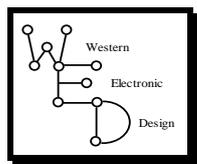




MAGAREY PLANT PATHOLOGY



# GrowCare Clare

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## Powdery Mildew

- Given usual experiences, it is likely that powdery mildew will soon be found in a number of vineyards in the Valley. Thankfully, so far this season, the disease has not been found rampant in any vineyard of the region.
- None-the-less, while levels are likely very low in your vineyard, it is wise to monitor closely for the powdery now. Check in shaded parts of the canopy for the typical grey-white spots on leaves and for mildew growth on berries and bunch stems.
- Look especially in the shaded and unventilated bunch zone and on any small berries that have failed to set or develop properly.
- 'Powdery-dry mildew' grows best in mild dry conditions. At high humidity (RH>70%) within the canopy, powdery grows at about double the normal rate.
- Given periods of rainfall, the relatively mild (and yet at times, quite dry) season has been highly conducive to powdery mildew.
- In vineyards not fully protected, we probably will find powdery 'appearing' (ie discovered) during or just after the Christmas-New Year period.
- It is 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 suggests that cost of and methods of spraying need to be assessed before 'late-season' controls are applied – the more so, in January!
- *As always, check with your wine maker before spraying because the array of powdery products is now quite restricted.*

## Spraying for Powdery

- It is very difficult to achieve effective coverage spraying for powdery in a dense canopy.
- Powdery is best controlled by high volume (dilute) applications. Be sure to adjust 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 rainfalls have not been conducive 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.

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