

Ohio Grape–Wine Electronic Newsletter

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Content:

31 August 2017 (11)

- Vineyard Update from OARDC - Wooster Vineyard
- Vineyard Update from AARS - Kingsville
- Late Summer and Pre-Harvest Vineyard Management Practices - Piketon
- Vine & Wine News Additions to the Website "Buckeye Appellation"
- Upcoming Events
- Know Your Grape and Wine Experts



Vineyard Update from OARDC in Wooster: August 25, 2017

By Diane Kinney and Imed Dami, HCS-OSU

Grape phenology:

All varieties have passed 50% veraison and we have begun berry sampling to monitor fruit maturity.

Variety	50 % Veraison
Aromella	9-Aug
Cabernet franc	18-Aug
Chambourcin	11-Aug
Chardonnay	9-Aug
Frontenac	2-Aug
La Crescent	2-Aug
Marquette	2-Aug
Riesling	9-Aug
Sauvignon blanc	9-Aug
Traminette	18-Aug

Phenology progression of Cabernet franc:



25 Apr 17



30 May 17



29 June 17



17 July 17

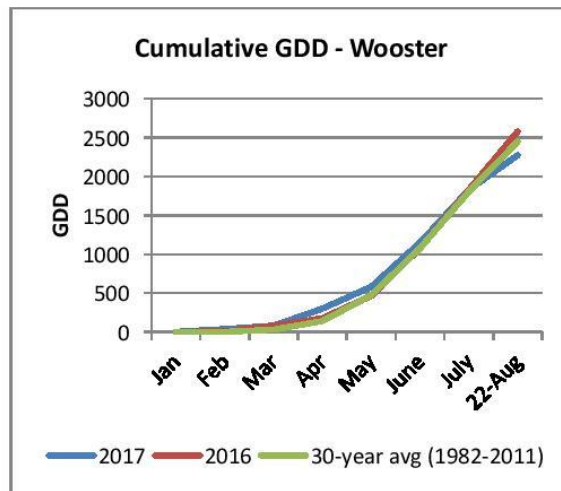
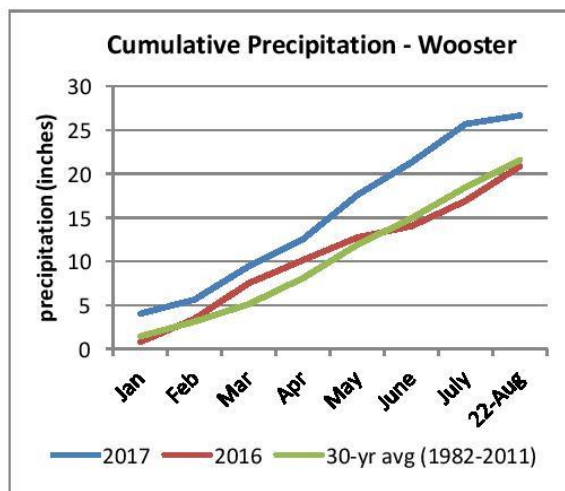


23 Aug 17

Weather conditions:

At this point in August, the average temperature is exactly on point with the 30-year average of 70.3°F. That being said, we are behind in heat units by nearly 200 GDD from the cumulative 30-year average due to cooler than normal August. This could create some concern for timely fruit ripening. It is in precipitation that we see the most noticeable difference as we only have had 1" of rain thus far

in August (vs. the 30-year average of 3.10"). For grapes, that is good thing since we have had more than enough rain during this growing season; and we are still more than 5" above average with a total of 26.68" for the year.



