

Wine-Grower-News #35

March 21, 2008

Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine>

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ISU Vineyard Soil Suitability Index Now Easier to Find

I constantly get asked what soils are best suited for vineyards. I quickly reply that Dr. Gerald Miller and staff at Iowa State University have identified those soils in Iowa that are suitable for vineyards. There are approximately 450 different soil series (types) that have been identified in Iowa via our Iowa Cooperative Soil Survey program. The properties that differentiate these different soils have been identified in the "Iowa Soil Properties and Interpretation Database" (ISPAID). Dr. Miller and his staff were able to identify favorable vineyard soil properties and select individual soil map units in each county that are suitable for vineyards. The soil map units in each county in Iowa that are suitable (favorable) for vineyards can be found at any of these three WWW sites:

1. Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Resources/iowasoilssuitabilityindex.htm>

2. ISU Extension Viticulture Homepage: <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/info.html>

3. ISU Soil & Land Use Homepage: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soils/interpretations.html>

Note: The soil surveys of Black Hawk, Clay, Crawford, Iowa, and Woodbury are presently being updated. The Vineyard Soils Suitability Index is not available for these counties yet.

WWW Trellis Resources

Spring must be here. I am getting a lot of calls about trellis design and installation methods. Here is a list of WWW resources that should be of help:

1. ISU Extension Viticulture, Dr. Paul Domoto's "Constructing a Vineyard Trellis" presentation:
<http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/pdf/domototrellis.pdf>
2. "Engineering a Modern Trellis System", Dr. Tom Zabadol, Michigan State Univ:
<http://grapes.msu.edu/pdf/cultural/engineerTrellis.pdf>
3. Grape Trellis How-To's by John Pennoch:
<http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/pdf/trellisinghowto.pdf>
4. "Trellis Systems for Your Vineyard" Univ. of Nebraska Extension
http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture/trellis_systems_for_your_vineyard.htm
5. "Grape Training Systems" Missouri Extension Service:
<http://muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/agguides/hort/g06090.htm>
6. "Trellising" Univ. of Kentucky:
http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/Viticulture/Information/Trellising_and%20training.htm

Good Trellis Information from Commercial Sources:

7. Spec Trellising, Ivyland, PA: <http://www.spectrellising.com/>
8. Jim's Supply Company, Bakersfield, CA: <http://www.jimssupply.com/vineyardhome.htm>
9. PVTS Trellis Systems, Napa, CA: <http://www.pvts.net/>
10. A & P Trells Systems, Visalia, CA: <http://www.aandpag.com/>

Applying Liquid Lime Sulfur

Liquid Lime Sulfur (calcium polysulfide) is used primarily as a dormant application to disinfect the cordons and canes just prior to bud break. Applying during the first 10 days of April in Iowa would be a good time frame to get this done. Liquid lime sulfur is toxic to most forms of fungi. The overwintering inoculum of anthracnose, phomopsis and powdery mildew is in the bark crevices, canes and buds of the grape plant. Applying liquid lime sulfur just prior to bud break provides excellent control of anthracnose, good control of early season phomopsis and some control of powdery mildew. Reducing the amount of overwintering inoculum can dramatically reduce and delay the infection rate of these diseases as the new shoots and leaves emerge from the buds. Rain splash is the primary vector of infection of these new tissues.

Most liquid lime sulfur labels recommend mixing 10 gallons of liquid lime sulfur/acre in 100 gallons of water and spraying with at least 100 psi of pressure. Many vineyard operators will use this same mix ratio and spray their recently pruned cordons and spurs or canes with a sprayer handgun. They typically will end up using only 2.5-3 gallons of liquid lime sulfur per acre when applying in this fashion. Liquid lime sulfur in 2.5 gallon jugs normally runs around \$11-\$12 per gallon. Many forms of liquid lime sulfur are approved for organic grapes.

These dormant applications can be applied to both sulfur tolerant and intolerant grape varieties prior to bud break. Only sulfur tolerant grape varieties should be treated after bud break. Last but not least – always read and follow label directions.

