

Ohio Grape-Wine Electronic Newsletter

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Ohio Vineyards Have Become Target of Newly Identified Pest

By Roger Williams and Dan Fickle

The Grape Cane Borer, *Amphicerus bicaudatus*, formerly known as the “Apple Twig Borer” has started cropping up in Ohio vineyards from Lake Erie to the Ohio River Valley. This wood feeding beetle is brown to black in color, cylindrical in shape and 1cm long. The adult beetles emerge from dead grape wood in August and continue to feed on dead wood for a period of 2 to 3 weeks thereafter. They prefer to feed on the pith of the cane leaving a trail of sawdust which may be visible on the cane and surrounding leaves. Adults begin to bore into live canes looking for overwintering sites in the fall as shoots start to harden. This is when economic damage can be inflicted. Node survival and yield for the following season can be directly affected. Overwintering adults begin to emerge in late April to mid-May and begin depositing eggs into crevices and folds of bark. Dead or dying wood in its second or third year of growth is preferred. Newly hatched larvae burrow directly into the dead or dying canes where they eventually enter the pith of the cane leaving a trail of sawdust behind. They complete their development by August at which time they pupate and emerge as new generation adults in late August and September. One generation per year is produced.



Management



Cultural practices such as the removal and disposal of affected canes and excess dead wood from pruning before adults become active in the spring can help to eliminate a cane borer problem. Treatment with an insecticide when adults become active in the spring before they lay eggs and again in the fall when adults are moving to overwintering sites can also help in control of this pest. A broad spectrum insecticide is recommended.

REGIONAL UPDATE:

1)Southern Ohio Grape Update

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

Growers are reporting that their vineyards continue to look good. This has, however, required considerable labor (family members and hired labor) to keep everything in good order. Japanese beetles are being observed feeding on young leaves of older vines and on tender vegetation of new (2008) vines.

Dr. Roger Williams and Dan Fickle authored a very good article on Japanese beetle management in the last issue of the OGEN newsletter. It is very important to keep Japanese beetle feeding to a minimum, especially on young vines. Southern Ohio has received periodic rainfall during the month of July. Several days of 90°F + have been recorded for Ohio in July. You can find complete weather reports for Ohio by logging onto the following web site.

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/newweather/>

To maximize your ability to manage disease and insect pressure in your vineyards, be sure to keep on a good spray program throughout the growing season. Veraison (fruit coloring) has either started or will begin in early maturing grape varieties, and this prompts the reminder that pesticides have days-to-harvest restrictions or Preharvest Intervals (PHI) warnings on their labels (i.e., Abound = 14 days; Chateau = 60 days) . Growers cannot spray their vineyards and harvest fruit within the federally registered PHI days.

The Label is the Law. *Be sure to read and follow all label directions on the fungicide, insecticide, and herbicide containers.*

OSU Bulletin 506B2, “Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide”

(<http://hort.agriculture.purdue.edu/pdfs/08SprayGuide.pdf>).

2) OARDC Vineyard Update

By David Scurlock, HCS - OARDC

Shoot positioning again is the main cultural practice that we have been performing throughout the vineyard. The high cordon system requires that you shoot position twice. Shoot position at the end of June or when the shoots do not break easily when combed and again at the end of July. This will make the job of hand picking and hand pruning much easier. If your vines are machined picked it will not make this process easier but, it will increase grape quality through light exposure. We have had tremendous growth this year. To take advantage of this growth you can hang some additional crop on the vines if they have a sufficient root system to sustain it. These are vineyards with established training systems and in their fourth or higher growing year. You will not want to hang an excessive amount of fruit on a very young vineyard as it will have far reaching detrimental affects. A young vineyard is one that is just coming into bearing (3rd year). It is more important to establish the training system first and then hang fruit second. A few clusters in the early years on a vine to slow growth and to identify that the vine is what it is supposed to be is not harmful but, the number one goal is to get your training system established.

