclimate better to the sunlight and reduce sun burning. If your rows are running in a north-south orientation leaf pull on the north side of the canopy. If your rows are running in an east-west orientation then you will want to leaf pull on the east side of the vine. This helps promote sunlight into the vine in the morning hours and reduce sun burning of the clusters in the afternoon hours. Leaf pulling also has the benefits of promoting better spray penetration to reduce rots and better sugar accumulation. Speaking of rots (Botrytis bunch rot) this is the time to apply a fungicide such as Vanguard to prevent bunch rot. This is a preventative practice and the next critical timing will be before bunch closing for bunch rot disease control. When you see bunch rot at harvest the only thing that you can do is remove the bad clusters before crushing. Fertilization should have been applied by now and the next important function of that will be to collect petioles to determine the nutrient status of the vines. The petioles should be collected

from the middle of the shoot on a leaf that is well exposed to the sunlight. Refer to **Time for Petiole Collection** by *Imed Dami, HCS-OARDC* in the August 18 2006 issue which can be found at:

<http://www.oardc.ohiostate.edu/grapeweb/OGEN/08182006/ogen08182006.htm> The grape crop at this point in the season looks tremendous! Those you who have planted new vineyards have had the advantage of decent weather to get a good start. I would encourage the people with new vineyards to maintain good weed control in the first year and as a precaution keep a close watch for any mildews such as downey that can weaken or defoliate your vine. Have a good Fourth of July!

## **ASEV-Eastern Section Annual Conference Announcement**

*By Todd Steiner Enology Program Manager and Outreach Specialist*

We are hopeful that you will attend the fantastic conference focusing on aromatic white varietal wines that has been organized by the ASEV/ES board and Dr. Andy Reynolds. The conference will feature an exciting full day winery tour, exquisite food and wine events, educational tastings, student paper competitions, research updates, and presentations by a superior cast of national and international experts on aromatic grape varieties. The conference will be followed by an opportunity to attend “The Riesling Experience” at Brock University making this an especially exciting event.

The ASEV Eastern Section supports the eastern grape and wine industry through research, educating future employees, and trying to be one step ahead of production problems. Scholarship funds generated with the help of the Eastern Section are good for the entire eastern grape and wine industry. This is an important opportunity for vineyard and winery personnel to catch up on the latest information available.

Further information and registration can be found at the following links in addition to the pdf files attached below.

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/index.php>

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/>

<http://www.rieslingexperience.com/>