

Subject: FW: Nebraska VineLines: News and Updates

Nebraska VineLines: News and Updates From Dr. Paul Read

Vineyard Field Day is July 28

A field day will be held at the George Spencer Vineyard near Gibbon, Neb., on Saturday, July 28 at 9 a.m. This field day is hosted by Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association (NWGGA) in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program (UNVP) and the Kegleys.

UNL Weed Specialist Lowell Sandell will discuss important aspects of spray technology, and types of sprayers and nozzles will be demonstrated in the morning. In the afternoon, trellis construction, changing trellis systems, layering, vine balance and canopy management will be discussed by UNVP specialists in a “hands-on” fashion so that all participants will be able to gain knowledge about these and related topics.

This field day (lunch included) is free to all NWGGA members thanks to a grant obtained by the NWGGA from the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board. Non-members may attend for a fee of \$10. Be sure to plan to attend and bring your questions for the experts. The Vineyard is one half mile south of Hwy 30 at 7155 Pawnee Road (east rail crossing in Gibbon). Register with Growers Representative Kay Miller by email at rdmilfam@starband.net or phone (308) 763-1963 or with UNVP Research Technologist Steve Gamet, sgamet1@unl.edu or (402) 416-9763 by July 25.

‘GR 7’ renamed ‘Geneva Red’

In 2003, Cornell University released a red wine grape known as ‘GR 7.’ The name stood for “Geneva Red” as it was one of a series of red wine grapes (GR 1 to GR 8) from the Geneva Experiment Station to be extensively tested during the 1960s and 1970s. Since it was targeted primarily for blending wine production at the time of its release, it was simply given the official name ‘GR 7,’ as it had been known until that time.

Since its release, members of the grape and wine industry have asked for a more marketable name to be applied to ‘GR 7’ because the name ‘GR 7’ causes confusion among consumers not accustomed to abbreviated names, and since even with blends, wineries often list the names of varieties used on the back of the label. In response to the requests we’ve received, we have therefore decided to simply re-name ‘GR 7’ officially as ‘Geneva Red.’ The United States Tax and Trade Bureau has already approved this name for use on wine labels.

If you have any questions about ‘Geneva Red,’ please direct them to Bruce Reisch (viticultural aspects) bruce.reisch@cornell.edu, or to the Wine Analysis Lab (enology) NYSWAL@cornell.edu. If you would like to acquire a license to propagate and sell this Cornell variety, please contact Jessica Lyga JML73@cornell.edu at the Cornell Center for Technology Enterprise Commercialization.

Chambourcin and Seyval Blanc Grapes Wanted.

Quantity desired is a bin of either one or both. Contact Hal Walker at 308-423-2062 or 308-423-9463 or at either of these email addresses: walkers@bwtelcom.net or winemaker1953@live.com.

Is Organic Viticulture for You?

Mike White has written an article listing several tips for potential Organic vineyards. Perhaps the most important point that he makes is item 13, "Learn all that you can about organic viticulture before you plant the grapes!!!" Enjoy Mike's article below or at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/growersnews/197-april-20-2012#Organic>.

Over the last 12 years I have had the privilege of working with 100's of winegrape vineyard owners who intended to grow organic grapes. I learned along with them. I can only think of a handful at most who have completed this journey and today have a certified organic vineyard.

Unfortunately many of these newbies to the industry thought that **Organic** meant **No Spray**. Normally by the 4th year after planting they came to the realization that spraying fungicides for disease control was a necessary evil. (One lost crop was enough!) Weed control was often the worst problem they surrendered to first. I can't tell you how many times I have explained to people why they could NOT spray Roundup (glyphosate) and remain certified organic. Weed control is the easy part of organic grapes. Acceptable disease prevention is the tallest hurdle of growing organic winegrapes in the Upper Midwest. We have a host of certified organic products we can use for: [Anthracnose](#), [Phomopsis](#), [Downy Mildew](#) and [Powdery Mildew](#) disease prevention. I am not aware of any certified organic products that provide excellent [Black Rot](#) prevention. Black Rot is arguably our most destructive winegrape disease in the Upper Midwest. These are our five major grape diseases.

So what to do? Can we grow organic grapes in the Upper Midwest? The answer is Yes, but you need to start out with the right site and cultivars,... and quickly digest a very steep learning curve. Here are some suggestions I share with people who want to have an organic vineyard:

1. PLANT DISEASE RESISTANT CULTIVARS: especially for Black Rot resistance. Tight clustered varieties will increase the potential of bunch rots.
2. PLANT ON A SOUTHEAST TO SOUTH FACING SLOPE: quick drying of the morning dew on the leaves will reduce the potential of most diseases.
3. PLANT THE ROWS NORTH-SOUTH: allowing both sides of the row to come in contact with the drying effects of the sun.
4. GOOD WEED CONTROL: Tall weeds can reduce airflow in the vineyard.
5. PRUNING AND IN-SEASON CANOPY MANAGEMENT: to increase airflow for quick drying.
6. USING A CANE PRUNING SYSTEM (ie...[4- or 6 cane kniffin](#)). This reduces the amount of overwintering disease inoculum that is common on the older tissues of a cordon pruning system.
7. VINEYARD SANITATION: Removal or prunings and grape mummies will aid in disease prevention.
8. PROPER FERTILITY AND DRAINAGE: Healthy well fed plants can withstand disease better than unhealthy plants. Avoid over fertilization with nitrogen which can result in excessive canopy vigor.

9. WILD GRAPE VINE REMOVAL: Removal of wild grape vines within 300 feet of the vineyard will aid in the reduction of disease and insect establishment.
10. PROMPT HARVESTING: will decrease the potential of Bunch Rots and late season insect damage.
11. A GOOD ORGANIC SPRAY PROGRAM: is essential for a good disease management program. Timely and repeated applications of fungicides when needed for disease prevention.
12. BIRD CONTROL: Bird damage invites both bunch rot diseases and insect pests.
13. LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT ORGANIC VITICULTURE before you plant the grapes!!!

Below is a list of Organic Viticulture Resources that should be of help:

1. Ohio State University has a 46 page organic grape spray guide here: <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/fruitpathology/organic/PDF/OSU-Organic-Grape-Diseases.pdf>
2. Microbial Biopesticides for the Control of Plant Diseases in Organic Farming, Ohio State Univ.: http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/pdf/HYG_3310_08.pdf
3. Washington State University Organic Viticulture Resources: <http://wine.wsu.edu/research-extension/grape-growing/organic/>
4. ATTRA has an excellent organic grape production guide here, \$5.95 digital, \$8.95 print copy: <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=5>
5. Organic Risk Mgt. Crops Manual, Univ. of MN: <http://www.organicriskmanagement.umn.edu/>
6. Cornell Univ. Organic Grape Guide: http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/grapes.pdf
7. National Organic Materials Review Institute: <http://www.omri.org/> 8. National Organic Program USDA homepage: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>
9. Organic Viticulture Resources, WA State Univ: <http://winegrapes.wsu.edu/organic.html>
10. Iowa Department of Ag Organic Certification Program: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/organicCertification.asp>
11. ISU Organic Agriculture Extension Program: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/organicag/>
12. Commercial Book: The Grape Grower – A Guide to Organic Viticulture by Lon Rombough" <http://www.bunchgrapes.com>

Paul E. Read
Professor of Horticulture/Viticulture
377 Plant Science Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724
Tel: 402-472-5136
Fax: 402-472-8650
pread@unl.edu