Vineyard Workday at Seed Savers Exchange

What: Vineyard Workday

Where: Seed Savers Exchange historic vineyard located at 3094, North Winn Rd, Decorah, IA 52101 (563-382-5990) <http://www.seedsavers.org/>

When: 9AM – 3PM, Saturday, March 29, 2008

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Grape Growers Association

MVGGA contact persons: Ken Barnes at sales@wwwwinery.com or 563-735-5809 and Roger Halvorson at halvorsonroger@netscape.net or 563-873-2509, 563-880-0155 cell

Notes: Please bring your vineyard tools, work gloves, sack lunch or Burr Oak is 7 miles away, water/coffee/soda, rain gear, sun screen, and extra socks.

Safety considerations: sharp tools, possible cold wet spring weather.

The Mother of All Vines

The Muscadine also called Scuppernong is a native grape of Southeastern U.S. In 1554, a member of Sir Walter Raleigh's Lost Colony expedition found the "Mother Vine" also called "The Big White Grape", "Grape of the South", "Grape of Grapes", and "The South's Own Grape.". It was two feet in diameter and covered over ½ acre when first found. It is still alive today, but does not cover near the area it did 446 years ago. The vine is located on Roanoke Island in North Carolina. Many theorize that It was planted by native Indians. It once produced over 3 tons of grapes in one season. Many cuttings have been taken from this plant over the years.



The Mother Vine as it looks today →



SD Law Passes Allowing Native Wine Sales in Retail Establishments

Last April Ron Mark of Summerset Winery and I were invited by Don South to meet with a key group of grape growers, wineries, government officials and South Dakota State University staff to identify key steps they need to make to move their industry forward. We spent the first day forming

a plan at Don's Strawbale Winery located just north of Sioux Falls at Renner South Dakota. The next day we all met with government officials at the Capitol in Pierre.

Their efforts seem to be working. The South Dakota legislature just passed House Bill 1269 and overrode a veto by their Governor Mike Rounds (57-12 House & 33-1 Senate) that will allow retailers to purchase a \$175/year license to sell packaged beer, malt beverages and native wines for off premise consumption. The license will cost only \$25/year for retailers who already have the beer and malt beverage license. Prior to this, a retailer would have needed a \$500/year license that allowed the sale of all wines.

Several of the legislators noted the success of Iowa's \$25/year Class C license that allows retail establishments to sell packaged wine for off premise consumption. There were 15 federal licensed wineries in South Dakota at the end of 2007.

Congratulations South Dakota!

Wineries See Window for Growth, Argus Leader, 3-18-08:

<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008803180329>

Constellation Wines U.S. Releases Results of Nationwide Consumer Survey

Constellation Wines U.S. recently announced the results of their second survey in the "Project Genome" project to help identify consumer wine preferences. This study of 10,000 premium wine consumers (\$6+ /bottle), largest of its kind was possible with the aid of Nielsen Company's Homescan bar scanner placed retail in stores. Here is a summary of the survey:

Consumer Category	% of Consumers	% of Purchases
Enthusiasts (Knowledgeable about wine, 98% of purchases are above \$6/bottle.)	12	25
Image Seekers (View wine as a status symbol, Merlot is #1, and use WWW as main source of information.)	20	24
Traditionalist (Enjoy wine and purchase from established wineries or brands.)	16	15
Savvy Shoppers (Always looking for new wines and bargains.)	15	15
Satisfied Sippers (Don't know much about wine, drink it every day, buy national name brands.)	14	8
Overwhelmed (Need help, don't know much about wine and appreciate assistance when purchasing.)	23	13

The Enthusiasts, Image Seekers, and Traditionalists (64% of purchases) are our everyday customers and probably do not need a lot of enticement to visit our wineries. Maybe we should key our marketing efforts in the direction of enticing Savvy Shoppers, Satisfied Sippers and the

Overwhelmed (36% of purchases) into our wineries. Constellation Wines is the largest winery conglomerate in the world. This survey will be used to help direct their sales efforts in the future to increase their market share. Nothing says that we can't use this information to!