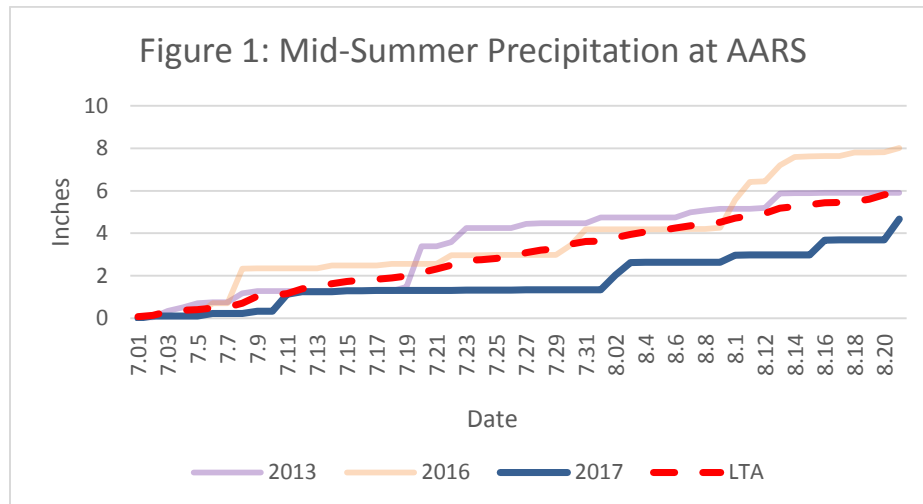
Cultural practices:

During August, we completed leaf pulling and cluster thinning as well as top and side hedged all of our VSP varieties. We also applied bird nets to high-cordon- (over the row nets) and VSP- (side nets) trained varieties. For weed management, we have introduced mechanical weeding using the Grape Hoe with a rototiller. Our goal is to minimize chemical weed control and loosen up the soil in preparation for fall hilling. Grapevines have been sprayed 10 times so far with the final applications targeting late-season insects and fruit-rot fungi. Lastly, we have begun our weekly berry sampling and results will be sent to OGEN subscribers and posted on our website like in previous years. Watch for the first posting next week.

Vineyard Update from AARS

Andy Kirk, Research Specialist, Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station

If you don't like the growing season, wait a week. When I wrote for OGEN in June, we were talking about a cool, wet start to summer, and wondering whether we would see the sun again in 2017. Fast forward to July and we went nearly three weeks without a rain event exceeding one-tenth of an inch (Figure 1). Now, after a few hard rains in the last week, we're approaching our average summer totals. Go figure.



Overall, we're sitting about normal on GDD for the year since March 1st (not pictured). However, July and particularly early August were slightly cooler than normal (Figure 2), and I am comfortable saying we are slightly behind our typical ripening schedule at AARS. With Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris coming in around 13 Brix this week, October is shaping up to be a busy month. I might also add that our Cabernet Franc vineyard is only just now arriving to 50 % veraison, meaning that we will likely still have some fruit hanging after Halloween.

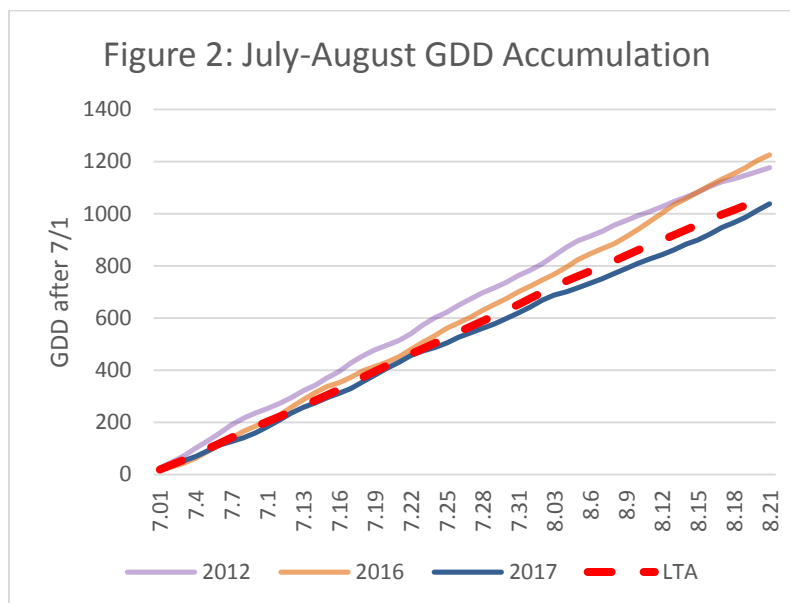


Table 1: AARS Grape Maturity (8/21/17)

Variety	Brix	pH	TA (g/L)
Pinot Noir	12.8	2.69	9.46
Pinot Gris	12.8	2.65	8.52
Frontenac	16.6	2.64	12.65

July and August have not been without their challenges. Starting in Mid-July, we began noticing severe fruit bruising in one of our blocks. This has been diagnosed as a bad case of sunburn. One of the options I plan to explore further next year to prevent this damage is to finish as much as possible of our canopy management as early as possible in the season, in order to let the berries acclimate to the high UV light at a time when they are less sensitive. [This article](#) from Dr. Patty Skinkis of Oregon State University outlines some of the benefits of early leaf removal. Her research has highlighted that berries are particularly sensitive to sunburn around and just before veraison. One of the important things over the next month or so will be to see to whether this damage leads to widespread berry splitting and bunch rot. This particular variety historically has thick skins, so there is reason to hope not.



