

Ohio Grape-Wine Electronic Newsletter

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7 December 2009 (19)

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Vineyard Expansion Assistance Program (VEAP)

By Christy Eckstein, OGIC

Due to the shortage of winegrapes produced in Ohio, many wineries purchase grapes of several different varieties from other states in order to meet production needs. In 2008, Ohio's grape and wine industry, with input from industry stakeholders across the state, set a goal of increasing grape acreage by 10 percent (220 acres) over the next five years.

In order to help meet this goal, the Vineyard Expansion Assistance Program (VEAP) was created by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee (OGIC) and funded through the United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant program. VEAP, an incentive program designed to provide a more stable source of high-quality, high-value wine grapes for Ohio's wineries, will encourage the establishment of new or expansion of existing winegrape vineyards in Ohio. This program will also allow more Ohio wines to qualify for the Ohio Quality Wine (OQW) program and increase consumer awareness of Ohio's premier wines made with Ohio-grown grapes.

VEAP funding will cover only the cost of the winegrape vines planted. Each grower may apply for **up to** \$3,000 per acre with a maximum of three acres or \$9,000. (Minimum reimbursement per acre for approved applications will be \$2,000.) For more information about VEAP, please read the document at the end of this issue or contact Christy Eckstein at (614) 728-6438 or ceckstein@agri.ohio.gov. Applications are due **January 15, 2010**.

Grape Guide – Out of Stock!

By Imed Dami, HCS-OARDC

I just learned last week from OSU Communication Technology that the OSUE bulletin 919 titled "Midwest Grape Production Guide" is sold out! The publisher printed 3,000 copies in 2005 and promised that they will print it again early next year. So, right now if you wish to order the bulletin, it is not available in a hard copy format,. However, you could view it or download it at the following website: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b919/pdf/b919.pdf>. On behalf of CommTech, we appreciate your patience and apologize for the inconvenience.

Vineyard Expansion Assistance Program

Overview

The Vineyard Expansion Assistance Program (VEAP) is an incentive program created by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee (OGIC) and funded through the United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant program, to encourage the establishment of new or expansion of existing winegrape vineyards in Ohio.

Purpose

Due to the shortage of winegrapes produced in Ohio, many wineries purchase grapes of several different varieties from other states in order to meet production needs. In 2008, Ohio's grape and wine industry set a goal of increasing grape acreage by 10 percent (220 acres) over the next five years. VEAP is designed to provide a more stable source of high-quality, high-value wine grapes for Ohio's wineries. This program will also allow more Ohio wines to qualify for the Ohio Quality Wine (OQW) program and increase consumer awareness of Ohio's premier wines made with Ohio-grown grapes.

Grant Funding

The program funding will cover only the cost of the winegrape vines planted. Each grower may apply for **up to** \$3,000 per acre with a maximum of three acres or \$9,000. (Minimum reimbursement per acre for approved applications will be \$2,000.)

Successful applicants will not be reimbursed under this program until all requirements have been met. Failure to complete all of the requirements set forth in the guidelines will disqualify an applicant from receiving any VEAP funding.

A VEAP working group, made up of OGIC members, OSU researchers, and other industry stakeholders, will review the applications and make the final decision regarding which growers receive funding under this program. There is a limited amount of money currently available for this assistance program and the group will use discretion in order to stimulate as many acres of viable vineyards as possible.

Application Coordinator

The OGIC will be responsible for distributing the grant application to the prospective applicants. All questions regarding the application should be directed to the OGIC.

Guidelines

This program is intended to provide support for those individuals who are serious about making a long-term commitment to winegrape production. Each grower will have to meet

important vineyard management guidelines to qualify for any program funding. This is intended to assure that the grapevines established under this program have the best possible opportunity to reach and maintain full production. To be eligible for funding through the VEAP growers must meet the following guidelines:

1. Only vineyards located in Ohio may apply for the assistance.
2. It is mandatory for an applicant to provide a written plan outlining both short and long term goals, as well as clear route for the grapes to be put into the production chain (e.g. have an established winery or contract between grower and winery.)
3. Vineyard site selection will be evaluated by an OSU viticulture staff in conjunction with the grower, after the Vineyard Site Evaluation Requirements checklist is completed (Appendix A.) Each vineyard shall be established in a location conducive to growing winegrapes.
4. For variety selection applicants are encouraged to utilize the recommended list of winegrape varieties (Appendix B,) and consult with OSU viticulture staff. At least one acre of vines must be planted to be eligible for reimbursement.
5. The grower must agree to a subsequent vineyard assessment by an OSU viticulture staff during the growing season. Growers may request reimbursement at this point.
6. All applications must be complete and postmarked **by Friday, January 15, 2010**. Late applications will not be considered.

