

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

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

Welcome and Announcements

Free irrigation efficiency audits through Keith Abeles with Sonoma Resource Conservation District.
Useful, informative, priced right.

2014 Seasonal Wrap

- Good yield, good quality for third year's threepart.
- Late rains initiated botrytis. Observation of better control with pre-rain application of materials like PH-D. Dry growing season meant some growers saved on bloom, set, bunch close and veraison botrytis sprays. Monitoring for botrytis with a hand lens can indicate whether the sprays are needed or not, in conjunction with weather predictions. No wet weather and no botrytis at the key spray points mean growers may consider skipping the prophylactic botrytis sprays.
- Some challenges with winery backups.
- Late season K symptoms more widespread than usual. Big crops, dry soil.
- High incidence of *Lactobacillus kunkeei* in must. May cause sluggish fermentation, high VA, etc.

Dr. Rich DeScenzo from ETS Labs wrote: We see a number of wines every year with low levels of *L. kunkeei* and one or two where the levels are high enough to cause spoilage. In the 2014 vintage, we saw high numbers of *L. kunkeei* in a large number of samples, including many stuck fermentations resulting in high levels of VA formation. We observed 3-4 juices that had no malic acid when the juices were submitted for the juice panel analysis. We observed extremely high levels of *L. kunkeei* in those samples, indicating that the juices had undergone spontaneous malolactic fermentation before they even started primary fermentation! The only explanation is that there were elevated levels of *L. kunkeei* coming in on the grapes in the 2014 vintage. We saw the same trends in California and Oregon. I don't know the reason for this observation, but I can tell you that the levels of particular species, as well as differences in strains of individual species can vary from year-to-year. We will be monitoring early juice samples this coming harvest to see if there are elevated levels of *L. kunkeei* present. As we don't know the reasons for the observed increases in levels of *L. kunkeei*, there is no way we could make recommendations to mitigate this phenomenon in the vineyard. I hope this information and slides are useful and please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

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General Topics

- Post-harvest sulfur on intact canopy may reduce blister mites.
- Mildew:
 - Delayed dormant sulfur or oil to reduce 2014 mildew chasmothecia (dormant spores).
 - First sprays. Growers reported using sulfur or oil.
 - Follow resistance management on label. Especially when dealing with active mildew infestation.
 - Rate

- INTERVAL. WAITING TOO LONG – ONE OF THE BIGGEST REASONS FOR MILDEW. NOT ALWAYS IN YOUR CONTROL DUE TO RAIN/WIND.
 - Coverage
 - nozzles
 - SPEED. GOING TOO FAST – THE OTHER BIG REASON FOR MILDEW. THIS IS IN YOUR CONTROL.
 - pressure (psi). Too high of pressure is common, especially when tractors are being driven too quickly. Leaves should rustle, not be plastered against each other or the clusters.
 - Use Surround to evaluate
 - Adjust rate &/or interval relative to
 - Powdery Mildew Index
 - rain wash off
 - new growth
 - canopy mgt
 - phenology
 - Begin monitoring in warmer areas of vineyard. As season progresses, look in traditional areas. Not likely to see anything yet, even if an infection is present. Usually stays below detection levels until colonies have built up into “cities”.
- Fall applications of Movento may not be the best use of this product if mealybug control is the aim.
 - Suppress is a new organic herbicide from Westbridge Ag that showed good results in UC Weed Adviser John Roncoroni’s trials. It is a contact material applied at 3% - 9% rate and works best in warm weather when weeds are dry. Adjuvants are not recommended. As a contact material, it will damage suckers but is not labeled for suckering. It’s roughly \$50 per acre cost.

Heads up

- Dead arm seems more prominent again this year. Bleeding post pruning protects the vine from dead arm infection only while sap is actively coming out. Pruning wound protection needs to be applied afterward if rain or frost protection happens before wounds have healed. Healing takes anywhere from 2 weeks for a cane in late dormancy to 2 months for a large cut in mid-winter.
- Freeze damage. Watch for botrytis if weather is wet.
- Vines that “didn’t wake up”:
 - most likely root rot (black foot, Armillaria)
 - Pierce’s disease possible
 - dead arm, maybe
 - previous heavy deer damage, very rare
- Some fluvellin and mare’s tail survived the winter.
- Watch young vines for water status
- Mike G, Mark H and Scott Z all agreed that vines on 039-16 rootstock have more death to PD than other rootstocks.

Monitoring Points

- VCLH: Keep an eye out for Virginia Creeper Leafhopper. 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.
- Low tolerance for weeds in another low water year.
- GWSS: Keep an eye out for glassy-wing sharpshooter. Look for white mineral deposits on leaves. It’s ½” long, brown with bulging eyes. They particularly like:
 - Citrus,
 - Crepe myrtle,
 - Privet,
 - Photinia,
 - Camellia,
 - Ash,
 - Sycamore,

- Magnolia,
- Peach,
- Sunflower,
- Hollyhock,
- Malva, Sow thistle, Lambsquarters.
- VMB: vine mealybug may infest nursery stock and should be checked for prior to planting. Look for white dusty residue on roots, under bark or grafting wax. Adults are less than 1/8th inch long, flattish, oval white and nearly legless.

Miscellaneous

- Feed a Bee Project by Bayer aims to support honey bees through improved forage resources.

The 2015 IPM Meetings are presented in conjunction with a USDA Risk Management Agency Agreement, *“Educating Growers to Mitigate Risk in Sonoma County Winegrape Production.”*