

Ohio Grape-Wine Electronic Newsletter

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2009 Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School



Wednesday, March 18, 2009
"The Winery at Spring Hill"
6062 South Ridge Road, West
Geneva, Ohio 44041
440-466-0626
10:30 - 3:00 p.m.



<http://thewineryatspringhill.com/>

Optional CORE Safety Update

CORE Safety Update (9:30-10:30) – A special CORE training session will be held prior to the start of the grape school for any producer who holds a Private Pesticide Applicators License and would like to receive their 1 hour CORE re-certification.

Winter Grape School Agenda

The Winery at Spring Hill – Tom Swank will share the history of the Spring Hill Farm Market and how it has transformed itself into Ohio's newest winery. Do not miss this chance to view and learn more about this beautiful upscale country winery. The Winery at Spring Hill's heritage is fruit and their legacy is fine wine.

Managing Grapes After Sub-Zero Temperatures – Dr. Imed Dami will recap the sub zero cold temperatures from this winter, how to assess bud damage, and provide tips for prescription pruning cold damaged vines in 2009.

Industry Luncheon – Don't miss a wonderful buffet lunch provided by Meola Catering. This will be an excellent time for grape producers to relax, dine and share fellowship.

Alternative Management Strategies for Japanese Beetles – Dr. Roger Williams will share a variety of control measures for Japanese Beetles. Learn what is new for insect control for 2009. Dr. Williams will also update producers on the new insecticides on the market.

Grape Disease Update - Dr. Mike Ellis will update producers on grape disease control. Learn the latest in chemical and sustainable disease control options. Learn how to adjust your early season disease control following 2008's heavy late season disease pressure. Producers are encouraged to bring their disease management questions.

Grower Questions & Answers - Area grape growers will have time to share their strategies on how they will adjust their management strategies based on winter injury and ask questions of the presenters and of each other.

Succession and Estate Planning – David Marrison will share the resources which OSU Extension has developed to help producers develop their succession and estate plans for their operation.

Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator's Re-certification will be offered for CORE & Category 4

2009 NE Ohio Winter Grape School

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

No. of Reservations for Winter Grape School _____ @ \$15 for first family member

Includes lunch and program handouts _____ @\$10 for each additional family member

Wine can be purchased on an individual basis _____ @\$20 for late reservations (after March 11)

Make Checks payable to: OSU Extension Total Due Reservations are due by March 11

Mail reservation to:

OSU Extension - Ashtabula County
39 Wall Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047
440-576-9008

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2009 Ohio Grape and Wine Conference Summary

by Imed Dami and David Scurlock HCS-OARDC

The 37th Ohio Grape & Wine Conference, which was held on 16-17 February 2009 at the Shisler Conference Center at OARDC in Wooster, attracted about 180 attendees including producers, exhibitors and speakers. We finally lucked out with a “no-show” of a snow storm! As always, several new faces showed up to this conference, which is another indication of the continuous growth of our grape and wine industry. We thank all our speakers for making the educational program a success, especially the six featured speakers, Ellie Butz, Dr. Christian Butzke, Mark L. Chien, “Mac” McDonald, Rick Segel, and Dr. Tony K. Wolf who travelled from out-of-state, and took time of their busy schedule to speak to our producers and deliver excellent presentations. We are grateful for the continuous sponsorship and financial support provided by OGIC to allow us to bring these outstanding speakers. Thanks go to our panelists representing growers and winemakers from across Ohio for their time and for sharing their experience and expertise with their peers. Kudos go to all staff from the HCS, OARDC, and the Shisler Center for their hard work and assistance before, during and after the conference. The organizing committee represented by members from OSU, OGIC and OWPA is behind all the organization and planning of the conference is also acknowledged. We appreciate the feedback comments from the conference evaluations and we look forward to additional comments and suggestions. We hope you enjoyed the 2009 conference experience and we look forward to seeing you in 2010.

2009 Pruning Workshops Summary

by Imed Dami and David Scurlock HCS-OARDC

Two pruning workshops were held this year. The first workshop was hosted by Keith Pritchard at his Slate Run Vineyard in Canal Winchester on January 22. The student to teacher ratio was very good and the weather was the best day we had in the whole month of January. Imed Dami and David Scurlock presented, provided written materials, and demonstrated pruning in the vineyard. Maurus Brown from the South Center in Piketon and Gary Gao from the Delaware County Extension office also presented at this workshop. Keith is a long time grower and wine producer in the central Ohio area and presented his insights on the many varieties that he grows. We thank Keith for hosting this workshop and for allowing us to use his vineyard for the hands-on pruning demonstration.