Vineyard Expansion Assistance Application

Name: _____

Date: __/__/__

Address: _____

Home: (____)_____

Work: (____)_____

Email: _____

Fax: (____)_____

Farm & Site Profile

Farm name _____ Altitude of site _____

Township _____ County _____

Site is: owned leased by applicant Lease termination date: __/__/__

Site is located in a: rural area residential area other: _____

Previous crop on site: _____

Soil tests completed __/__/__ Type(s) _____

Percent of slope _____ Drainage system(s) completed __/__/__

Anticipated time of:

Vine planting* (mo/yr) __/__

Trellis completion (mo/yr) __/__

**2010 planting required*

Equipment on hand suitable for vineyard maintenance: _____

Others involved in vineyard operations: _____

Describe your reasons for producing/expanding your wine grapes: _____

Previous Experience

Crops Raised	Acreage	Years of Production

Viticulture Training/Education	Year	Location

◆ **Attach:** your written plan, copies of soil test analysis and letter from OSU viticulture staff confirming that site selection and check list have been completed.

Return to:
Ohio Grape Industries Committee
Attn: VEAP
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: (614) 728-6438
Fax: (614) 644-5017
ceckstein@agri.ohio.gov



Vineyard Site Evaluation Requirements

OSU Viticulture Program

Thank you for your interest in growing grape sin Ohio. The OSU viticulture program will be glad to help you with this new venture. In order for us to assist you with establishing a commercial vineyard in Ohio and providing you with the best recommendations on site and variety selection, you need to gather the following information.

- 1) Obtain a grape production guide, OSU Extension Bulletin 919. This bulletin will provide you with all basic information on grape growing in Ohio from site selection, to vine training and harvesting. IT IS A MUST READ for serious grape growers
 - a. You can order a copy from your local County Extension office
 - b. You may also go online: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b919/index.html>
- 2) Obtain a copy of your county soil survey, including a soil map of your area.
 - a. Obtain from your local County Extension office or Soil and Water
 - b. Send us a copy of the information.
- 3) In the same book there is information on:
 - a. Season length
 - b. Frost events
 - c. Soil drainage
 - d. Send us a copy of the information
- 4) Elevation is critical for vineyard establishment.
 - a. Obtain a topographic map of your county.
 - b. Check with your local County Extension office or USGS office.
- 5) Collect random subsamples (0-6" and 6-12" deep) of soil from your vineyard site.
 - a. Submit a composite sample of subsamples to a lab for analysis
 - b. Recommended Soil Test Labs are listed at: www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeweb/
 - c. Send us a copy of the results.
- 6) Schedule an on-site visit once we receive all the above information.
 - a. Will study your site based on the information and will develop a list of recommendations on site preparation and pH and/or nutrient adjustment, site selection, variety selection, training system, etc.
 - b. Will contact your local OSU Extension Educator to be part of the site visit if possible
 - c. Will contact you to schedule a visit and conduct an on-site evaluation
 - d. Provide our recommendations and answer any questions you have

Please send information to:

Dave Scurlock, Viticulture Outreach Specialist, for site visits in northern Ohio (counties north of I-70) Dept. Horticulture & Crop Science, OARDC, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691. Office phone: 330-263-3825. Cell phone: 330-464-0193. E-mail: scurlock.2@osu.edu.

Dr. Maurus Brown, Small Fruit Specialist, for site visits in southern Ohio (counties south of I-70), OSU South Centers, 1864 Shyville Rd. Piketon, OH 45661. Office Phone: 740-289-2071, Ext. 123, Cell Phone: 740-708-5016. E-mail: brown.989@cfaes.osu.edu

Grape Variety Recommendations for Ohio 2009

Imed Dami, David Scurlock, Greg Johns, and Maurus Brown
The Ohio State University

Before establishing a vineyard, you should consider the viticultural characteristics and market demand of the variety(s) to be planted. The major challenge in growing grapes is winter injury, which is likely to occur during the grapevine life. Therefore, selecting a variety should take into account its winter hardiness first. Other considerations for variety selection include fruit characteristics, ripening season, disease susceptibility (especially bunch rot), yield potential, growth habit, and cultural requirements. A descriptive list of recommended varieties for Ohio is published in the Midwest Grape Production Guide, OSUE 919 (ohioline.osu.edu/b919/). The following tables are based on the variety list from the grape guide with some updates of newly introduced varieties and selections. The Viticulture Expansion Assistance Program cannot guarantee the success of any given variety due to the variables sites. The following tables include six (6) categories each briefly described below.

