

**Sonoma County Winegrape Commission**  
**July 2008**  
**Grower Appellation Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**General Topics**

- Little mildew has been seen thus far. Heat spell over 100 will have the effect of stalling mildew development.
- No one has reported any issues with leafhoppers at this time.

**Heads up**

- If your barn owls have fledged, it's time to clean out those boxes.
- Check cordons for “cosmetic surgery” – dead spurs that were cut off flush at the cordon leaving the dead arm canker in place. If the canker is close to the head, you may lose both cordons so you may be better off removing the one cordon now. Use a pocket knife to check for the canker. Some growers prefer to wait until many vines are infected, then retrain entire sections of the vineyard.
- Starting to see veraison in early blocks.
- Measles symptoms are just beginning to show up - Pierce's disease infections have not become symptomatic yet.
- Dana Grande reported more gophers and damage than usual for unknown reasons.

**Monitoring Points**

- *Mites and predators* – Treatment decisions vary and depend on a variety of factors including: which mite is present; what the population is; what the history of mites is in the block; what material the grower plans on using; what the crop to canopy balance is and how close is it to harvest; whether predators are present; how much damage is present. Releasing predatory mites or 6-spotted thrips has been a successful strategy for an increasing number of growers and is worth trying if you are dedicated to reducing pesticides and have the patience to work with biological organisms over the several seasons it seems to take to make this successful.

Some folks are starting to see mite populations grow, so if you haven't been monitoring you may want to take a peak.

- *Mealybugs and ants* – As you are doing your canopy and crop management, have your workers keep an eye out for ants in the vines as they indicate the presence of mealybugs (or scale). If you suddenly find a lot of ants in the vines, you may want to check for vine mealybugs. If you know you have grape mealybugs, you may want to train some of your key people to recognize the difference with vine mealybug.

**Special Guests**

- *Joe Browde and Ann Thrupp, Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Program Update* – Progress has been very good according to the re-assessments. We are mitigating risks that are within our control in areas such as water use, pest management, human resources, and air quality. We are better managing risks while improving sustainability. Sonoma county is a leader in the program, showing cycles of continual improvements. The program is collaborating and receiving support from DPR, USDA's Risk Management Agency, National Fish and Wildlife, PGE, NRCS. Table and raisin growers are also participating. Upcoming will be tools to allow calculation of CO<sub>2</sub>, energy and water. Sustainably grown certification is likely a direction the program will be taking, allowing growers to profit from their efforts and maintain a competitive edge in an increasingly eco-conscious market, as well as keeping agriculture's environmental efforts in public view.

**Adjourn - Thanks for coming!**