Weekly Vineyard IPM Scouting Summary  
Report for the week of May 18, 2009  
Southwest Michigan

Upcoming Grape IPM Meetings:

** Our grape IPM evening meeting for May is coming up this Thursday night, May 21, 2009 from 6pm to 8pm at the Bob Dongvillo farm (see map below). We will be discussing insects and diseases that may be an issue in your vineyards this summer, potential pest management options, as well as scouting for these pests as a way to assess when to apply pest control measures. One RUP credit will be available for this meeting and a free meal will be provided. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Grape Flea Beetle (aka Steely Beetle):

** Pretty much all but the latest of emerging grape varieties are safe from grape flea beetle feeding damage. Look for the young larvae to begin showing up on leaves soon. These small larvae, which look sort of like grape berry moth larvae, can sometimes get quite numerous on the leaves, but are pretty much harmless as they usually just create small holes in the leaves.

Additional Evening Grape IPM Meetings To Put On Your Calendar:

June 25: Tim Sepalla farm, Lawton (6-8pm, free dinner, 1 RUP credit)
July: No evening meeting in July due to Viticulture Day on July 29
August 13: Lemon Creek Winery, Berrien Springs (6-8pm, free dinner, 1 RUP credit)
**Grape Berry Moth:**

**We caught a few more adult GBM this past week, especially at the Van Buren site where one of traps caught 14 moths. The warm weather this week should bring out quite a few adults. Remember that even though these adults are flying around you don't need to apply control measures until after bloom.**

**Remember to keep an eye on wild grape bloom so you can track GBM GDDs later in the season.**

**Disease Updates:**

**Now is the time to be applying your pre-bloom protectant fungicides to protect against Phomopsis. Protecting your young shoots and clusters now is crucial to preventing damage to the clusters later in the season, as well as reducing the amount of inoculum present on the canes next winter. Also, make sure that your sprayer is calibrated correctly and that the spray is actually getting on the foliage and not just settling down to the ground.**

**If you have any vineyards where powdery mildew is consistently a major problem, you may want to consider a protectant spray at this time. For vineyards where powdery mildew isn't as bad, but still needs protecting against, you can wait until the immediate pre-bloom through 3-4 weeks after bloom time period. For sulfur-tolerant grape varieties, sulfur can be an excellent tool to keep powdery mildew under control. Just be careful not to apply sulfur at temperatures above 85 degrees F or within 10 days of an oil application.**

**Sprays to protect against black rot are not necessary at this time. The timing for black rot sprays will come a bit later, from immediate pre-bloom through 4-5 weeks post bloom.**

**Remember that your farm isn't a "one size fits all" approach with regards to disease control! Make notes on the disease pressure you've seen in individual blocks in the past and tailor your spray program accordingly. If you aren't sure where your disease pressure is higher and lower, try scouting for diseases in your blocks this summer so you have a better idea where your hot spots are.**
Current Growth Stages:
- Concord-Berrien
- Niagara-Fennville (TNRC)
- Aurore-Fennville (TNRC)
- Chancellor-Fennville (TNRC)
- Concord-Fennville (TNRC)
- Concord-Van Buren
- Vignoles-Berrien
- Chardonnay-Fennville

As of May 14
- Concord-Berrien
- Niagara-Fennville (TNRC)
- Aurore-Fennville (TNRC)
- Chancellor-Fennville (TNRC)

As of May 18
- Concord-Berrien
- Niagara-Fennville (TNRC)
- Aurore-Fennville (TNRC)
- Chancellor-Fennville (TNRC)
- Concord-Fennville (TNRC)
- Concord-Van Buren
- Vignoles-Berrien
- Chardonnay-Fennville
** Weather Notes:**

** Sunday night saw some pretty cold temperatures around southwest Michigan with lows of 31 degrees F in some areas. If you’d like to see what the lows were around the region, the Enviroweather web site has a summary page that shows this. [Click here](#) to see this summary page.

** If you’re interested in seeing how our GDD accumulation is this year compared to the average, Enviroweather has a page for this too. [Click here](#) to see a Michigan map showing our relative GDD accumulation based on weather data from the SWMREC weather station in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

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This report is a summary of weekly scouting from winegrape and juicegrape vineyards in southwest Michigan. It should be used only as a general guide, because pests vary greatly in their abundance from site to site. Scouting your own vineyards is the best way to know whether pest problems are developing in your farm.