Our second pruning workshop was held at the Shisler Center in Wooster on March 3rd. Imed Dami and David Scurlock presented topics on pruning, and were assisted in the vineyard by Said Ennahli. A Power Point presentation was given by Imed Dami and Dave Scurlock to answer the basic questions about pruning. We also conducted a hands-on winter damage assessment of buds collected from the research vineyards in Wooster. This was accomplished by cutting through the bud with a razor blade and identifying the viability of the compound buds. Some methodology of how to adjust the number of buds left on the dormant vine during pruning in relation to the mortality of the primary buds was also presented. If you do not already have a copy of the Winter Injury to Grapevines and Methods of Protection extension bulletin E2930 this would be a great year to have one. We caravanned to the vineyard and practiced pruning on different training systems as well as different varieties. Again we had an ideal day weather wise and good participation and questions from the attendees. As in the first workshop we were not able to talk

anyone into finishing the rest of the pruning. We hope that the pruning and winter injury assessment workshops were useful to the attendees.

Update on Freeze Events and Grape Injury

by Imed Dami and David Scurlock HCS-OARDC

The subfreezing temperatures of January 16 and 17 still remain the events that had the most impact on bud mortality in Ohio. Some of the recorded temperatures were as low as -23.1°F in Marion County (central Ohio). Neighboring states including Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and SW Michigan also experienced extreme subfreezing temperatures. When temperatures drop to -8 °F to -10 °F, we begin to get concerned. These critical temperatures often lead to bud injury of the most cold tender varieties of winegrapes, *Vitis vinifera*. Early assessment from our research vineyards in Wooster and Kingsville (see previous issue of OGEN) confirmed our concerns and primary bud injury occurred: 7% to 98% in vinifera, 8% to 86% in hybrids, and 2% to 7% in natives. However, in some commercial vineyards in NE-Ohio, the worst primary bud injury was less than 50%. That's great news, considering that temperature dropped to -11 °F and lower in these vineyards. The less than expected damage is likely due to the maximum cold hardiness these grape varieties reached just before the extreme freeze on Jan 16-17.

In addition to data collection from the research vineyards in Wooster and Kingsville, and in an effort to obtain a wider assessment of the extent of winter injury across Ohio, a joint effort of sampling and assessing bud injury is underway with neighboring states. This information is valuable for our producers to determine the differences of cold hardiness between varieties and locations. Imed Dami will coordinate the state-wide effort in collaboration with Maurus Brown in the south and Greg Johns in the north. If you are willing to participate in this survey and you have not pruned yet, please let me know.

During the educational programs organized by the OSU Grape Team (Dami's presentation at the 2009 OGWC, and the three workshops conducted), recommendations on how to prune following winter injury were provided. Again, I strongly recommend obtaining a copy of the "Winter Injury to Grapevines and Protection Methods", MSU E2930 (online order: www.emdc.msue.msu.edu). Also, Imed Dami will be presenting this topic again at the North East Ohio Grape School on March 18 (see flyer above). Many have already pruned hardy varieties and are in the process to prune vinifera. Here are guidelines for bud damage assessment and pruning adjustment to minimize crop losses in 2009:

- Collect enough canes to yield 100 "representative" nodes per variety. By representative, I mean evaluate nodes that you would otherwise retain as spurs or canes when pruning.
- Place canes indoor to thaw for 48-72 hours.
- Using a sharp razor blade, cut across the bud tip at a third or half of its height.
- Visually assess if the primary bud (largest size) is alive (green color) or dead (brown). You may also evaluate the status of secondary buds if many primary buds are dead.
- A data sheet could be used to record and compute bud mortality as a percent.

- Conduct bud damage assessment for each variety separately and sometimes for each block of same variety separately (for example one block of chardonnay on top of the hill will likely have different bud damage than a block of same variety at the bottom of the hill).
- If primary bud damage = 0 to 14% then no adjustment of pruning is needed.
- If primary bud damage = 15 to 34% then leave about 35% extra buds. For example if you prune to leave 30 buds/vine, and bud damage = 20% then leave an extra 35% or 40 buds/vine.
- If primary bud damage = 35 to 50% then double the number of buds retained.
- If primary bud damage >50% then it is best to minimally prune vines by hedging. The likelihood of cordon and trunk damage increases at the 50% damage or higher. You need to watch those vines closely in mid spring to assess the extent of trunk damage.
- Generally, basal buds (buds on the basal positions of the cane) are more cold hardy than distal buds. Thus, it is best to increase the number of spurs per vine than buds per spur when adjusting bud number per vine.
- For the same reason above, it is best to convert pruning from cane to spur pruning to increase the number of live buds per linear foot of cordon.
- Note that hybrids with fruitful secondary and base buds will produce a normal crop even with relatively high % primary bud injury. Examples include, DeChaunac, Seyval, and Vidal.

