

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

*Knowledge for the Commonwealth*



## VITICULTURE NOTES

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### Meeting Reminders and announcements

#### 1. Grapevine Yellows 2013 research beginning Soon

Drs. Teresa Stoepler and Tony Wolf are currently planning and selecting focal vineyard sites for this season's research on Grapevine Yellows. Beginning this spring, we will be (1) monitoring the numbers of potential vector insects (leafhoppers) present in vineyards throughout the growing season, and (2) recording the plant species around the vineyard to help determine whether certain plants serve as disease reservoirs. The ultimate goal is to identify which leafhoppers are transmitting the disease, i.e., which species are vectors, to understand their biology, and to clarify the role of other plants in the disease cycle.

Our work this season will involve us collecting insects in selected vineyard as often as weekly to every few weeks from budburst throughout leaf fall using yellow sticky traps and sweep netting beginning this spring. Growers should not be concerned that yellow sticky traps will increase the number of leafhoppers in their vineyards for two main reasons: (1) Yellow sticky traps rely on the visual acuity of the insects and are effective in attracting insects only at short distances, and (2) Insects collected with sticky traps are killed on contact. In fact, several ecological studies have actually used these traps to experimentally *reduce* insect populations.

- If you are interested in having your vineyard included in our survey, please email or call Dr. Teresa Stoepler ([stoepler@vt.edu](mailto:stoepler@vt.edu); 540-869-2560 ext. 42) with the following information:
- Do you have recorded numbers of vine loss due to Grapevine Yellows over the past few years?
- Who would be the best person to contact for logistics, e.g. to call before visits about spray schedules, and their contact info?
- We plan to repeat this work for 2 and possible 3 more years. Do you foresee any problems with doing so?
- Please provide a description of your vineyard (i.e., approx. how many acres of each variety and which varieties)
- It will also be imperative for us to establish excellent lines of communication to allow us to plan collecting trips around your spray schedules, etc. for this project to succeed.

Thank you!

## **2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops Virginia Cooperative Extension**

We are conducting two vineyard Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops this spring: 21 March at Stone Tower Winery (Leesburg area), and 9 April at Barren Ridge Vineyards (Waynesboro area). Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialists will review pertinent pest management considerations at these pre-season meetings. We are lucky to have Drs. Molly Kelly, Doug Pfeiffer, Jeff Derr, and Mizuho Nita on the program for both meetings. **A Spanish translator will be present at the training – please help us invite Spanish speakers to this program.** *Vineyard management is made more efficient with more, well informed “eyes per acre”.* The training will include a season simulation to review pertinent decisions and monitoring that should be carried out during the growing season. We will also offer a Worker Protection Standards (WPS) training at the end of the workshop. This training complies with the requirements for training under the EPA's WPS. Here are the specific details:

### **A. What: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop in Northern Virginia**

**When/Date:** 9:30 – 4 pm, **21 March 2013**

**Where:** Stone Tower Winery, <http://www.stonetowerwinery.com/contactus.html>

**Details:** As described above in first paragraph. Please bring a bagged lunch, and please RSVP via the following link: <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1357766257153>

### **B. What: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop in Central Virginia**

**When/date:** 9:30 – 4 pm, **9 April 2013**

**Where:** Barren Ridge Vineyards, <http://www.barrenridgevineyardsva.com/contact/directions/>

**Details:** As described above in first paragraph. Please bring a bagged lunch, and please RSVP via the following link: <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1357766582682>

The agenda and content of the two meetings is essentially identical (no need to attend both):

9:30 Welcome and overview of the day

9:45 **Entomology Update**, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, Entomology & Jhalendra Rijal, Entomology

10:30 **Grapevine Disease Update**, Dr. Mizuho Nita, PPWS

11:15 **Vineyard Weed and Groundcover Update**, Dr. Jeff Derr, PPWS

12:00 Lunch (please bring your own) –VVA's sustainable viticulture workbook, Bill Freitag

12:30 **Enology and Viticulture Updates**, Dr. Molly Kelly & Dr. Tony Wolf/Tremain Hatch

13:00 **Vineyard IPM Season Simulation**, moderated by Dr. Mizuho Nita

14:30 **WPS training**, Roberto Quintero, Pesticide and Workplace Safety Trainer, Telamon Corp.

16:00 Finish up

**3. Beginner's Grape Growing Seminar**

11 April 2013

AHS Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Winchester VA

<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alon-h-smith/contact/index.html>

8:30	Registration and Coffee
9:00	Overview of Virginia grape and wine industry (Wolf)
9:15	Local/regional grape market considerations (Wolf)
9:30	Vineyard economic considerations (Wolf)
10:00	Lenders perspective on vineyard enterprises (Jarvis [Farm Credit])
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
10:45	Vineyard site evaluation (Hatch)
11:15	Equipment, supplies and materials (Hatch)
11:30	Grape varieties for commercial use (Wolf)
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch (catered)</b>
12:45	Site preparation and vineyard design (Hatch)
1:15	Vineyard Establishment (planting and trellis construction) (Hatch)
1:45	Early vine training, nutrition and canopy management (Hatch)
2:30	Weed management in young vineyards (Wolf)
2:45	Principles of effective disease management (Nita)
3:15	Walk up the hill to research vineyard (rain or shine)
5:00	Meeting adjourns

RSVP required: <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1357766729399>

There is a \$50/person fee for this course – make checks payable to “Virginia Tech Foundation” and mail to Tremain Hatch, Virginia Tech, 595 Laurel Grove Rd., Winchester VA 22602.

