Welcome to the 2008 edition of the grape IPM scouting report! We are pleased to be able to bring you scouting updates for both southwest and northwest Michigan for another field season. The northwest edition will begin in a couple of weeks. As always, the most recent version of this report can be accessed from the grapes.msu.edu web site.

**Grape Flea Beetle:**

** No flea beetles or damaged buds were found at any of the four sites scouted for this report, although there have been some reports of flea beetles showing up in southwest Michigan. Make sure to look at your buds for both the adult beetle and damage to the buds. Beetles are usually most active along vineyard borders, especially those borders that are adjacent to woods.

When you are scouting make a note of how badly damaged the buds are. If the buds only have surface nibble marks (as in the picture below) the bud should be able to grow out just fine. In 2005 we marked 21 buds that sustained grape flea beetle damage and came back later in the season to assess those shoots. All 21 of those buds grew out fine and didn't show any lasting damage.

If you're wondering whether you should apply an insecticide spray or not, here are some factors to consider.

1.) Where are the beetles located?
   a.) Only present at the borders 
   b.) Spread throughout the vineyard.

2.) How numerous are they?
   a.) Only finding a beetle here and there on the vines 
   b.) Finding several beetles per vine at multiple locations in the vineyard.

3.) How bad is the damage?
   a.) Most of the damaged buds just have surface nibbling. 
   b.) Quite a few of the damaged buds have deep holes in them (all the way to the center of the bud).

4.) How fast are the buds growing?
   a.) Buds are growing really fast. 
   b.) Buds are growing very slowly.

5.) How many buds did you leave when pruning?
   a.) Left extra buds when pruning. 
   b.) Didn't leave any extra buds when pruning.

If you scout and find your situation is closer to a.) than to b.) for these factors putting on an insecticide spray probably isn't worth the time and money.

**Climbing Cutworm:**

** No cutworm damage has been seen at any of the sites so far this season. Unlike flea beetles, cutworms create irregular shaped holes in buds and can consume whole buds (see picture to the right). They can be a more severe problem than flea beetles where they are present. 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.
Dormant Sprays For Disease Control:

** If you've been thinking about putting a dormant spray on your vineyard to help with disease control there's still time to put one on. Dormant sprays of either copper or sulfur can be very effective at reducing pathogens that overwinter on the vines, including Phomopsis, powdery mildew, and black rot. In addition, a copper dormant spray may help reduce the severity of downy mildew later in the season. Also, Annemiek Schilder has found that dormant sprays can be effective at controlling Phomopsis even as late as 1 to 2 inch shoot growth. If you are going to put on either copper or sulfur make sure you don't apply them to the leaves of sensitive cultivars. Here is a list of cultivars that may be susceptible:

** Cultivars Sensitive To Sulfur:**
- Chambourcin
- Chancellor
- Concord
- DeChaunac
- Foch
- Ives
- Marechal Foch
- Rougeon

** Cultivars Sensitive To Copper:**

- **Moderately Sensitive**
  - Aurore
  - Catawba
  - Elvira
  - Merlot
- **Very Sensitive**
  - Chancellor
  - Rosette
  - Rougeon

* Copper applied under cool, slow-drying conditions is likely to cause injury to foliage.

** For more information on dormant sprays from the MSU CAT Alert [Click Here](#).

### Current Growth Stages:

**Concord-Van Buren**
- As of April 25

**Vignoles-Berrien 1**
- As of April 23

**Concord-Berrien 2**
- As of April 23

**Wild Grape Adjacent to Van Buren Site**
- As of April 25

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**Starting March 1:**

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**Starting April 1:**

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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](http://www.grapes.msu.edu)

All photos: Steven Van Timmeren