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A spook-tacular end to harvest 2019!

Harvest 2019 was a wrap with Chambourcin on October 9 at the OARDC research station.

While folks in Northeast may be waiting out the final late-ripening varieties, the rest of the state is now into the post-harvest period.

Although the fruit is off the vine does not mean that the work for the year is done quite yet. Follow along as we discuss fall vineyard management strategies and prepare for the next year ahead.
OARDC-Wooster October Vineyard Update

By: Diane Kinney and Imed Dami, HCS-OSU

Grape phenology

Harvest was completed earlier this month on October 9th in Wooster after picking our late ripening varieties, Cabernet franc and Chambourcin. When compared to the past three years, the 2019 GDD accumulation was not the highest (Table 1). However, the abundance of sunshine, dry conditions, and cool nights have created nearly perfect weather conditions for optimum fruit maturity (Table 2). We can’t wait to taste wines from the stellar 2019 vintage!

Table 1. Harvest dates and growing degree days (GDD) of selected varieties grown at OARDC in Wooster from 2016-2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Date</td>
<td>GDD*</td>
<td>Harvest Date</td>
<td>GDD*</td>
<td>Harvest Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabernet franc</td>
<td>5-Oct</td>
<td>3124</td>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>2831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay</td>
<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>3068</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regent</td>
<td>9-Sep</td>
<td>2462</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvignon blanc</td>
<td>20-Sep</td>
<td>2915</td>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>2727</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*GDD: Cumulative daily mean temperatures above 50 °F since January.

Table 2. 2019 fruit composition at harvest of selected varieties grown at OARDC in Wooster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Soluble Solids (SS %)</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Titratable acidity (TA g/L)</th>
<th>Fruit maturity index (FMI SS/TA * 10)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabernet franc</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambourcin</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regent</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvignon blanc</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October OARDC update (continued)

Phenology progression of Cabernet franc:

- Cab franc (25 Apr 2019)
- Cab franc (30 May 2019)
- Cab franc (27 Jun 2019)
- Cab franc (31 Jul 2019)
- Cab franc at harvest (1 Oct 2019)
Weather conditions

Wooster has enjoyed a period of dry and warm weather during fruit ripening in September and October. However, cumulative rainfall is still nearly 12” over the long-term average which is also two inches higher than in 2018 at this time (38.04” vs 36.64”). This year’s cool nights have kept the GDDs below those of 2018, but near the 30-year average. The dry weather has allowed growers to hang fruit for longer periods of time if they stayed on top of their spray programs in the early season.

Figure 1. 2019 deviation of monthly mean precipitation from the 30-year average

Figure 2. Cumulative precipitation at OARDC-Wooster for 2019, 2018, and the 30-year average
Figure 3. 2019 temperature deviation from the 30-year average at OARDC-Wooster

Figure 4. Cumulative growing degree days (GDD) at OARDC-Wooster for 2019, 2018, and the 30-year average
October OARDC update (continued)

Cultural practices
As of October 28, we are still waiting to see our first subfreezing temperatures in the vineyard. We have completed a first pass of hilling-up on grafted vines and will conduct a second pass in November. Another roller coaster season that has a difficult start with winter injury but is ending with high hopes of a great vintage and smiles on our faces!

Figure 5. Under-vine soil mounding following first hilling pass in October 2019.
Fall vineyard management overview

By: Dr. Maria Smith, HCS-OSU

With harvest wrapped up, the major focus shifts to the cellar. However, don’t neglect important fall vineyard management that impact the success of your 2020 season.

Post-harvest disease management

Although the threat of fruit disease is over, vines still need leaves in order to successfully shut down for the winter.

Why? Because leaf senescence, or the color change and die-back of leaves, is a major contributor of nutrient storage in the vine over winter. During senescence, cellular components responsible for the green color of leaves during the summer (i.e., chorophyll) are broken down into proteins, lipids, and other nutrients to be transported back to the vine. These nutrients are then used to support vine growth and development during the next spring.

Protect your foliage! Downy mildew and powdery mildew may continue to threaten foliage into the post-harvest season, requiring one or two late-season fungicide applications in order to avoid premature leaf fall [1].

Nutrition monitoring and fertilization

Vine and soil nutrition are often overlooked aspects of vineyard management in Ohio during the busy growing season. However, optimal vine nutritional management can be critical to the success of vines and fruit. Excessive fertilization can have several drawbacks, including unnecessary business expenses, environmental run-off and pollution, and excessive vine vegetative growth and poor wood maturation. Nutrient deficiencies, in contrast, may stunt vine growth and may affect adversely affect fruit quality in terms of Brix, pH, and yeast assimilable nitrogen (YAN), that may lead to fermentation and wine quality issues [2, 3].