Please contact Tremain Hatch [thatch@vt.edu](mailto:thatch@vt.edu) or (540) 869-2560 extn 11 with any questions.

\*\*\* If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact us at least 48 hours before the event at 540-869-2560 x11 to discuss your needs.

**4. Steep terrain viticulture workshop (mark the date; more information to follow)**  
**11 June 2013**

Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Vineyards Association are co-hosting a “steep terrain viticulture meeting on 11 June 2013. The focus of this meeting will be on the design, installation and management of “steep terrain” vineyard sites (those greater than 15% slopes) with special attention to equipment/worker safety and mitigation of soil erosion. We are seeing an increasing movement towards steeper sloped vineyards to reduce the availability of soil moisture to vines (and create a more desirable vine size). This trend, however, introduces its own set of complications including potentially hazardous operation of machinery, greater potential for soil erosion, and more difficulty with foot traffic and hand labor. The single-day program will be hosted at two premier vineyards located within 40 miles of Winchester: Glen Manor Vineyard (<http://glenmanorvineyards.com/>), and RdV (<http://www.rdvvineyards.com/>), both of which feature steep slopes, and both of which produce very high quality wines (both won gold medals at the recent 2013 Governor’s Cup wine competition). The program will include presentations by the host vineyard owners, specialized equipment vendors (e.g., tracked vineyard equipment), landscape architects, site engineers who will discuss water and soil management on steep slopes, and farm safety specialists who will discuss hazards on steep slopes.

## 5. Webinar - Grapevine Red Blotch Disease: An Emerging Issue

Wednesday, March 27 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Preregistration is required by March 26. To register, visit  
[https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9RWAGgg3sXYHC85](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9RWAGgg3sXYHC85)

Grapevine red blotch disease was first identified in 2008 as a syndrome that affects fruit ripening. Virologists in New York and California have identified a graft-transmissible virus, called Grapevine red blotch-associated virus (GRBaV) that is associated with the symptoms. Infected vines have been identified in California, New York, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.



Join Cornell University virologist **Marc Fuchs**, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor **Rhonda Smith**, and University of California-Davis Foundation Plant Services director **Deborah Golino** for an informational session on red blotch disease. We will describe the virus, its impact on vine health, what informal field observations have told us, and what measures are being taken to test and identify infected vines and planting material.

- *GRBaV, its association with Red Blotch disease and presence in vineyards.* **Marc Fuchs**, Department of Plant Pathology and Plant Microbe Biology, Cornell University (with contributions from Mysore Sudarshana and Keith Perry).
- *An Extension Perspective: Field observations and impact on vines.* **Rhonda Smith**, UCCE Farm Advisor, Sonoma County.
- *Testing and identification of vines and planting material.* **Deborah Golino**, UC Davis Foundation Plant Services.

Bring your questions and submit them during the webinar via the 'chat bar'.

**Tim Martinson**, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University, will moderate.

To register, fill out the on-line form posted here:

[https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9RWAGgg3sXYHC85](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9RWAGgg3sXYHC85)

by 8 AM EST on Tuesday, March 26. You will receive an email with connection instructions.

## 6. Virginia Cooperative Extension Pest Management Guide for Commercial Vineyards (2013)

is posted on-line. It can be accessed and downloaded directly at:

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017/Section-3\\_Grapes-1.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017/Section-3_Grapes-1.pdf)

The "PMG" is a comprehensive listing of chemical pest management strategies for commercial vineyards, covering insects, mites, diseases and weeds.

Both the PMG and Dr. Mizuho Nita's Disease Updates (<http://grapepathology.blogspot.com/>) are well worth reviewing. Each year is different in terms of pest pressure, new materials that are registered and some older ones that may be voluntarily cancelled or fall from favor for one or more reasons. New pests (such as spotted-wing drosophila [fruit fly]), and heightened problems with long-standing pests such as ripe rot disease, merit surveillance and possible action on the part of the vineyardist.

## 7. Vineyard Pest Management Tool Kit, 2013 / 2014

VineSmith, Inc. has updated and released the 2013-2014 Vineyard Pest Management Tool Kit. The Tool Kit is a set of three "at-a-glance" color-coded posters that help vineyard managers plan an effective and economical grape pest management program. The convenient columns of the fungicide poster, insecticide poster and herbicide poster enable a grower to quickly and easily compare...

- product efficacy for each disease, insect and weed pest
- rate of product per acre
- **cost** per acre per application
- mode of action
- resistance risk
- maximum allowable rates and applications per season
- restricted entry interval
- pre-harvest interval
- personal protective equipment
- toxicity to humans, bees, beneficial insects and fish
- MANY more requirements and recommendations

....for 44 fungicides, 44 insecticides and 23 herbicides labeled for use on grapes east of the Rockies. A booklet entitled "Planning a Vineyard Pest Management Program" accompanies the posters and offers a comprehensive pest management strategy for all growers. While much of the information on the posters is available on product labels, the posters are unique in providing a single-source comparison of products. The Tool Kit can be obtained directly from VineSmith Inc. <http://www.vinesmith.com/tool-kit/>

### **Parting shot:**

My friend and colleague, Mark Chien of Penn State Cooperative Extension never ceases to amaze me with how much information he can pull together in one location. His annual "Regional Events Calendar" is a cornucopia of viticulture and enology meetings and workshops around the region, and is provided on the Pennsylvania Wine Grape Network. See the [PWGN regional calendar](#) for events that interest you in your area.

We are grateful that March 2013 is cooler than March 2012! Still a lot of pruning and trellis work to do here at Winchester. My best wishes to readers for a great vintage in 2013.  
TKW.