

# Platinum 75 SG

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

John Barber, Christa Hartsook, Joe Hannan

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**C** Christa Hartsook 00:15

Hello, and welcome to the small farms podcast, a production of the small farms program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Our podcast covers the opportunities and challenges associated with rural life.

**J** Joe Hannan 00:29

I am Joe Hannon, commercial horticulture field specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and welcome to the small farms sustainability podcast. With me today is John Barber, owner of the seller at white oak in Cambridge. Welcome, John. How are you doing today?

**J** John Barber 00:45

Pretty good, Joe. It's a nice day in central Iowa. It's going to well, maybe a little windy, but at least it's going to be above 50 degrees. I'm liking that. So

**J** Joe Hannan 00:53

you know, and wind does every day in central Iowa. So.

**J** John Barber 00:56

Yeah, well, it helps dry things out. It has been a little bit damp out there last week or so. So

**J** Joe Hannan 01:01

yeah, we got some much needed rain.

J

John Barber 01:03

Got me inside to do some needed office work.

J

Joe Hannan 01:07

Unfortunately, we got to do that too you, right.

J

John Barber 01:09

Yeah, unfortunately.

J


Joe Hannan 01:12

So John, this is your first time on the podcast. And while I know you, our listeners may not know who you are. So I guess would you take a minute to tell me a little bit about who you are and what you do?

J

John Barber 01:24


Yeah, well, I give you a backup a little bit. In my past, I've worked for a firm called Snyder and Associates, a civil engineering firm. I spent 38 years of my life in that business. And well, I my wife and I were looking towards retirement and we're not the kind of people sit around and watch TV or anything. And we decided that we wanted to get into the grape industry. There were some grants available at the time to you know, diversify agriculture in Iowa. We thought this was a perfect opportunity. And then we liked the wine industry. We've gone down to Hermann Missouri and hit wineries around here. So we got into growing grapes in 2012. We planted our first vineyard right on our property up by Elkhart, a small vineyard of marquette. And then your predecessor Mike White gave me a lead to another vineyard that was about ready to be bulldozed down called Arbor Creek. We went and visited with those folks. And after four bottles of wine, we struck a deal. And we took over management of that. Grapes are really romantic and nice from afar. But when you get into them, you realize how much work it really is. And the vineyard people work so hard, trying to support an industry, the wine industry here, which is a little bit weak, too. So it was pretty much a decision for ourselves whether we were going to stay in the grape business or get out altogether. And so happens the winery that was five miles from our house was available. And we slide into the White Oak Vineyards Winery. And now it's called The Cellar Winery, took on a few more grapes and started wine production. And here we are. I mean I we really jumped into the industry. We wanted to know who the people were and one of the people that know us as well and got involved with the association and got on the board. And it's been a great journey with great people to work with and stuff. It's just so new and exciting, you know?

 Joe Hannan 03:35

Yeah, from the extension side of things, there's just so much that we don't know and so much that we get to, that we can do and look at. I'm just super excited to actually be able to get out and visit farms this year post COVID now and and start doing some actual rural work versus sitting in an office this year.

 John Barber 03:53


Well, we see light at the end of the tunnel, this COVID thing I know we're picking up and people are coming in and they've gotten their shots. And you know, so I see this summer being a little different than last year. We'll just we'll just not talk about last year. How about that?

 Joe Hannan 04:06

I don't know what I don't know. No, there's no no last year. Let's miss the year. It's like the 13th floor on a building.

 John Barber 04:15

You bet.


 Joe Hannan 04:15

So John, we're here to talk about Japanese beetle control in the vineyard. In particular I want to talk about platinum 75 SG which is a systemic insecticide is labeled for both phylloxera and Japanese beetle control. We have a little project going on this year with a couple of different vineyards actually about five or six different vineyards to look at Japanese beetle control out there. I do want to make full disclosure we are not sponsored by Syngenta or anyone else on this podcast. This is just simply a new tool on the market. Not a lot is known about the tool. So hey, let's learn about it and see if it can work for us and manage Japanese beetle a little bit. So I think the first place that we should start is talking about why Japanese beetle is such a problem for you out in your vineyards.