A few weeks ago, we noticed that our earliest varieties such as Siegerrebe and Pinot Noir Precocce were developing some sweetness and aroma. Apparently we were not the only ones to notice! In the space of two days as we were preparing to put nets on, we lost considerable amounts of this fruit. Berries and berry skins were laying on the ground, and our vines and trellising had mud prints. After investigating a bit more, there was no question that this was the work of Raccoons. Over the course of four days, 14 raccoons were caught in our relatively small vineyard. There was also a possum. While there was a sense that we were accomplishing something in reducing Raccoon pressure, this result made it very clear that wildlife issues

are systemic problems and need to be considered year-round to avoid population buildup. We plan to consider several long-term options to lessen the raccoon pressure going forward.

Dry August conditions have been friendly to our spray program. We have had little disease, save the occasional phomopsis sighting in a particularly dense canopy area. I have been hearing about and seeing some advanced phomopsis and anthracnose elsewhere, particularly where there was a little bit of a delay in getting the spray program going in the spring. In my vineyard visits in the Tri-County area, there has been some amount of Downy Mildew, but I am not under the impression that it has been a particularly bad year for Downy. We recently spotted some botrytis in our vineyard, where the raccoons had gotten in and caused cluster damage. I plan to make a spray application here sometime around 8/24/17, and will include a botrytis product.

In terms of insects, we have not seen a lot of pressure since we made an application for Japanese Beetles during July. We are monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) again this year. There have been quite a few in our traps near the wood line. It is still unclear, to the best of my knowledge, whether they are initiating damage in grapes. Interestingly as well, we have not seen many wasps, whereas this time last year they were everywhere. Granted, the grapes are behind from where they were last year. We will see if wasps make an abundant return.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to put nets up as our varieties reach the point of attracting birds and small animals. Harvest looks to be at least a few weeks to way. In a sense, this is the most important few weeks of the year, preparing for harvest and getting through the long list of tasks that the grapevines pushed down the list when they sprang to life in June. It's the eye before the storm!

Late-Summer and Preharvest Vineyard Management Practices

Gary Gao, Ph.D., Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, OSU South Centers

September and October are the “home stretch” months of the wine grape production. Bright sunny days and cool nights are essential for the development of fruit sugars and desirable wine chemical profiles. It is still a good idea to do additional shoot positioning to make sure grape clusters are well exposed to sunlight for best fruit quality. Most growers have started sampling fruits for sugar (Brix), pH and TA readings. It is important to take representative samples. We typically take about 100 berries from each cultivar from different parts of the vineyard and different parts of the canopy. Berries can be crushed and juice will be collected for analyses. Active communication between grower and winemaker is always good for achieving optimum fruit chemistry.

Growers are strongly encouraged to monitor their vineyard for spotted wing drosophila (SWD). Insecticide application is necessary when one SWD is detected. Check pesticide label for PHI though. Fungicide sprays are still needed to protect fruits. Refer to “Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide” for more information.



Shown here are ripening “Traminette” grape clusters at OSU South Centers in Piketon. Photo by Gary Gao.

Vine & Wine News @ Buckeye Appellation 2017

By: Diane Kinney, Research Assistant and Imed Dami, Viticulture State Specialist

Vine & Wine News continues to provide updates on grape growing and wine making in Ohio and elsewhere. These updates will be posted on the program website, Buckeye Appellation at: <http://ohiograpeweb.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>. We would like to invite you to visit the website on a regular basis to help inform you of what our OSU Team has available to you through OGEN, TGE, research updates, events and news. Our hope is that it becomes a resource you look up periodically. So why not bookmark this site today?

In the past month, we have posted the following:

Educational Materials:

- Ohio Grape Electronic Newsletter ([OGEN](#)) on homepage and tab (current issue).
- The Grape Exchange ([TGE](#)) on the homepage and tab (latest posting on Aug 29).