For more information on this project, contact Steve at (517) 242 1282

More information on Vineyard IPM is available online at: [www.grapes.msu.edu](#)

All photos: Steven Van Timmeren

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### Starting March 1:  

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### Previous Year GDDs on May 17 (March 1 Start):  

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All photos: Steven Van Timmeren
**Grape Berry Moth:**
This week we caught no grape berry moth (GBM) in the pheromone baited traps in Leelanau or Old Mission Peninsula vineyards. This is not surprising due to the cold temperatures so far this spring. Last season we captured very few GBM in traps but observed many infested clusters with the first trap catches being reported in mid-late May. We should expect to see the majority of adult flight after bloom.

**Grape Flea Beetle (Steely Beetle):**
** Flea beetles may be showing up in your vineyards at this time of year. To scout for flea beetles and their damage take a look at the buds in your vineyards, especially along wooded borders. If flea beetles are present, you will find small circular feeding holes in the buds. You may also find the adults, which are small shiny metallic dark blue beetles. The adults can most often be found clinging to the grape buds. Remember that the grape buds can handle quite a bit of surface feeding and are only really in danger if the beetle is able to feed far enough into the bud to reach the grape clusters, which most often happens when cold weather slows bud growth. In northwest Michigan the beetles don't usually become a problem.

**Climbing Cutworm:**
** Minimal cutworm damage has been reported in the region with observations of damage in a Leelanau Peninsula vineyard. Because cutworms are night active pests and we have had cold night temperatures, increasing damage is possible as warmer night temperatures occur.
Unlike flea beetles, cutworms create irregular shaped holes in buds and can consume whole buds (see picture to the right). They are usually a more severe problem in northwest Michigan than flea beetles. Keep a close watch in your vineyards for this damage, especially near the trunk of the vine, where the cutworms first begin feeding. Pay close attention to weedy and sandy vineyards, as well as vineyards that have had problems in previous years.

**Grape Leafhopper:**
Thirty grape leafhoppers were spotted on yellow sticky traps this week in one Leelanau vineyard. Grape leafhopper adults are orange-yellow with some dark spots and yellow lines on the forewings and about 1/8 inch long. Grape leafhopper has 1.5 to 2 generations per year, with peak abundance of adults occurring in late July and again in late August. Adults overwinter in leaf litter in or around vineyards and feed on weeds as temperatures exceed 60°F (16°C) in the spring.
GRAPE IPM UPDATES FOR 2009

It's time again for the 'First Friday' IPM grape updates. Each meeting will include pest and disease information as in previous years, but each session will also focus on an area of interest to our grape growers. All sessions will take place from 3:00-5:00pm and are often followed by conversation over wine and cheese. Our next session will Feature Dr. Annemiek Schilder from the MSU Department of Plant Pathology, she will discuss organic disease management and strategies to suppress powdery mildew. Hope to see you there!

**June 5:** Shady Lane Vineyard, Shady Lane Rd. - Dr. Annemiek Schilder will discuss organic production and mildew.

**July 10:** Larry Mawby's vineyard, S. Elm Valley Rd. - Dr. Rufus Isaacs will talk about insect pests of grape.

**August 7:** Location to be announced- Paul Jenkin (MSU Small Fruit Coordinator) will discuss winegrape sustainability.

WEATHER REPORT

We have seen some cold temperatures throughout the region. On Sunday night, May 10, we recorded temperatures down into the high 20's and low 30's. The lowest temperature recorded on MAWN was 24.1°F at the Elk Rapids site. This location also recorded the lowest temperature on Monday night with 29.4°F. When communicating with growers around the area, certain sites had extremely low temperatures. For instance, a grower just north of Suttons Bay recorded a temperature of 19°F in an apple block. Overnight on Wednesday most of the region received 1/10" of rain and high, gusty winds.

Current Growth Stages:

- **Vignoles, as of May 13**
- **Reisling, as of May 13**
- **Pinot noir, as of May 13**

For Current Growing Degree Day Information Click the Link Below for the Weather Station Nearest You.

- Elk Rapids
- Northport
- NW Station
- Old Mission

Click here for more Information on GDDs

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