 05:00

Well, you know, being a winery that has a lot of weddings and so forth like that. I was just blown away when I first had my invasions of the Japanese beetle on site. And the magnitude of them is just about overwhelming. Now we had a vineyard over on the north side of Des Moines off Broadway and another one over by Farrar, and then the one at our winery, which is by Elkhart. The Elkhart winery never really had great numbers of Japanese beetles until last year. Prior to that the other vineyards that was like flying through space, there were just so thick, brutally can't imagine that this systemic product can do anything about them. But I'm hopeful you know, I'm really am and I want to see it. It may be a combination of several things to minimize the effect. But yeah, just defoliating we had one year where we went out to the


winery, or the vineyard on Monday, came back on Thursday, and we were just blown away that we're just about defoliated the vineyard. And just about three days, it was crazy. So it affects everything.

 Joe Hannan 06:16

So yeah, I mean, if we defoliate plants late season like that, that's when we're trying to ripen up the crops are losing crop quality, we're trying to develop next year's buds. So there goes, you know, that starts limiting next year's total crop yield that we're looking at. And again, if you're in the wedding business that you don't want ratted tattered vines out there, right, you want them looking pretty good.

 06:38


So yeah, we do especially you know, and in our winery, we take the first 10 rows of our that are closest to the winery, and we call that our wedding vineyard that is more manicured than most parts. And then the next 10 rows are what we call the real vineyard. But it kind of shows people really what truly is like out of the vineyard, then we got your fantasy part, then you got the reality, you know, so.

 Joe Hannan 07:06

You got the reality where you're you're working more than a full time job trying to maintain these.

 07:10


Oh, yeah, well, in the wine business, you've got about 17 hats that you wear, for sure

 Joe Hannan 07:15


you do and I've only got one of mine with me today I forgot the other one. Alright, so John talked me a little bit about what your management strategy is for managing Japanese beetle in the vineyard. What do you what are you doing? What are you spraying?


 07:29


Well, we have used several different insecticides over the years with them. Last year we were with Mustang Max, we use no sure you would ask me what the names of these things are, I kind of get lost in all these, these names, but


 Joe Hannan 07:45


Probably Mustang, seven


 John Barber 07:47  
Mustang last year

 Joe Hannan 07:50  
Imidan.

 07:51  
Imidan that's it, that's the other one. We've used assail some other ones in there. But we usually are scouting Oh, in July in there, and we start to hear the chatter on the airwaves from you and other vineyard owners. And once we see him come in, we kind of keep our eye on until we hit a certain what we feel is our economic threshold for those things. And then we will spray and usually we're able to knock them down pretty good, you know, with one spray, but then they'll sometimes they return sometimes they don't I know that you just got to continue scouting and keep them at bay, so


 Joe Hannan 08:34  
I'll have folks say, you know, they'll have pretty big outbreaks of them and they'll be almost on a once a week schedule for even for four or five weeks depending on the year and other locations where one or two applications over the season. And that's it.


 08:51  
Like I said at our white oak vineyard I usually can get by with one application and I'm good to go, last year was a different story. I don't know if it was because we had a mild winter if that has an effect on I really don't understand it but we sprayed four times last year so now this year we had that really nice cold snap in February. I'm hoping that may have knocked them back again.


 Joe Hannan 09:13  
We'll see. I don't know there's so much more to it than just winter temps you got to look at what their health was going into overwintering in the fall and what the populations were in the fall and available food source and just a lot of things I love to say minus 20 plus degrees would be little to no Japanese beetles this year but I don't want to be called the liar down the road so


 John Barber 09:38


yeah, well they were pretty healthy last year. I know that.

