

## Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

### IPM Meeting Notes by Laura Breyer, MS, PCA June 9-11, 2015

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Old Business

- Pruning wound protection and Vitiseal visibility: one of the most common complaints about Vitiseal is the difficulty in seeing where it's been applied. One grower mentioned mixing spray dye into it to solve the issue. A caution though, since Vitiseal appears to be a polymer, a spray dye may change how it works.
- I was wrong last month in denying that a vine could be symptomatic for PD and test positive for it in spring. PD is being reported by growers to be the cause of decline for an alarming number of vines this spring. Rhonda has confirmed some of these early PD cases.

#### Heads up

- No European grapevine moths have been found in California this year.
- Mildew
  - Humidity and lack of UV (overcast May weather) make mildew pressure more intense than PMI would suggest. Dense canopies.
  - June 8<sup>th</sup> high heat will help control, but lesson learned from 2010 re humidity suggests that it may buffer heat. Cornell University has some parameters for judging humidity's impact on mildew. If ETo x 1.25 is under 6 mm/day, it may mean higher mildew pressure than the PMI indicates. ETo is on the Western Weather report. See Wayne Wilcox paper [Grape Disease Control 2013](#).
  - Missed spray date? Adjust your spray program. Assume you have some active infections.
  - Watch the FRAC codes on your fungicide program and pay attention to the resistance management recommendations on the labels. Remember that most products are protectants, not eradicants. Similar to pre-emergent herbicides, you wouldn't use them to control growing weeds. Don't try to eradicate without oil or another eradicant in the tank mix.
  - Check out these pages for more fungicide efficacy and resistance info:
    - [mechanisms-of-fungicide-resistance](#)
    - [2013 UC Grape Fungicide Efficacy](#)
- Botrytis on cluster detritus. Botector is a new organic botrytis material from Westbridge Ag.
- Some folks are seeing Willamette mites.

#### 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 vs shatter: Last month's gloomy weather induced a lot of shatter. Botrytis can start growing on shattered berries. Check with a handlens before concluding that you have botrytis. Look for white/grey spores sticking up from the affected area.
- With the heat of the season now here, start checking cooler more vigorous areas for mildew.
- Keep an eye out for fluvellin and mare's tail – control before they go to seed.

#### Miscellaneous

- Nealta is a new miticide by BASF. It has passed IOBC protocol for safety to beneficial insects. IOBC (International Organization of Biological Control) protocol measures acute toxicity (how many are killed outright) and sub-lethal (reduced lifespan, fewer eggs, etc) effects that tell the full story on population impacts. Conversely, etoxazole (Zeal) and fenpyroximate (Fugimite) disrupt predatory mites.
- Extended bloom due to cool overcast May weather.
- Biochar is looking interesting for promoting soil health. It can be prepared in different ways, so all forms may not be equal, perhaps similar in concept to variable qualities of different composts.