Oil Spray to Delay Bud Break

by Imed Dami, HCS-OARDC

(Editor's note: Frost protection using oil application was researched by Imed Dami 10 years ago, and has proven to be effective by delaying bud break of several grape varieties. This article was published in last year's OGEN issue and is included again in case grape growers are interested to try it.)

Excerpts from OGEN-24 Mar 2008: "...I asked Gene Sigel, grower and owner of South River Vineyard and Manager of Debonne vineyards (both in North East Ohio) to provide a "grower's perspective" of his experience with oil application in the past few years. The information on oil application for frost protection was published in a scientific journal and trade magazines (e.g Wine East) and recently in a new Extension bulletin "Winter Injury to Grapevines and Methods of Protection".

Gene Sigel has been using vegetable oil spray since 2002 on 17.5 acres of Concord trained on high cordon with 9'x8' (row x vine) spacing. He applies oil around mid-March to early April, "... generally before bud movement of any kind but after fields are passable from snow. We usually apply on frozen ground for ease of equipment passage..." Gene added that he sprays both 2 pruned and unpruned vines with equal effect even though pruning of concords should really be done by then. He sprays every row totaling 100 gallons/acre by tank mixing 10% (volume/volume) or 10 gal. Bakers & Chefs oil (basically a vegetable oil), and 1% (v/v) or 1 gallon Latron B1852 (spreader-sticker), with water. The estimate cost is about \$80/acre. Gene adds that every year oil application has held his Concord back two weeks relative to those of "untreated" adjacent neighbors; "...It is very noticeable every time in the first few weeks after bloom. However, in some years there was no frost, so we both had good crops". In 2006, the biggest effect of oil spray was evident when most Concord vineyards sustained major frost damage. Gene added that "...in 2006, neighboring vineyards froze completely and did not harvest at all. However, the Concord vineyard sprayed with

oil, though in a frost pocket area, yielded 4.5 tons per acre...” He also concluded that bud break delay did not affect fruit ripening, and adequate sugar level in the juice was achieved. Our research suggests that Concord is the most responsive variety and bud break delay was consistent over the years. Other varieties (many hybrids and vinifera) responded to oil spray, but not consistently. This, of course, is no “silver bullet”, but you may give it a try! Remember it is not too late to apply it in your vineyard (preferably 4 to 6 weeks prior to bud break) For more information about oil application as frost protection method, please contact me at 330-263-3882 or dami.1@osu.edu. Gene can also be reached at 440-466-6676 for additional information about his experience with oil application on Concord in North East Ohio.

Dormant Applications of Lime Sulfur and Copper

by Mike Ellis, Plant Pathology – OARDC-Plant Pathology

Over the past several years, many Ohio growers have asked questions regarding the use of dormant applications of fungicide for disease control in grapes. In 2003 through 2005 we conducted several evaluations of dormant applications of Liquid lime sulfur and fixed copper (copper hydroxide-COCS) for control of Phomopsis cane and leaf spot on grape. We applied lime sulfur at 10 gallons per acre and copper at 3 lb per acre in 100 gallons of water per acre. We made applications in the fall (after leaf drop), in the spring at bud swell, and at both times (spring and fall).

Our results indicate that both lime sulfur and copper applied in the spring resulted in a significant reduction of Phomopsis leaf and internode infection in the growing season. Lime sulfur was more effective than copper. There were no differences in disease control between the spring only and both the spring and fall applications. Applications in the fall only were not effective. Although we got a significant level of disease control, we never achieved 100% control of Phomopsis with the dormant application. Therefore, the dormant application did not reduce the need for fungicide applications for Phomopsis control during the season.

For a quick summary of over two years of research, we will make the following comments:

1. Dormant applications of lime sulfur or copper will provide some degree of Phomopsis control, but will not reduce the need for the standard recommended fungicide sprays for Phomopsis control during the growing season. **We have no evidence to indicate that the dormant applications are effective against any of the other grape diseases.**

In short, they could help, but if you have a good spray program during the growing season, they probably will not result in much of an increase in disease control at the end of the season. Please remember that this assumes you have a good fungicide spray program during the season. The bottom line is that if you have a good spray program and your vineyards are pretty clean, you probably do not need a dormant application of fungicide in the spring.

2. We do not recommend a dormant application of fungicide in the fall for disease control.

3. We do recommend the use of dormant applications of lime sulfur in the following situations:

A. In organic vineyards, this should be an important spray.

B. In vineyards where Phomopsis is getting out of hand, this spray should be considered. In some Concord vineyards that are mechanically pruned, Phomopsis incidence is increasing. A dormant spray of lime sulfur would probably be beneficial here, but the economics on Concord needs to be considered.

