

2) OARDC Vineyard Update

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Grape Phenology:

The shoot growth at our vineyards can range from a few inches to a couple of feet. There are no signs of bloom in the Concord, Cab franc, Chardonnay, Riesling, Chambourcin, Traminette or Chardonel at this time. I am impressed that all varieties have a decent crop despite some earlier frost injury. The Minnesota and New York varieties are very hardy to the winters but, they tend to break bud early making them more susceptible to early frosts. See Table1

Table 1

Variety	%Bloom	Frost Damage Yes/No	Crop estimate*
NY84.0101.04	0	Y	Very light
NY 76.0844.24	0	Y	Very light
MN1211	5	Y	Light
NY81.0315.17	0	Y	Light
MN1200	30	Y	Excellent
LaCrescent	20	Y	Normal
Frontenac gris	10	Y	Normal
Frontenac	10	Y	Normal

*Crop estimate is based on a normal crop with Excellent above normal, Normal and light and very light below and well below normal respectively

Weather Conditions:

Weather is always the main story when you farm. This year will be no exception to this rule. We had a fairly mild winter with lots of snowfall that I was sure would not disappear until April but was gone before the end of March. In April we received several cold events on April 19, 20 and 28 which caused leaf burning on most of the early bud breaking Minnesota varieties, Cabernet franc and Concord. May has been a warm month with highs in the mid to upper 80⁰F. We also experienced more cold temperatures below freezing and the one that caused more damage was on May 10th. The Wooster Weather Station recorded 30.3⁰F but actually the vineyard temperature may have been colder still. Small amounts of timely rainfall have allowed field operations to continue without interruption. We have received 3.3 inches through the month of April. The GDD for Wooster is now 294 as of April 27th. The current for Wooster GDD places 3rd all time in the past 10 years with 2004 at 398 GDD placing first and 2007 with 311 GDD placing second in this time period. If you have not been annihilated with the 4 to 5 frost events then you are in the drivers seat for an exceptional year. Secondary crops also have the potential to have a fairly respectable yield. See photo (1)

Photo(1)

Frost damaged Clusters on primary shoot and good cluster development on secondary shoot



Cultural Practices:

Training is always a constant. When looking over each vine as you go down the row make sure that you have 2 good trunks or at least one. If you do not then save one of the suckers coming up from the base of the trunk or as near to ground level as you can find. This can be done as you are now removing the suckers from the trunks. As you go up the trunk to the cordon make sure that the cordon is extended out to fill the space it is allotted, which is halfway to the next vine. Check for insects and disease as you are moving up and down the vine and vineyard row. Spot herbicide treatments with a contact herbicide may be used to control any weeds that may have escaped the pre-emergent treatments. Fertilization can now be applied since the shoots are 18 inches long and this can be split with half now and half 2 weeks after bloom. If you sustained severe frost damage and are not going to have a crop, cut back to at least half the rate of fertilizer you would normally apply or eliminate any application at all for this year.

Grower Observations:

This year's growth started out fast and the odds of getting a frost were very high. Location saved many vineyards and where they were available wind machines saved crops. Vineyards that were hit hard by the frosts still have a whole season ahead to bounce back. Some vineyards will have grapes that will have different levels of ripening due to development of both primary and

secondary shoots with clusters. This may take some adjustments in your spray schedule. Regardless of whether you have a crop, disease control must not be compromised. Reduced inputs such as cutting back on fertilizers labor intensive tasks such as shoot positioning, leaf pulling may have to be cut back or eliminated to cut costs but, the vine still needs care to prepare it for next years crop. Pay attention to the vines needs and act on them.