Details here: <http://www.cwinesus.com/genome2008.html>

Quote of The Week

Summary of Maintaining Vine Balance

- *Pruning and crop load adjustment are the most important management practices for achieving vine balance and good fruit quality.*
- *Goals –Balance fruit production with vegetative growth*
 - *Produce maximum yields of highest quality fruit possible without sacrificing vine capacity*
 - *Maintain consistent vine balance*
 - *Reduce fruit and vine variability*
- *Growers need to collect data on yield, pruning weight, cluster weight, shoots per vine, etc.*

Dr. Bruce Bordelon, Purdue University - comments at Iowa Wine Growers 2008 Conference.

Neeto-Keeno WWW Stuff

1. Constellation Wines Homepage (Worlds Largest Winery Conglomerate):
<http://www.cwinesus.com/>
2. Kentucky's Grape Growers Cornery: <http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/Viticulture/growers.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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3-20-08

What: Vineyard 101 & Pruning Workshop

When: 9 AM to Noon, Saturday, **April 5th**, 2008 (Rain/Shine/Snow)

Where: **John Ernest Vineyard & Winery**, (3 mi. east of Tama on Hwy 30, then 1/4 mi. north.)(641-484-8048) Look for new sign on north side Hwy 30: <http://www.johnernestvineyard.com/>

Who: Mike White, ISU Extension Viticulture Specialist will be the instructor.
Co-sponsored by John Ernest Vineyard & Winery & ISU Tama County Extension.

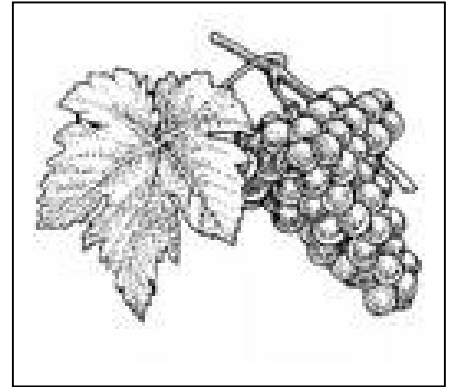
Pre-Registration Requested: Please contact the ISU Tama Co. Extension office before **noon, Friday, April 4th**, 2008. Payment will be taken at the door.

Contact: (641-484-2703) or <bmurty@iastate.edu>

Maximum attendance = 40.

Cost: \$15 per person, pay at the door.

Agenda: 8:30 AM Registration
9:00 AM Welcome & Introductions
9:15 AM Iowa Vineyard 101 – Quick Review
Cultivar Selection
10:15 AM Break
10:35 Pruning & Canopy Mgt. 101
11:30 AM Hands-on Pruning Demonstration
(bring your own pruners if you have them)
12:30 PM Adjourn - John Ernest Winery Open for Business



Note: John Ernest Vineyard & Winery and vineyard is located on a south facing slope just north of Hwy 30, 3 miles east of Tama overlooking the scenic Iowa River valley. The winery and vineyard are the result of John & Delores Kopsa and their extended family working hard to develop a dream. Come enjoy touring this beautiful winery and scenic vineyard. <http://www.johnernestvineyard.com/>



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2008 Northwest Iowa Grape Growers' Viticulture Workshop Schedule

All programs will be conducted at the:

**Roetta BP Studios and Vineyard
3228 Xenia Avenue
Northwest of Farnhamville, Iowa**

Monday, March 24, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topics: *Organizational Meeting, Vineyard Pruning, and Cultivar Selection*

Monday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topics: *Vineyard Site Selection and Preparation*

Monday, May 19, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topics: *Training Systems and Trellis Installation*

Monday, June 16, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topics: *Canopy Management and Vineyard Pest Control*

Saturday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Farm Vineyard Field Day

Monday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topics: *Harvest Issues*

**Presenter for the March, April, May, June, & August Sessions –
Randall Vos, Des Moines Area Community College Viticulture Instructor**

**Cost: \$12 per session or \$50 for season (excluding the Farm Vineyard Field Day)
Programs are co-sponsored by Richard Black and ISU Extension – Calhoun County**

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