 Joe Hannan 09:41  
They were by far

 John Barber 09:43  
but we you know as a it's pretty easy to control. I just hate to spray chemicals like that on the grapes because it's not only taken out the Japanese beetles it has effect on the bee population and we respect the beekeepers and so forth around us, depending on their honey for some need this year.

 Joe Hannan 10:05  
Oh, nice. Yeah, you make a really good point that, you know, seven and Mustang and danitol are well, they're all labeled, they also take out a lot of our natural predators and things out of there, they take out everything. So yeah, I'm always caution there. And then you kind of alluded to, you know, Japanese beetles is coming on or emerging, kind of as we're getting into harvest season. So we always want to be careful with what we're applying and not be applying as we're coming into harvest and be mindful there. Okay, so we mentioned that we're looking at platinum 75 SG, which is a cyst systemic insecticide, which basically means we apply it to the root system, the plant takes it up. And then the Japanese beetle will do a little bit of feeding on the plant itself to take up the insecticide. And once it takes up that insecticide that should kill the actual Japanese beetle. We'll see how that goes. Right?

 11:00  
Yeah, well, and it just seemed like, you know, the old thing, whoa, we get these Japanese beetle traps, and we put them out here, I, I'm totally against that I see that draws in more beetles that probably takes out and they release their pheromones or whatever, to attract their buddies to come in. Yeah. So I'm really curious to see how fast this is, if it's something that you know, will kill off those first scouts, so to speak, and then maybe just help you eliminate them in the long run. So

 Joe Hannan 11:31  
yeah, we, we honestly really don't know how fast it's going to become active in the plant and how long it's going to be effective. Right? Like when I work with systemics on like our melons and stuff with cucumber beetles, you can get three or four weeks of protection. But this is a different product, different crop really don't know how long it's going to last or if it's going to take out 100% of the Japanese beetles.

 11:55

11 11:55

Well, I'm pretty excited about this product. You know, from the when you first mentioned it at one of our board meetings, and I see that, you know, if we can, the less we have for inputs, the better off we are at the end right day. And I just I'm like I say curious to see the application, when I do the application, how that affects things to my mind says I want to push it off to as long as I can to take respect of that pre harvest interval. But maybe that's wrong. Maybe I should be doing it a little earlier to get that systemic control going. You know, I'm not sure Joe, that's where I lean on guys like you.

J Joe Hannan 12:36

yeah, so we've got about a 50 day psi means it has between application and harvest is when it's got to be applied. I'm kind of leaning towards a 7 to 10 day period between application and actually getting up into the plant and being effective just to give us a little bit of margin of window. I'm kind of thinking of watching the Japanese beetle growing degree day model for across the state and trying to provide some guidance after coming into initial emergence and try to hit about a week out of getting that applies,

13:07

predict that through those growing degree days. Okay.

J Joe Hannan 13:12

I think last year was pretty accurate. And we have it models off of all 100 stations across the state. So we should be able to get pretty accurate for the six locations that need to apply this. And then like I said, try to get it down 7 to 10 days ahead of time, just to make sure that we're getting it out there in time. Yeah, so don't plan to me. And you know, we don't know whether it's going to rain, those 7-10 days.

13:34


I think that rain will be a little helpful. I mean, if you can get that down and have a nice gentle rain after the fact to help take it up into the plant.

J Joe Hannan 13:43

Yeah, and it does require rainfall or irrigation or something. So we're gonna have to play around a little bit there and make sure we catch the storm or something.

13:51


Not much irrigation here in Iowa Hope it's needed not required.

 Joe Hannan 13:56

No I was out visiting a vineyard the other day where, where he could have used some irrigation because he's one of the few individuals run on a sandy site. But outside that now we're putting irrigation on our vineyards. One of the things we've come with talk or I want to talk a little bit about was just the application rate. The label is really weird how you read it. But with grapes, it says take your broadcast application rate, but then apply it to the weed free herbicide ban. So you're looking at 5.67 ounces per acre, if you're on 10 foot row spacing, that's about 1.3 ounces per 1000 linear feet. If you jump up and you're on like a 12 foot row spacing, that would be like 1.6 ounces per 1000 linear feet. Let's one of the things that always kind of irks me a little bit is you don't get a consistent rate per plant when you're adjusting like that.