Grape type: There are three types of grapes grown in Ohio – American, Hybrids, and European (or vinifera). *Vinifera* are the most challenging to grow, but produces high quality wines and typically are the highest priced grapes (>\$900/ ton). To date, *Vinifera* acreage is expanding the most. *Hybrids* are typically more cold hardy and more disease resistant than *vinifera*, they produce high quality wine and acreage is expanding as well. *American* varieties have been grown the longest and adapt well to Ohio conditions. However, their acreage is declining and new planting is limited due primarily to their lower price per ton. Each variety is followed by a letter in parenthesis to indicate if it is processed into red (R) or white (W) wine.

Winter hardiness: Winter hardiness of a given variety measures the critical temperature at which 50% bud injury occurs. Based on the publication “Winter Injury to Grapevines and Methods of Protection”, grape species and varieties are divided into six (6) classes of winter hardiness: *very tender*, winter injury in dormant buds is expected to occur at 5 F to -5F; *tender* (0F to -8F), *moderately tender* (-5F to -10F); *moderately hardy* (-10F to -15F); *hardy* (-15F to -20F); and *very hardy* (-20F to -30F). The *frequency* of occurrence of extreme subfreezing temperatures is also important and depends on the vineyard site: the best sites have less frequent (e.g. once in 8 to 10 years) winter damage than poor sites (every 2 to 3 years).

Ripening season: Grape varieties ripen at different times of the season and are thus classified into categories based on number of days between bloom (typically occurs 4-6 weeks after bud break) and harvest, and corresponding months as follows:

- *Early season:* includes varieties that have less than 95 days between bloom and harvest and ripen in late August
- *Earl- Midseason:* 95-100 days, ripens early to mid September
- *Midseason:* 100-105 days, ripens mid to late September
- *Mid-Late season:* 105-110 days, ripens early to mid October
- *Late season:* 110-115 days, ripens mid to late October
- *Very late season:* 120-130 days, ripens in November

Regions grown / suggested: Grape varieties have performed better in some regions than others because vine performance is very site specific. So the comments are meant to assist you based on your vineyard location. The suggested geographic distribution is work in progress and based primarily on winter hardiness of grape varieties.

Region 1: This category includes the coldest vineyard sites (frequent occurrence of -15 F and below) in the state. For an approximate geographic delineation, this includes the region between interstate 70 North and state route 23 West. These sites are best suitable for the *cold hardy* and *very cold hardy* varieties.

Region 2: This category includes sites with minimum temperatures between -10 F and -15 F. The sites are geographically located south of I-90 (no lake effect), east of state route 23 and north of I-70. *Moderately hardy*, *hardy* and *very hardy* hybrids and American varieties are best suited for these sites. Vinifera varieties are risky and only the best sites should be considered.

Region 3: includes the warmest sites (-10F or warmer) and the sites with the longest growing season (FFD >170) in the state. These sites have been the most successful in growing vinifera and some hybrid varieties. This category is further divided into 2 subcategories:

Region 3 a: this group is geographically located along Lake Erie shores. This area is characterized by moderate winters, and cool and long growing season. It is best suited for cool-season varieties including several vinifera (only on the best sites) and some hybrids.

Region 3 b: This group is located along the Ohio River Valley characterized by moderate winter temperatures and warm and long growing season. This area is best suited for warm-season and late ripening vinifera and hybrids.

Strengths and Weaknesses: outlines pros and cons of each variety based on research findings and/or observations and experience from commercial growers. A variety followed by an asterisk indicates that there is limited research information and/or commercial production experience in Ohio. Those varieties are being evaluated in OSU research vineyards.