For wine grape vineyards where the level of Phomopsis infection is severe, the dormant spray should be considered. A dormant application of lime sulfur in the spring will aid in disease control, when combined with effective sprays during the growing season. The economics of the dormant application are questionable. In other words, the level of control you get may not be worth the cost of

the application. It has been our observation over the past several years that we can detect some level of Phomopsis in almost every vineyard we inspect. It is probably not realistic to expect 100% control of Phomopsis on internodes even with a good full-season spray program (personal opinion, Mike Ellis). In our studies, the dormant application of lime sulfur plus a good full season spray program has never resulted in 100% control of Phomopsis.

C. If anthracnose is present in the vineyard, a dormant application of lime sulfur at the rate of 10 gallons per acre is very important. This spray is the major means of controlling anthracnose. We have seen serious anthracnose in several Ohio vineyards, mainly on Vidal and Reliance grapes.

In summary, a dormant application of lime sulfur (lime sulfur appears to be more effective than copper) in the spring is beneficial for control of Phomopsis and even necessary in some situations as mentioned above; however, it is not a “silver bullet” that is going to reduce the need for a full-season fungicide spray program on wine grapes.

2008 Ohio Grape Production Survey Report

Editors' note – In 2008, the Ohio Grape Industries Committee (OGIC) commissioned the USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service - Ohio Office, to conduct a grape production survey to assess the current status of the Ohio grape industry in terms of acreage and tonnage of all grape varieties grown in Ohio and their geographical distribution. The attached report is a summary of the 2008 survey. We thank all producers who participated in this survey. If you have questions, or further comments, or you would like this type of survey to continue, please contact Christy Eckstein, Executive Director of OGIC.

Dr Mike Ellis inducted to the Hall of Fame

Dr Mike Ellis was inducted into the Ohio Grape and Wine Hall of Fame at the banquet of the Ohio Grape and Wine Conference held in Wooster February 16, 2009

Mike received his BS from Eastern Illinois University in 1971 and his MS at the same university in 1973. He earned his PhD at the University of Illinois in 1976. Dr Mike Ellis served as Associate Chair of the Department of Plant Pathology and Chair of the Graduate Student Committee (for Plant Pathology) from 2005-2008. Some of his accomplishments are:

Excellence in Extension in 2000

Educational Materials Award in 2001

He was Councilor at Large for the American Phytopathological Society (APS) from 2002-2005

He was Senior Editor for one of the APS Journals, Plant Disease, from 1989-1991

The Ciba-Geigy Award in 1988

He served on the board of the Office of Public Affairs and Education from 1997-2003.

He was the editor of the APS Compendium of Bramble Diseases published in 1991

Dr Mike Ellis has been a researcher with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center since 1979. Mike has worked not only with the Ohio Grape Industry but has the responsibilities of all fruits produced in the state of Ohio. Extension comes naturally along with the practical research Mike does testing new products to help prevent or eradicate some of our more problem diseases in Ohio. His contributions annually to updating the Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide are another reason for the continued success of many grape and fruit growers in Ohio. Mike is known as a straight talker and he practices what he teaches. Thank you Mike, for your many years of service to help improve our industry!

Upcoming Regional Events in March

10-13 **Wineries Unlimited.** King of Prussia, PA is the largest wine industry trade show and seminar program east of the Rockies. Four days of seminars supplement the trade show (on 3/11-12), with wine tastings and social events, including the second annual ASEV/ES scholarship auction fundraiser. Keynote speaker at the Wine Theme Lunch will be Karen Ross, president of the California Association of Wine Growers. For program details, exhibitor list and online registration, visit www.wineriesunlimited.com.

13 **Winery Planning, Design and Expansion** focus seminar at Wineries Unlimited led by Dr. Bruce Zoecklein, Virginia Tech. The program will cover practical topics of interest to those establishing a new winery or expanding an existing facility. Some of the most renowned winery architects and planners in the country will be on hand to present information and answer questions. If you are considering building or expanding a winery, this program is a must. Register for this workshop at the Wineries Unlimited web site. Information at <http://www.vtwines.info/>

17 Viticulture workshop in **Quebec** for cold climate wine growing. More details coming.

18 **Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School.** The Winery at Spring Hill. Geneva, OH (see flyer above)

18-19 **Lake Erie Grape Growers Convention.** SUNY, Fredonia, NY. A grower oriented meeting that covers juice and wine grapes. A transition from juice to wine grapes workshop is planned. Contact Linda Aures for information and registration at laures@netsync.net.

24-25 **Pennsylvania Wine Association Annual Meeting.** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with awards banquet. Penn Stater Conference Center at Penn State University. Viticulture, enology and wine marketing sessions. Awards banquet and annual PWA business meeting. Pesticide credits will be available. For information, please call Jennifer at 717-234-1844 or visit www.pennsylvaniawine.com.