 14:50


Yeah, yeah. And, you know, I mean, our method will be to we've, you know, got a Kubota with a sprayer on it with a wand and we'll be mixing it as accurately as we can and can carry out a consistent speed and just let it land at right at the base of the trunk of the, you know, just in a band to shoot it right down there. So hopefully, that does the job.

 Joe Hannan 15:15

Yeah, this is probably your oversight fair that you're gonna apply it with, I assume.

 John Barber 15:19


Yes.

 Joe Hannan 15:20

Yeah. And that's, I think that's probably our best route to go here. And yeah, you're only gonna get so accurate with what the handle on the back of a kabota, unfortunately. I mean, it is what it is. So we'll do the best.

 15:34

I really have not worked with a lot of other vineyards to know how other people apply their herbicides and stuff. But most of them seem to do about the same thing.

 Joe Hannan 15:44

A lot of them do about the same way because it's one or two applications. There's a few folks that have it a little bit more calibrated. And just rather than a handgun, it's a boom hanging off, it sprays out onto the band and stuff like that. But it's that's about as good as we are here.





16:00

Well, we're excited to do this, we're gonna get a lot of cool stuff going on this year with sunflower planning as a co planting to try to pull the birds away and with this.



Joe Hannan 16:12

Yeah, stay tuned for a podcast coming up soon on that one.



John Barber 16:15

That's cool. That's exciting. You know, and that's really one of the biggest advantages of being a part of your association and knowing the people in the industry and you're hearing all the news first, you know, when it's set out there. So I encourage anybody listening to this podcast to become a member of your association and apply yourself because that's a good investment.



Joe Hannan 16:41

So John, who is our association that folks should be joined and be a member of



16:45

The Iowa Wine Growers Association, and that can be found on your favorite computer by typing in [www.IowaWineGrowersAssociation.org](http://www.IowaWineGrowersAssociation.org) and Nicole Eilers is our marketing specialist. Her and Christi Jenson will be able to provide all the information you ever want to know about grape growing and all the other members and like I say it's a good thing it has gotten to us to a place especially during the COVID times, you know, and what's happening on the legislative side, you know how to deal with the governor proclamations. It's been a challenging year.



Joe Hannan 17:25

Yeah, it's been a busy year and Nicole and Christi have been on top of it. It is [IowaWineGrowers.org](http://IowaWineGrowers.org) No association there. So the [IowaWineGrowers.org](http://IowaWineGrowers.org)



John Barber 17:35

Just a favorite on my screen.




Joe Hannan 17:37

Right. I just type in [I will wine growers](http://IowaWineGrowers.org) on Google and it takes me there. So there you go. John,

anything else you want to mention before we wrap up here today,

 John Barber 17:47


just looking forward to some great weather and some time that I could spend out in the field because the saps run in my plants or need a little bit more attention. I got about three or four more days of pruning and cleanup and we're ready. We're ready for this year. 2021. Come on, y'all.

 Joe Hannan 18:06

All right. Well, John, thanks for joining me on the show today. much appreciate it. We need more farmers to join the podcast. So if you're, if you're growing something and you want to get on the podcast and share your story, or share your projects reach out to me I'd love to have you that's my goal this year is to have less than me and more of you on the on the podcast. I guess before we sign off, John, where can people thanks for the opportunity. Appreciate it.

 18:29

Wineceller.com On our Facebook page, and you can see me on Saturdays at seven o'clock bla bla bla and a video. It's always fun days at the winery. So come on out.

 Joe Hannan 18:39

Awesome. Thank you very much, John. much appreciate it.

 18:42

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