

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

IPM Meeting Notes by Laura Breyer, MS, PCA July 14-16, 2015

Welcome and Announcements

- Wines & Vines article "Pull Red Blotch Vines, Get Paid" relates the funding available through the 2014 Farm Bill to assist growers replanting due to red blotch disease. [USDA Farm Service Agency red blotch assistance](#)
- The PD/GWSS referendum passed. Rodrigo Almeida, UCB, will be doing basic ecology, epidemiology and vector research. This is good news in light of the two PD epidemics in the past 10 years.

Old Business

- John Kiger's crown gall on a newly grafted vine prompted a look online for info:
 - [AJEV susceptibility of rootstock to crown gall abstract](#)
 - [Grape Crown Gall Biology and Strategies for Control](#)

The take-home message is that rootstocks vary in susceptibility. The crown gall that affects grapes, *Agrobacteria vitis*, only affects grapevines. There is no known cure for it, but it is not a major issue for California vineyards.

Heads up

- One Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (*Harrisina brillians*) was found in Napa. It is established in more southerly grape growing areas of California and is a serious pest due to defoliation caused by the caterpillars. The adults are about ½" long, dark metallic blue/black, somewhat resemble a wasp with their long slender wings. Older caterpillars are strikingly colored yellow, blue and black banded. When they first hatch, they are about 1/16" (1 to 2 mm) long and pale brown. They feed on the underside of the leaf, not consuming the upper epidermis, so the leaf has papery brown "windows" on it. The older caterpillars are about ½" long, pretty small compared to an older hornworm.
- Botrytis on cluster detritus, and some cluster strikes in wetter areas. Fracture is a new mildew/botrytis material from FMC with a unique FRAC code. California has a special label allowing even lower application rates for mildew control than the main label. As with other products that have higher label rates for botrytis, if both pests are present use the higher label rate even if you're not concerned about botrytis. This strategy will help prevent botrytis from becoming resistant to the product. And to paraphrase Nietzsche, whatever doesn't kill it makes it stronger.
 - If a rain event is predicted, timing botrytis applications to precede the rain seems to do the most good.
- Some folks are seeing Willamette mites increase, noted for Carneros region.
- Mildew.
 - Mildew is persisting despite some good heat. Humidity may be buffering mildew's survival against high temperatures. We know elevated humidity increases mildew growth. Wayne Wilcox, Cornell, and Michelle Moyer, WSU, are investigating how humidity may be accounted for in mildew management.
 - If humidity is higher than normal, we may be extending our intervals too long.
 - Clusters with mildew have been observed this season to be less impacted by exposure, i.e. mildew on infected clusters seemed to persist after leaf removal, despite exposure that experience says should have suppressed it.
 - If you have a good deal of mildew this year, consider a post-harvest sulfur (or lime sulfur like Sulforix) application on the canopy to reduce overwintering spores. Recent research also suggests this may also help reduce erineum (blister) mites the next year. Delayed dormant applications of oil or sulfur can also be effective.
- Summer annuals are making their move – if you haven't managed your fluvellin or morning glory you're on the late side since both have set seed by now. Mare's tail is gearing up for flowering. To control it with mowing, hit it right when it starts. Maybe better to be a little early than a little late since it sets prolific seed pretty quickly.

Monitoring Points

- Virginia Creeper Leafhopper
 - ADULTS: Our normal Grape Leafhopper adult has a spot on each shoulder. Virginia creeper adults do not have that. You can catch leafhopper adults on your hand with duct tape wrapped sticky side out. Or yellow sticky traps such as used for bluegreen sharpshooter monitoring.

- EGGS: VCLH eggs are covered with a faint whitish film, and are often laid several right next to each other.
- NYMPHS: VCLH nymphs have several prominent red dots on their back.
- Botrytis.
 - Try monitoring botrytis by counting the number of affected clusters per 10 to 20 vines. Usually about 1:10 is where you may want to start paying more attention. 1:5 after veraison is my threshold for considering extreme canopy opening and putting on a tight botrytis spray schedule. If the weather goes hot and dry, the schedule can usually be relaxed again.

Miscellaneous

- Thrips and sticking caps – a lesson about how not to do IPM.
 A grower outside of Sonoma County treated for thrips this spring because he believed they were causing the flower caps to stick. The grower believes he saved his crop, and when he mentioned this to other growers, they too sprayed for thrips because when they looked in their clusters they found thrips. North Coast bloom weather in May was very cool and overcast, which is the most likely cause for stuck caps. Set can be normal with stuck caps – the conditions that cause shatter can also influence cap sticking.
 My guess is he was concerned about set, was looking more closely at clusters than usual, saw thrips and decided they were culpable. Be careful about what you think you know, and the cause/effect associations you make. We all have to “connect the dots” when we only have pieces of information, and the wise will remember to qualify their conclusions with “it might be”.
- Algae and azola in reservoirs: several different products are used by growers, including Clean Green Pro, digester packets, Cutrene.
- Properly planted vines are healthier, more vigorous. “J” rooting is common with poorly trained crews. Good quality control of plant material and planting method will protect an expensive investment, your vineyard, and help insure a long-lived vineyard.