

Wine-Grower-News #31 (Next Issue in 2 Weeks)
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Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine>

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One of our Own Receives “Good Farm Neighbor Award”

The Secor’s of Fort Dodge Iowa received the Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award in January of 2008. The Good Farm Neighbor Award is sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America and the Coalition to support Iowa’s Farmers and is presented ten times each year to a farm family who raises livestock responsibly and successfully while caring for the well-being of their neighbors and communities. Secretary of Agriculture presented the award to the Secor Family on January 21, 2008.

Bill Jr. and Tammi Secor planted a 3 acre vineyard on their farm in 2007. Future plans call for a winery. Son Robert is taking horticulture classes at ISU and daughter Anne is attending Purdue and working in Dr. Christian Butzke’s enology lab. As you can see, ... the entire family is getting into the act. See entire announcement here: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/press/press0408.htm>

Report from the Minnesota Cold Climate Conference

This newsletter comes to you a few days late due to my participation at the Minnesota Grape Growers Cold Climate Conference held at the Holiday Inn near the Mall of America this past weekend. It always amazes me how many people attend this conference. Inside information I received from their registration desk indicated that attendance was over 480 people as of Saturday, February 16th, the third day of the conference. Membership in the Minnesota Grape Growers Conference normally bounces between 750 to 900 people from 10+ countries and 37+ states. WOW!

Overall, it was a very good conference. The educational sessions started Thursday evening and ended with a banquet Saturday evening. All the sessions seemed well received and very informative.



Roger McOewen, Director of the ISU Center of Agricultural Law and Taxation spoke to a large group of vine/wine types regarding vineyards and tax law.



This dubious threesome - David Klodd (L) and Paul Klodd (C) of DRS Manufacturing and Stan Olson (R) of Penoch Vineyard and Nursery were participating as vendors at the Minnesota conference.

ISU 2007 Updated Research Reports have been posted Online

Influence of Cover Crop Rotation & Conventional Practices on Grapevine Plant Growth & Weed Growth: <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/research/pdf/effectsandcultivation07.pdf>

Weed Management & Soil Quality in Vineyard Agroecosystems:

<http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/research/pdf/effectofliving07report.pdf>

2002 Leopold Center Grape Cultivar x Management System:

<http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/research/research.html>

2003 Cultivar Characteristics Trial: <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/research/research.html>

Iowa's wine, beer makers make splash

Read about Iowa's newest directory of native breweries and wineries published by the Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board: <http://www.iowawineandbeer.com> This article in the 2-18-08 Des Moines Register highlights some of the players in Iowa's surging beer and wine industry. Check it out here: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802180301>

Iowa Grape & Wine Industry Survey Results Now Online

The results of the Iowa Grape & Wine Industry Survey completed by the ISU Value Added Agriculture Program and sponsored by the USDA-Risk Management Agency are now Online. The survey was sent out to 573 people in 2006 of which 154 (27%) were completed and returned. 130 indicated that they owned or operated a vineyard and 50 indicated that they owned or operated a winery. A few of the other survey responses included:

The 3 top rated issues impacting the future growth of their business were:

1. Weather related issues (ie..frost, hail, drought, wind and rain)
2. Maintaining a trained vineyard labor force
3. Disease & Insect problems

The 3 top topics related to grape production for future workshops were:

1. Pest Control
2. Pruning
3. Canopy Management

The 3 top topics related to business management for future workshops were:

1. Marketing
2. Marketing & Contracts
3. Operations Management

The complete survey results can be found here at the ISU Ag Marketing Resource Center:

<http://www.agmrc.org/agmrc/commodity/fruits/wine/iowawineindustry.htm>

6,011 Grape Wineries Now in U.S.

The February 2008 issue of Wine Business Monthly had their yearly article about the number of wineries in the U.S. These numbers represent grape wineries and do not include Mead or Fruit wineries. Of the 6,011 wineries, 4,850 were actual brick & mortar bonded wineries and 1,161 were virtual wineries. The virtual wineries do not have bonded winemaking facilities. Virtual wineries have real wineries make and bottle wine for them under proprietary branded labels.

For the first time, 51% of all these wineries reside outside of California and there are wineries in all 50 states. Here is a listing showing the winery growth rate in the Midwest and each state's relative ranking as to their total number of wineries nationwide: <http://www.winebusinessmonthly.com>

State	National Ranking	# of Wineries			
		2004	2005	2006	2007
MO	10	62	66	92	95
IL	11	55	58	77	83
IA	14	26	36	57	62
OK	15	20	27	40	51
WI	20	22	24	30	36
MN	26	15	17	23	28
NE	29	12	13	19	23
KS	32	9	10	15	16
SD	33	5	10	12	14
ND	44	3	4	6	7
Total		229	265	371	415

Three Major Conferences Yet to Go

- Feb. 21 – 24, 2008 IL Grape Growers & Vintners Assn Annual Conference Springfield, IL : <http://www.illinoiswine.org/conference.html>
- Feb. 29 – March 1, 2008 NE Grape Growers Annual Conference, Kearny, NE:
<http://cariregistration.unl.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~~08AGROKR0228>

March 4-7, 2008

Wineries Unlimited, King of Prussia, PA, (2nd largest in U.S.)