Suggested Vinifera Varieties for Ohio

Grape Type / Variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
VINIFERA					
<i>Auxerrois (W)</i>	Moderately tender	Midseason	3a	Productive and ripens well, lower acidity	Thin skin, susceptible to bunch rot
<i>Cabernet franc (R)</i>	Moderately tender	Late	3	Good hardiness, ripens well under Ohio conditions	Over crops easily, poor color development and excessive herbaceous flavors in some years
<i>Cabernet Sauvignon (R)</i>	Tender	Very Late	3	Complex tannin development in good years, clusters resistant to rot, important component in blends	Should be grown only on best sites, requires long growing season
<i>Chardonnay (W)</i>	Tender	Late Midseason	3	Productive, reliable, and adaptable to cool and warm ripening period	Early bud break thus prone to spring frost
<i>Gamay noir*(R)</i>	Moderately tender	Midseason	3a	Compared often to Pinot noir, but it is easier to grow, has better winter hardiness, better color and ripens earlier, promising variety for Ohio	Limited experience in Ohio
<i>Gruner Veltliner* (W)</i>	Moderately tender	Late	3a	Productive even after frost, ripens well under Ohio conditions, potential for still and sparkling wines, promising variety for Ohio	Limited experience in Ohio
<i>Lemberger (R)</i>	Tender	Late Midseason	3	Productive, excellent potential for rosé or red wine	Vigorous, requires cluster thinning, prone to fruit rot, susceptible to crown gall

Suggested Vinifera Varieties for Ohio (cont'd)

Grape Type / Variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
VINIFERA					
<i>Merlot (R)</i>	Very tender	Late mid-season	3	Excellent ripening potential, excellent blending component	Winter tender, only for the best sites
<i>Petit verdot (R)</i>	Moderately tender	Very Late	3	Excellent tannin structure, blending potential is very good	Very late ripening
<i>Pinot gris (W)</i>	Tender	Mid-season	3a	Reliable, productive, and adaptable to many wine styles	Prone to fruit rot, requires intensive shoot and crop load management
<i>Pinot noir (R)</i>	Tender	Late Mid-season	3a	Clonal selection and mixing 3+ clones is important for success	Prone to fruit rot, requires intensive crop and canopy management to avoid uneven ripening, low yield may not be economical for some operations
<i>Regent* (R)</i>	Moderately tender	Early-midseason	3	One of the most disease-resistant, varieties, dark red wine, full bodied, Bordeaux style, promising variety for Ohio	Vine availability is scarce, protected variety, limited experience in Ohio
<i>Riesling (W)</i>	Moderately tender	Late	3a	Flagship variety for Ohio. One of the hardiest vinifera varieties, and one of the best white wines produced in Ohio	Susceptible to bunch rot due to tight clusters, requires long cool ripening season thus wine quality suffers in warm sites
<i>Sauvignon blanc* (W)</i>	Very tender	Mid-season	3	Unique wine profile	Winter tender, thus planted only on the best sites, susceptible to bunch rot, limited experience in Ohio
<i>Syrah (Shiraz)* (R)</i>	Very tender	Late Mid-season	3	Productive, good wine quality	Winter tender, thus planted only on the best sites, limited experience in Ohio
<i>Viognier* (W)</i>	Tender	Midseason	3b	Good demand, excellent fruit quality, good bunch rot resistance	Early bud break, susceptible to winter cold injury, weak growth, modest yields linked to bud necrosis

Suggested Hybrid Varieties for Ohio

Grape type / variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
HYBRID					
<i>Cayuga white (W)</i>	Moderately hardy	Mid-season	2, 3a	Cold hardy, disease-resistant, high yields, good wine quality	Overripe fruit produces wine with strong labrusca character, should be picked before full maturity, excessive vigor in fertile sites
<i>Chambourcin (R)</i>	Moderately tender	Late	2, 3b	Productive, moderate vigor, good resistance to bunch rot and downy mildew, high wine quality, perhaps the highest quality among red hybrids,	Overcrops thus requires cluster thinning, requires long season and heat units (>2700 GDD) for best wine quality, sensitive to sulfur
<i>Chardonel* (W)</i>	Moderately hardy	Late Mid-season	2, 3b	High yields, loose clusters, less susceptible to bunch rot than parents Chardonnay & Seyval, more cold hardy than Chardonnay. Best in warmer regions where Chardonnay is not suitable	Less hardy than Seyval, susceptible to crown gall in wet sites, susceptible to Phylloxera and fan leaf virus and thus should be grafted
<i>Corot noir (R)</i>	Moderately hardy	Late Mid-season	2, 3	Very productive, good powdery mildew and Botrytis rot resistance, wines are free of the hybrid aromas typical of many red hybrid grapes, suitable for either blending or the production of varietal wines.	Vigorous, cluster thinning is usually required to avoid overcropping
<i>Frontenac* (R)</i>	Very hardy	Late	1, 2	Very winter hardy, productive, loose clusters, very resistant to downy mildew, unique flavor attributes, makes excellent port- and rosé -style wines	Susceptible to foliar phylloxera, requires thinning, high acid
<i>Frontenac gris* (W)</i>	Very hardy	Late	1, 2	Very winter hardy, promising wine quality	High acid, limited experience in Ohio