Monitor and amend soil nutrition in the fall. If it’s been a while, the fall is a great time to submit soil samples and make amendments based on the test results to adjust pH, phosphorous (P), or potassium (K). However, save nitrogen application for the spring. Unlike K and P, nitrogen is highly mobile in soil. Since vine roots are less active in the fall, there is a high chance that nitrogen applied now will be lost to leaching, since vine roots are less actively taking it up for use. You can then check in the following season for how that fertilization affected vine nutrient status [4]. For additional information on fall vineyard fertilizing, see [5].
Fall vineyard management (continued)

Weed management

If weeds were a plague during the growing season, the fall is a good time to work to get them back under control. There are several means for controlling weeds in the vineyard, including mechanical disturbance (**Fig. 2**), establishing ground cover under the vines (**Fig. 3**), or using chemical control via herbicides.

Ultimately, however, weed control relies on several factors (e.g., weed species, herbicide selection and application timing) and should be performed using a combination of methods (i.e., integrated weed management) to ensure long-term success.

**Herbicide selection** depends on the type of weed problem, state of weed emergence (pre- or post-), timing of application, and the vine age. There are more than 20 registered herbicides available for grapes, so choose based on your individual vineyard situation and needs. For more information on registered herbicides in grapes, see [6]. For questions regarding specific weed control strategies, please contact Maria Smith ([smith.12720@osu.edu](mailto:smith.12720@osu.edu)) or Doug Doohan ([doohan.1@osu.edu](mailto:doohan.1@osu.edu)).

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**Figure 2.** Prototype mechanical weeder demonstration at OARDC-Wooster, October 2019

**Figure 3.** Example of under-vine ground cover using creeping red fescue in mature *Vitis* hybrid Vidal blanc. August 2019.

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**Cited references:**


Save the Date!

2020 Ohio Grape & Wine Conference
February 17-18, 2020
Embassy Suites Columbus/Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH 43017

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.

Ohio Grape & Wine Conference
February 17-18, 2020
Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 790-9000

Ohio Grape Industries Committee
8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3342
Fungicide Resistance Management Full Day Workshop

SAVE THE DATE
February 16th 2020
Dublin, OH

This workshop is designed for crop consultants, vineyard managers or anyone who writes or recommends fungicide programs.

Preregistration is required. Registration using the 2020 Wine and Grape Conference Registration Form.
Registration is limited to 60 people.

Contact Dr. Melanie Lewis Ivey, ively.14@osu.edu for more information.

For more information visit: framnetworks.wsu.edu  @FRAMEnetworks  FRAMEnetworks

This project is funded in part by the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute for Food and Agriculture – Specialty Crop Research Initiative Award No. 2018-03375 titled "FRAME: Fungicide Resistance Assessment, Mitigation and Extension Network for Wine, Table, and Raisin Grapes; the Ohio Grape Industry Committee; and federal and state funds appropriated to The Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology.

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Fungicide resistance to powdery and downy mildews is a growing concern for Ohio grape producers. Developing spray programs that slow the development of resistance in a vineyard can be challenging, especially when there are limited fungicides available that have different modes of action. This workshop is designed to assist crop consultants, vineyard managers or anyone who writes or recommends fungicide programs, with developing a fungicide spray program for wine or table grapes.

During the first part of the day, participants will learn about mildew diseases and management, best practices for using fungicides, and best sprayer practices, from national experts in grape diseases and fungicide resistance management. Participants will then break out into groups and build a spray program based on a real-life scenario. During the last part of the day each group will defend their spray programs and provide suggestions and advise to other groups on how each program could be improved.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Preregistration is required.**
- Registration costs are $35 per person.
- Participants can preregister using the 2020 Wine and Grape Conference Registration form.
- Registration opens the week of December 9 and closes December 31 or when there are 60 participants registered.

Additional costs of this workshop are offset with financial support by USDA – NIFA – SCRI Award No. 2018-03375 titled “FRAME: Fungicide Resistance Assessment, Mitigation and Extension Network for Wine, Table, and Raisin Grapes; the Ohio Grape Industry Committee; and federal and state funds appropriated to The Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology.
Topics to be discussed include:
• 2019 Vintage Overview
• Back to the Basics: A Focus on Red and White
  Grape and Wine Production
• Vine Establishment and Training
• Grape Cultivars Trialed at OSU South Centers
• Sensory Evaluation of OSU Enology Trials
• Vineyard Maintenance And More

LOCATION: OSU SOUTH CENTERS
1864 SHYVILLE ROAD
PIKETON, OHIO, 45661
go.osu.edu/winegrapes

COST: $25 per person
Lunch will be provided

REGISTER: Contact Bradford Sherman
sherman.1473@osu.edu
740-289-2071 x 115

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
Monday, December 2, 2019

OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.
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<th>Email</th>
<th>Area of Expertise &amp; Assistance Provided</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>330-263-3825</td>
<td>email: <a href="mailto:smith.12720@osu.edu">smith.12720@osu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Steiner, Enology Program Manager &amp; Outreach Horticulture &amp; Crop Science 118 Gourley Hall - OARDC</td>
<td>330-263-3881</td>
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<td>Todd is the primary contact for enology research and extension. Commerical wine productoin, sensory evaluation, laboratory analysis/setup and winery establishment.</td>
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