Hedging the VSP trained vineyards has been done once and may need to be performed again. When hedging, remember a cluster requires about 15 leaves on the shoot to properly ripen the cluster.

We are scouting the vineyard weekly to identify any disease or insect pests that may appear. The Japanese Beetle is still a viable enemy. Growers with new vineyards need to keep their vines protected

with Sevin or Danitol or some other insecticide to prevent these critters from devouring the entire vine. This may be a weekly process until the Japanese Beetles are no longer a factor. They love vinifera.

Growing Degree Days is: Piketon=1584, OARDC=1362 and AARS is 1338. Generally Piketon will be 2-3 weeks ahead of OARDC in the harvest of similar varieties and OARDC will be 10 to 14 days ahead of AARS in harvest of similar varieties. Soil conditions have been favorable throughout the growing season at OARDC.

3) **AARS Vineyard Update**

By Greg Johns, Manager AARS/OSU

News from the North:

- This year's planting of the NE-1020, a nation-wide variety trial, has been completed and the vines are thriving. An overview of this study was presented at last winter's 'Winter Grape School', sponsored by the OSU Extension Ashtabula County (440) 576-9008. This study, in the charge of OSU researcher Imed Dami, includes three plantings in Ohio but additional plantings are located throughout the country. Ohio's plantings are located at AARS Kingsville, OARDC Wooster Campus and at OSU South Centers.. We will be constructing a metal-post trellis system for this block similar to the one used in our new Cabernet Franc study. I'll be posting pictures on the web if anyone is interested. Keep checking at our Web site: <oardc.osu.edu/branches/branchinfo.asp?id=1>
- Growing Degree Days at AARS are currently at 1,338... and will be approaching 1,500 by the end of July. This is just about 5 to 6 days behind our long-term average. Early spring temperatures made us think that we would be in for an above-average growing season. But as things would have it, cooler temperatures in May just evened things out.
- Our regional winter temperature study is heating up again. For those who participated in the low winter temperature study a few years back, look for an email from OSUE-Ashtabula regarding permission to access your temperature sensors once again. For those unfamiliar with this project, David Marrison, along with the AARS staff will be setting out temperature monitoring devices across the region and processing winter temperature data. One of the goals of this study is to identify favorable vineyard sites as well as potential sites for premium winegrape growing.
- Rain, rain go away... So far the longest 'rain free' stretch we've had this growing season since mid-april is six days (July 14-19). Although this very regular rainfall has been a good thing for those who set out new vineyards this spring, it's also provided conditions favorable for disease development. It's not surprising then, that we've been fielding numerous calls from growers having concerns about Downy Mildew and Powdery Mildew in their vineyards. We're seeing Downy infections

mainly on grape leaves but fruit infections can occur as well. A severe Downy outbreak can defoliate vines, causing damage which can take years to recover from. Powdery Mildew on developing clusters has been observed at devastating levels of severity in some area vineyards. While fruit infections can lead to irreversible damage to crop, not to mention a detriment to wine quality, we still need to provide protection to leaves, shoots, and uninfected fruit.

Mike Ellis, OSU/OARDC Plant Pathologist is an invaluable resource who has provided the most up-to-date strategies to disease management to growers throughout the midwest. He can be reached through the Ohio Grape Web site link below. Don't forget to make a friend of *The Midwest Small Fruit Spray Guide* which should be a regularly referenced guide for insect, disease and weed control information.
<oardc.osu.edu/**grapeweb**>

Another valuable resource and tool in helping identify your problem disease is the *Compendium of Grape Diseases*. You'll get the full scoop about disease cycles and conditions favorable for disease development. You can often find this book online through campus bookstores or from grape and wine supplies vendors.

Don't forget, now's the time for petiole sampling. A list of labs can be found on the Ohio Grape Web.

That's all the News from the North for now. Feel free to email me with any questions or comments.

Greg Johns- AARS Manager

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