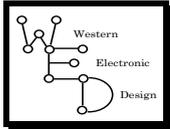




MAGAREY PLANT PATHOLOGY



GrowCare Barossa



2014/15 V2 # 4

Brought to you by your local Regional association

This message was posted by 4 pm Friday 12th December 2014 and will be updated as necessary for best management of vineyard issues.

Powdery Mildew

- Thankfully, to date, powdery has not been found rampant in any vineyard in the district. But despite our best efforts, it is likely that the disease will soon be found in a number of vineyards across the district.
- While levels are likely still very low in your vineyard, look now inside your canopy. Check for the typical grey-white spots on leaves and for similar powdery growth on berries and on the stems of berries and bunches.
- The relatively unventilated and shaded bunch zone is where you will find the most disease. Look there first. Look at the inner leaves and any small berries that have failed to set or develop properly.
- 'Powdery-dry mildew' grows best in mild dry conditions. At the higher humidity (RH) within the canopy, powdery grows at about double the normal rate. The bigger canopies this year are more favourable for powdery.
- Given periods of rainfall, the relatively mild (and yet at times, drier) season has been highly conducive to powdery mildew.
- **Given the likely progress of disease in vineyards not fully sprayed, we probably will find that powdery will 'appear' (ie be discovered) in vineyards during or just after the Christmas-New Year period.**
- It is now nearly too late for effective control. In trials undertaken some years ago at Loxton Research Centre, sprays for powdery were applied from mid-November through December in an attempt to achieve 'late-season' control. But these sprays proved uneconomic.
- This gives warning that the economics and methods of spraying need to be assessed before spraying for 'late-season' control – the more so, in January!
- Check with your winery before spraying. The array of powdery products is now very limited.

Spraying for Powdery

- If spraying now for powdery in a dense canopy, it is very difficult to achieve effective coverage.
- Powdery is best controlled by high volume applications. Be sure to equilibrate spray volume to canopy size. Use the recommended rate of product per 100m. of vine row and apply between 20 – 30 L spray mix/100m. of vine row.

- Read more about your point of run off for sprayer calibrations at:
<http://research.agwa.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Spray-Application-grapevines-December-2013-Web.pdf>
- If using sulphur, maximise control by applying at 600gm/100L (or equivalent) and spray again within 7-10 days.
- Remember sulphur has activity from direct spray coverage and from fumigant activity. Both are valuable in denser canopies where spray coverage is impeded.
- Some thinkers consider reducing the rate of sulphur in 'late-season' when effective control has been achieved. This reduces costs - but if adopting this approach, be sure to monitor inside the canopy for any powdery mildew.
- Avoid sulphur burn to foliage and berries. If applying sulphur at temperatures at or above 30°C, avoid spraying if RH >70%.

Bunch Rots and Downy Mildew

- Generally, the recent weather has not been favourable for bunch rots or downy. After berries set, they develop a moderate level of resistance to bunch rots (until sugar levels increase at veraison). Once they reach pea-size (7mm at EL 31) they are resistant to powdery and downy infection.

Shiraz Disease and Herbicides

- From Christmas onward, vines affected with virus such as leafroll, begin to show symptoms. It pays to keep a look out and tag vines with yellowed or reddened leaves and green veins. If planning to top-work virus-affected vines, consider first having the vines tested. See Waite Diagnostics at:
<http://www.agwine.adelaide.edu.au/facilities/wdiag/>
- Also, keep an eye out in your vineyard for herbicide drift. Look for distorted leaves on shoot tips. If you suspect 2,4-D damage (see <http://www.winetitles.com/diagnosis/details.asp?view=269>), contact PIRSA Rural Chemical Operations 1300 799 684 or email:
PIRSA.RuralChemicals@sa.gov.au.

This message has been prepared by Barossa Grape and Wine in partnership with Magarey Plant Pathology and Western Electronic Design. You will be updated as soon as possible after the next significant vineyard event.
