

The Grapevine

Viticulture Technical Advisor

Vancouver Island &
Lower Mainland
July 2011

Quality and Nutritional Challenges

Foliar Applications for Wine Grapes

The extended late, cool, wet spring weather will create significant challenges for wine grape growers trying to achieve the great color and brix they are accustomed to. When faced with a very compressed growing season, and more weather-related disease pressure like powdery mildew and botrytis, foliar nutrition becomes an extremely important tool.

For a sustainable disease program it is important to integrate a good foliar nutrition program with the proper fungicide program so they both work better, leading to much better grape quality and less over-use of fungicides. The key to this is utilizing foliar calcium during bloom and early post bloom sprays to increase the cell wall thickness and improve the N/Ca ratio. This will help make the berry more resistant to disease infections and allow the fungicide to work more effectively. We suggest **TigerClaw Power-Cal** at 2 liters per acre for these applications with your bloom and early post bloom sprays. For organic wine grape growers we suggest EarthLink 7% Calcium for the same purpose.

With the late spring and cool summer weather to this point, it will be very challenging to get good colour and brix in red varieties. Well timed foliar potassium will be critical to getting the good finish to these red varieties and protect your reputation for quality. Potassium is critical for colour and sugar production, and foliar potassium is documented to be very consistent and beneficial for this purpose. An excellent tool is **TigerClaw KDL 0-0-24**. Apply TigerClaw KDL

at 3-4 liters per acre when the brix reaches 16, 18 and 20 respectively. This will dramatically increase brix and colour intensity for a much better finished wine grape. This will differentiate your grapes from other growers who don't deal with the compressed season Mother Nature has sent our way in 2011.

Alleyway Management

Seed Blends for Cover Crops

We are often asked what should be planted in the alleyways. There are many options and the choice depends on what benefits of cover crops are important in your vineyard.

Perennial Grasses

TerraLink has two Richardson Seed Brand perennial grass mixes that have proven popular for use in vineyards. These are comprised of turf-type grasses that are bred to be low-growing and produce less than forage-types, so as not to be too competitive with the vines. The **Alleyway Mix** has been formulated to be seeded in between the rows of fruit crops and is better suited to irrigated situations. The **Low Maintenance Mix** is drought and shade tolerant and thrives in tough conditions. These mixes add a tidy appearance to vineyards and help stabilize soils in high traffic areas or areas in danger of erosion. Seed at 150-200 lbs per full acre.

White Mustard

Also part of the Richardson Seed lineup is **Braco White Mustard**, which is an annual crop that hosts beneficial insects, while suppressing nematodes. Producing large amounts of high protein green material, Braco increases

the soil nitrogen content upon decomposition. If pest control or soil improvement is your objective, the crop is best cut down and incorporated at flowering which is about 75 days after seeding. If improving the esthetics of your vineyard is your priority, you won't be disappointed. Although named white mustard, this plant produces bright yellow blooms that will impress visitors. Seed Braco white mustard at 10-15 lbs per full acre.

Pest Control

New Registrations in Grapes

Pristine WG

As promised, Pristine has more registrations again in grapes. Now, Anthracnose has been added to the label. Although not for table grapes, a maximum of 6 applications per season can be made, starting prior to disease development and repeated every 10-14 days. Pristine has a pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 14 days and an re-entry interval (REI) of 21 days for hand harvesting, thinning, tying, leaf pulling and hand pruning.

Ripcord 400 EC

Now getting on in years, this Group 3 cypermethrin synthetic pyrethroid insecticide has a full registration for multicoloured Asian lady beetle in wine grapes (not all varieties have been tested). A maximum of 3 applications may be made per season. Don't forget, it is toxic to bees and other beneficials. The PHI is 2 days for mechanical harvesting and 7 days for hand harvesting. The REI is 2 days.

Vivando SC

As predicted in January, Vivando SC now has a full registration for powdery mildew. In Group U8, the

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active ingredient metrafenone is locally systemic. It prevents infection by inhibiting spore penetration and germination. It can be applied up to 6 times per season, beginning at bud break and before the onset of disease. Alternate with fungicides from a different group. The PHI is 14 days and the REI is 12 hours.

Spray Oil 13 E

This summer oil has a full registration in grapes for suppression of European red mites and powdery mildew. The pre-harvest interval is 2 weeks and the re-entry interval is 12 hours.

Crop Protection

Options for Slug Control in the Vineyard

Traditionally, the only options for control of slugs in any setting involved using pesticides with the active ingredient metaldehyde. This is a quite toxic product and once distributed on the ground around crops poses a danger to children and pets. Today, **Deadline M-Ps** is available in a 50 lb container as a commercial formulation containing metaldehyde. It cannot be used in food crops in such a way as to be near the edible parts, must be used only down the alleyways rather than at the base of the plants, and crops cannot be harvested within six days of application.



A better option for slug control is **Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait**. The active ingredient is not metaldehyde but iron phosphate, which has extremely low mammalian toxicity (oral LD50 is > 5000 mg/kg). Iron phosphate actually occurs naturally in small amounts. Sluggo pellets are very rain fast, and when the product eventually breaks down, it leaves iron and phosphorus that can be taken up as nutrients by plants. Available as a very durable extruded pellet, Sluggo can even be mixed with fertilizer for top-dress applications that double as distribution of this slug control product. Slugs and snails attracted to Sluggo stop feeding immediately after



Put Power in Your Crop

Designed for superior uptake and availability, **TigerClaw** Liquid Fertilizers provide producers with the necessary tools to address plant nutritional needs based on physiology and peak nutrient demand.

TigerClaw products enhance crop quality and return on investment.

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ingesting the bait then die within 3 to 6 days. Sluggo can be applied at 22 to 44 lbs per acre, not in piles but in a broadcast format. Unlike metaldehyde slug products, Sluggo can be applied directly below and amongst the base of plants, right up to harvest and with no re-entry interval. Use the highest rate for severe infestations.

Helpful Tools

Check Out Our Web Site!

If you haven't been to www.tlhort.com for a while, take a moment and check it out! Want to find a label or a Material Safety Data Sheet? Just use the search function. Want to know about a specific product? Use the menu bar on the left side, or again, use the search function. To make life easier, you can choose your specialty on the right side, then save that page to favorites. Link to a supplier site for more information on a product. Choose a technical link to use a converter tool, or try the PMRA's new buffer zone reduction calculator. Even better, dive into our library of agri advisors and newsletters to access current or previous publications and articles.



Reminder

Crop Inputs at Top Shelf Feeds

If you have a vineyard in the Duncan area on Vancouver Island, you can order your crop inputs through Top Shelf Feeds Inc. Any fertilizer or pest control product can be ordered either by placing the order with the folks at Top Shelf, or by calling TerraLink at 1-800-661-4559. If you call TerraLink to place an order, make sure to specify delivery to Top Shelf. We'll ship to them and you can pick up your products there. Staff at Top Shelf can be contacted at 250-746-5101. They are located at 1895 Roberts Road in Duncan.

Crop inputs for viticulturists can be found at these locations:

On Vancouver Island:

Top Shelf Feeds
1895 Roberts Road, Duncan, V9L 3Y2
Tel: 250-746-5101, Fax: 250-746-6233
lori@topshelffeeds.ca

In the Fraser Valley:

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.
464 Riverside Road, Abbotsford, V2S 7M1
Toll Free: 1-800-661-4559
Tel: 604-864-9044, Fax: 604-864-8418
info@tlhort.com