Suggested Hybrid Varieties for Ohio (Cont'd)

Grape type / variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
HYBRID					
<i>LaCrescent*</i> (W)	Very hardy	Midseason	1,2	Moderate disease resistance, loose clusters	Limited experience in Ohio
<i>Marechal Foch</i> (R)	Very hardy	Early	1, 2	Very winter hardy, early-ripening, adapts to short growing season in the north , good wine quality	Medium vigor, tight clusters, very susceptible to bird damage, uncertain future demand
<i>Marquette</i> (R)	Very hardy	Midseason	1, 2	Good resistance to downy, powdery, black rot, excellent wine quality, no hybrid flavor	Limited experience in Ohio
<i>Noiret</i> (R)	Moderately Hardy	Late Mid-season	2, 3	Relatively easy to grow, productive, requires minimum canopy management, Wine richly colored and has notes of green and black pepper, tannin structure, no hybrid flavor	Performs poorly on VSP thus should be grown on high cordon training system
<i>NY 76.0844.24*</i> (W)	Hardy	Mid-season	2, 3	Excellent Muscat flavor wine, highly productive, clusters are large and loose, more cold hardy than parent Traminette	Highly vigorous, occasional leaf phylloxera problem, observed berry shatter in dry years, experimental selection thus limited vine availability, limited experience in Ohio
<i>NY 81.0315.17*</i> (W)	Moderately hardy	Mid-season	2, 3	Produces a floral and sometimes spicy light Muscat wine. Highly rated for wine quality for several years in NY	Experimental selection thus limited vine availability, limited experience in Ohio
<i>NY 84.1010.04*</i> (W)	Moderately hardy	Early-Midseason	2, 3	Very productive, loose clusters	Experimental selection thus limited vine availability, limited experience in Ohio

Suggested Hybrid Varieties for Ohio (Cont'd)

Grape type / variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
HYBRID					
<i>Traminette (W)</i>	Moderately hardy	Late Mid-season	2, 3	High demand, high yields, excellent fruit and wine quality, good disease resistance, more cold hardy and looser clusters than parent Gewurztraminer	Difficult to establish in the first 2 years due to susceptibility of young trunks to sub-freezing temperature (just below 0F), vigorous and may require divided training system in fertile soils, requires leaf pulling of fruit zone for best fruit and wine quality
<i>Valvin Muscat (W)</i>	Moderately hardy	Mid-late season	2,3	produces excellent, high quality muscat wine, without bitterness, that may be made into a dessert wine or used in blending	Low vigor, thus may graft in less fertile soils and use closer vine spacing
<i>Vidal (W)</i>	Moderately hardy	Late	2, 3	Productive, versatile wine styles, easy to grow, good resistance to bunch rot, late bud break thus less prone to spring frost injury	Needs cluster thinning, susceptible to viruses (tomato and tobacco ring spot) and thus should be grafted
<i>Vignoles (W)</i>	Hardy	Midseason	2, 3a	Cold hardy, high quality wines, especially dessert wines, late bud break	Moderate vigor and low yields, very susceptible to bunch rot complex due to tight clusters, uncertain future demand

Suggested American Varieties for Ohio

Grape type / variety	Winter Hardiness	Ripening season	Regions grown / suggested	Strengths	Weaknesses
AMERICAN					
<i>Catawba (R)</i>	Hardy	Late	1, 2, 3	Used for wine and sherry, historically significant to Ohio	Uncertain future demand
<i>Concord (R)</i>	Hardy	Late	1, 2	Number one grape grown in Ohio (acreage and production) for juice production, well adapted to Ohio climate and soils	Early bud break thus susceptible to spring frost injury, decline demand, and not economical to plant for wine production with current pricing
<i>Delaware (R)</i>	Hardy	Mid-season	1, 2	Produces pleasant wines, originated from Ohio thus historically significant	Uncertain future demand
<i>Niagara (W)</i>	Hardy	Late Mid-season	1, 2	Used for wine and white juice, cream sherry is excellent	Strong labrusca flavor, limited market and uncertain future demand, susceptible to crown gall
<i>Norton (Cynthiana) (R)</i>	Hardy	Very Late	3b	Excellent cold hardiness, high fruit and wine quality, excellent disease resistance, requires the lowest pesticide input among all commercial grape varieties, increased demand by wineries, promising future in southern Ohio	Low yields, should be trained on Geneva Double Curtain in fertile soils, shoot positioning and leaf pulling is required to drop pH and K in the fruit and wine, sensitive to 2,4-D