<http://www.vwm-online.com/dpage.asp?pid=185>

New Amateur Winemaking Club in Iowa

Welcome our newest Iowa amateur hobby winemaking club here in Iowa. The Eastern Iowa Wine Club was formed in November of 2007. The four goals of this organization include: learning, helping, sharing and growing. You can check them out here: <http://www.iowawineclub.org/>

Cultivar versus Variety

By: Dr.Cindy Haynes, ISU Department of Horticulture, Taken from 2-6-08, ISU Extension Horticulture & Home Pest News : <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>

As a horticulturist, it is important that I use the right terms the right way (at least most of the time). Variety and cultivar are two terms often abused by gardeners and horticulturists. What's the difference, you ask? Quite a lot.

Both are part of the scientific name. Both appear after the specific epithet (second term in a scientific name). Both refer to some unique characteristic of a plant. However, this is where many of the similarities end.

Varieties often occur in nature and most varieties are true to type. That means the seedlings grown from a variety will also have the same unique characteristic of the parent plant. For example, there is a white flowering redbud that was found in nature. Its scientific name is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*. The varietal term "alba" means white. If you were to germinate seed from this variety, most – if not all would also be white flowering.

Cultivars are not necessarily true to type. In fact cultivar means "cultivated variety" – therefore, a cultivar was selected and cultivated by humans. Some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants. To propagate true-to-type clones, many cultivars must be propagated vegetatively through cuttings, grafting, and even tissue culture. Propagation by seed usually produces something different than the parent plant.

Varieties and cultivars also have differently naming conventions. A variety is always written in lower case and italicized. It also often has the abbreviation "var." for variety preceding it. The first letter of a cultivar is capitalized and the term is never italicized. Cultivars are also surrounded by single quotation marks (never double quotation marks) or preceded by the abbreviation "cv.". For an example of a cultivar of redbud, consider *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (or *Cercis canadensis* cv. Forest Pansy) which has attractive dark purple spring foliage and pinkish-purple flowers.

Can a plant have both a variety and a cultivar? Sure. One good example is Sunburst Honeylocust. Its scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst'. The term "inermis" means without thorns and "Sunburst" refers to the bright golden spring leaf color.

In today's world of horticulture, cultivars are planted and used more than varieties. Yet we often still refer to a type of plant species as a variety instead of what is actually is – a cultivar. Let's kick off the New Year by being more accurate and start using the term cultivar.

ISU's SPRING ENROLLMENT UP, UP, UP., - That's Good, Good, Good!

Iowa State has 24,445 students enrolled this semester, up 735 from last spring's enrollment of 23,710. This spring's enrollment includes 19,368 undergraduates (521 more than a year ago), 487 Vet Med professional students (up 50 from a year ago), and 4,590 graduates students (164 more than last spring). Fall semester enrollment was 26,160. Detailed enrollment reports can be found here: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~registrar/stats/>

Two Free Subscription Industry Magazines Worth Receiving

1. American Vineyard Magazine: <http://www.malcolmedia.com/av.htm>
2. Beverage Dynamics: <http://www.beveragenet.net/magazines.asp>

Quote of the Week

“California’s 797,000 vineyard acres equates to 482,185,000 grapevines or 548,000 miles of vineyard rows. That is one row long enough to circle the earth 22 times, travel to the moon 2.28 times or drive from Fresno to New York 224 times. In a year, California’s grapevines assimilate 13,500,000 tons of carbon dioxide and liberate 9,500,000 tons of oxygen. In 2007, California’s grapevines will offset the CO₂ produced from 1,350,000,000 gallons of gasoline.” Jon Marthedal, Chairman of Sun-Maid comments made during his their 95th annual meeting in Fresno, CA. reported in the January 08 edition of American Vineyard Magazine.

Neeto-Keeno WWW Stuff

1. The Weekly Screw - <http://www.bullworks.net/virtual.htm>
2. Grape Radio: <http://www.graperadio.com/schedule/>
3. This as nothing to do about wine, but you can drink wine while watching! Check out the web cam focused on Old Faithful Geyser at Yellowstone National Park. The average time between eruptions is 91 minutes: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/index.htm>

Past issues archived as html: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Resources/winegrowernews.htm>

Past issues archived as pdf: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/newsletters/winegrowers.html>

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Michael L. White,
ISU Extension Viticulture Specialist
909 East 2nd St. Suite E, Indianola, IA 50125-2892
ph: 515-961-6237, fax: 6017 or mlwhite@iastate.edu

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