



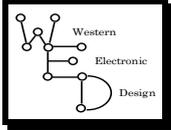
GrowCare Barossa



Brought to you by Barossa Grape & Wine Association

This message was posted by 10am on Thursday 8 September 2016 and will be updated as necessary for best management of vineyard issues.

2016/17 V4 # 1



Welcome to GrowCare Barossa 2016/17

Another season is underway and the vineyard activities which have begun will be increasing rapidly in the next week or two!

Barossa Grape & Wine Association (BGWA) will again be providing you with the Barossa GrowCare® email service, now in its fourth season. This email service will advise you of: 1). the risk of disease throughout the season especially when disease risk is high; 2). the best management options for the foliage diseases (and pests) such as downy and powdery mildew and bunch rots; and 3). When relevant, we will include other vineyard issues and regional news.

Powdery Mildew

Where new shoot growth is appearing, remember:

- **early-season sprays are critical.**
- 'flag shoots' which emerge with powdery mildew already on the leaves, are now releasing spores and spreading the disease in your vineyard.
- Late winter rains will have triggered the overwintering spore-bodies (formerly called cleistothecia, now chasmothecia) to have discharged their spores before budburst – so these will be of little or no importance as a source of powdery this season.

Managing powdery mildew

- The level of control you achieved last season will have a big bearing on how much inoculum (spores) you will have in your vine block this season in the form of flag shoots.
- In the same way, the more effectively you control powdery in the next 4 – 6 weeks will have a big effect on how much powdery you will have at harvest **and** how much inoculum you will carry-over into next spring?
- The better the spray coverage and timing now, the fewer sprays you will need this season and the fewer early next season too.

The **Three T's** of effective spraying:

- Timing, Treatment and Technique.

Timing

Begin spraying for powdery mildew when shoots reach 3-5cm length (EL 7-9).

Note:

- the first 40 days from budburst is critical;
- apply sprays 2, 4 and 6 weeks after budburst;
- or, at least, three sprays before flowering.

Treatment

- All fungicides registered for powdery mildew are effective but sulphur (at 600g/100L) applied just after budburst, is a low-cost option that will also help control mites.

Technique

- To ensure good spray coverage, use high water volume, check the configuration and calibration of your spray machinery and, as appropriate, adjust the spray swath to fit the size of the canopy at the time of spraying.

For more information about controlling powdery mildew and the concepts of 'epi-season', 'inheritance/legacy' and 'lag phase spraying', a fact sheet is available at:

<http://www.gwrdc.com.au/webdata/resources/files/PowderyMildewFactShee.pdf>

Snails and Earwigs

The late-winter rains have encouraged snails and earwigs which can damage young vines and growing shoot-tips. When monitoring for these pests, especially earwigs during the day, be sure to check inside vine guards, under loose bark and under debris on the vineyard floor. Alternatively, at night, use a torch to look for them on shoot tips where they are easily seen. If **snails** are a problem, use metaldehyde or a registered snail bait sprinkled at the base of vines as soon as possible after rain or irrigation.

Control of **earwigs** is usually not required because the damage is usually not economically significant and earwigs, as 'good guys', help reduce the number of soft-bodied insect pests such as light brown apple moth larvae, mealybugs and mites.

Bud Mites

For maximum control, ensure sprays of sulphur are applied prior to mid-woolly bud stage and up to four weeks later.

Avoid spray drift

To avoid misuse of chemicals, please ensure the weather conditions and wind direction all meet PIRSA guidelines to prevent spray drift: (see http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/rural_chemicals/chemical_use_best_practice). When spraying, please watch for pedestrians and cyclists and take care to turn off jets well in advance of headlands near the Barossa bike track.

<http://research.wineaustralia.com/resources/vineyard-spray-application-regulation-legislation-update/>

Soil Moisture Levels

- This season, late-winter rains have provided a valuable reservoir of soil moisture at depth. The rains forecast for this week should ensure this lasts for a while longer yet!
- With this moisture in the soil, to avoid over-yielding winegrape crops for vintage 2017, Barossa VitiTech Group members recommend growers not irrigate until shoot growth slows or stops.

Reducing the Risk of Frost

The high soil moisture levels will help retain vineyard heat on a frosty night.

Things to do to reduce the risk of frost include:

- mow or roll ground-covers as low as possible;
- maintain vine health. If needed, fertilise the vines to assist their growth.
- if needed, maintain soil moisture levels and if practical, irrigate during high risk frost periods.

Introducing GrowCare® Web services

- This season BGWA is launching a new web-service as a companion to this GrowCare® newsletter.
- **GrowCare® Web** is being offered to you to help you and the region grow cleaner, greener grapes by providing 'click of the button' access to more vineyard information that will help you best manage diseases in your vineyard.
- Several seasons ago, BGWA established a network of automatic weather stations (AWS) at strategic locations across the district. BGWA is now partnering with **GrowCare® Web** to give more rapid and more specific advice of disease risk at each AWS site.
- This will provide you with 24/7 access to the very best information about the forecast weather and the risk of the risk of the foliage diseases once the weather has passed.
- More specifically, **GrowCare® Web** will provide you with:
 - easy access to Bureau of Meteorology MetEye® weather forecasts specific to a 6km x 6km grid for your locality;
 - easy-to-read graphs of weather data from the Barossa's regional network of weather stations, including the one nearest you;
 - alerts on the risk of downy mildew and bunch rot infection events for the locality of each weather station. If you choose, these will be sent to you automatically via SMS text alerts and/or via email; and
 - easy access to lots of other information that will be relevant to managing your vineyard,
- The weather-based computer-generated alerts include advice on the date and time of:
 - downy mildew primary infection;
 - downy mildew primary oilspots;
 - downy mildew secondary infection;

- downy mildew secondary oilspots;
- bunch rot infection at flowering; and
- bunch rot infection of ripening berries.

The website also provides:

- a 'Check List' for downy mildew primary and secondary infection events as an easy-to-use self-help guide for you to assess if an infection event has occurred; and
- a Regional Disease Map that allows you to record observations of disease events.

Subscription

- BGWA has negotiated a discounted subscription for members to access GrowCare® Web for season 2016/17.
- Full subscription is available at \$99/grower/season but BGWA members will receive a 10% discount.
- We will provide a coupon number for use when you subscribe to this innovative new service.
- **GrowCare® Web** is available to have a 'look and see' or to subscribe to by clicking here on growcare.com.au or typing this address in your web-browser. For enquiries contact Nicki Robins nicki@barossa.com or 8563 0650.



Rains this week

The Bureau of Met forecasts a high probability of some rain on Thursday and Friday this week **but** there is a low probability of much rain. We might see falls of 10-30mm but we will have to wait and see how much falls and at what temperatures. For downy mildew primary infection we will need the soil wet for at least 16hours, then more rain at temperatures above 8°C... The details will be monitored in the GrowCare web-site. GrowCare® Barossa emails will keep you posted in due course. For 24/7 access to the risk of downy mildew and to see what was recorded in your locality, sign in to **GrowCare® Web**.

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