News:

- Winners of the [2017 Ohio Wine Competition](#).

Upcoming Events:

- February 19-20: [2018 Ohio Grape and Wine Conference](#)

Upcoming Events:

1. **2018 Ohio Grape & Wine Conference, Embassy Suites Dublin:** February 19-20, 2018.



2018 Ohio Grape & Wine Conference

DATE:

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2018

LOCATION:

Embassy Suites Columbus– Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 790-9000

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Two information-packed days with viticulture, enology, entomology, plant pathology, virology and weed science presentations, as well as an industry trade show, Ohio wine reception, and exquisitely-prepared banquet.
- ◆ Flexible registration options and affordable registration fee.



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OSU Grape & Wine Research & Outreach Specialists

Please contact the following Research, Extension/Outreach Specialists and Educators if you have any questions relating to their respective field of expertise.

Contact Information			
Name & Address	Phone	Email & Website	Area of Expertise & Assistance Provided
Dr. Imed Dami , Professor & Viticulture State Specialist Dept. Of Horticulture & Crop Science 216 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-263-3882	e-mail: dami.1@osu.edu Website: Buckeye Appellation	Viticulture research and statewide extension & outreach programs. Recommendation on variety selection. Imed is the primary research contact of the viticulture program.
Dr. Doug Doohan , Professor Dept. Of Horticulture & Crop Science 205 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-202-3593	Email: Doohan.1@osu.edu Website: OARDC Weed Lab	Vineyard weeds and control. Recommendation on herbicides.
Dr. Gary Gao , Small Fruit Specialist and Associate Professor, OSU South Centers 1864 Shyville Rd, Piketon, OH 45661 OSU main campus, Rm 256B, Howlett Hall, 2001 Fyffe Ct Columbus, OH	740-289-2071 Ext. 123 Fax: 740-289-4591	Email: gao.2@cfaes.osu.edu Website: OSU South Centers	Viticulture Research and Outreach, VEAP visits in southern Ohio, vineyard management practices, soil fertility and plant nutrition, fruit quality improvement, variety evaluation, table and wine grape production.
Dr. Melanie Lewis Ivey , Assist. Professor Dept. of Plant Pathology 224 Selby Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-263-3849 330-465-0309	Email: ivey.14@osu.edu Website: OSU Fruit Pathology Facebook: OSU Fruit Pathology	Grape Diseases Diagnostics and Management. Recommendation on grape fungicides and biocontrols. Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety Recommendations.
Andrew Kirk , AARS Station Manager Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station 2625 South Ridge Road Kingsville, OH 44048	330-263-3881	Email: Kirk.197@osu.edu Website: OSU Branch Campus	Wine grape production in Northeast OH, especially <i>vinifera</i> varieties
Dr. Elizabeth Long , Assist. Professor OSU/OARDC Entomologist 105 Thorne Hall 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-263-3725	Email: long.1542@osu.edu	Fruit and vegetable insects.
David Marrison , County Extension Director, Assoc. Professor & Extension Educator OSU Extension – Ashtabula County 39 Wall Street Jefferson, OH 44047	440-576-9008 Ext. 106	Email: Marrison.2@osu.edu Website: Ashtabula OSU	Vineyard and winery economics, estate planning and extension programs in Northeast Ohio.

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Dr. Erdal Ozkan , Professor & Extension State Specialist Food, Agriculture & Biological Engineering Dept, OSU 590 Woody Hayes Drive Columbus, OH 43210	614-292-3006	Email: ozkan.2@osu.edu	Pesticide application technology, Sprayer calibration
Patrick Pierquet , Dept. Of Horticulture & Crop Science 130 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-263-3879	Email: Pierquet.1@osu.edu	Wine Cellar Master – OSU Micro-vinification, sensory evaluation and laboratory analysis
Todd Steiner , Enology Program Manager & Outreach Specialist Dept. Of Horticulture & Crop Science 118 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	330-263-3881	Email: Steiner.4@osu.edu Website: Buckeye Appellation	Commercial wine production, sensory evaluation, laboratory analysis/setup and winery establishment. Todd is the primary research and extension contact of the enology program.
Dr. Celeste Welty OSU main campus Department of Entomology Columbus, OH	614-292-2803	Email: Welty.1@osu.edu	Fruit and vegetable insects