



2010

LIVE Summer Newsletter

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New Board Members

We would like to take this time to welcome our three newest board members: Bill Hanson from Panther Creek Cellars, Chad Vargas from Adelsheim Vineyard and Vicky Scharlau from the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers who will be serving in an ex-officio capacity. We hope that our new board members enjoy their time with LIVE and that we both benefit from their involvement.

I would also like to take a moment to address how our board of directors is chosen. According to our bylaws, the LIVE board must consist of between five and nine directors at any one time. These directors are up for a vote every other year on a staggered basis. This year, four board positions came up for re-election. Betty O'Brien and Ted Casteel made the decision to retire from the board, leaving two open spots, and two re-elections. As a result of an anonymous membership vote at our annual meeting, two new board members were elected.

There were a few write-in votes that received a handful of votes, but not enough to effect the election. This leads me to explain how members are eligible to serve on the board.

Each new board member must meet the following criteria:

- 1) He/she must be a paying member or an authorized representative of a paying member (i.e. vineyard manager, winemaker, etc. of a paying member).
- 2) He/she must have shown interest in serving on the board
- 3) He/she must be willing to attend most, if not all board meetings throughout the course of the year, and participate on committees as appropriate.
- 4) He/she must be a member in good standing (all payments must be current).

Each year, at our January board meeting, an ad hoc nominating committee is created who afterwards convene and arrive at a slate of nominees. These nominees all share the above criteria. The committee then reports to the board in March, at which time a vote is taken to present this slate at the LIVE Annual Meeting. This slate is presented along with write-in spaces. Members may also nominate from the floor.

In the past, it was very difficult to secure nominees to serve on our board, as most people have obligations that precluded them from doing so. In the last two years, we have seen a shift to members vying for positions. We would like for the entire membership to know that anyone who meets the criteria above is welcome to contact LIVE to be considered for board nomination in 2011.

We hope for a continued success in securing knowledgeable and dedicated board members and hope that more members choose to run for nomination.



Spotted Winged Drosophila

LIVE and its technical committees are currently working on approved control strategies for the potentially damaging pest Spotted Winged Drosophila. This pest has not shown pervasive economic damage in winegrapes in Oregon or Washington, and is therefore not included on LIVE's "Key Pest" lists. A *Key Pest* is one that has been shown conclusively to be recurring and economically or ecologically damaging. Only *Key Pests* will have direct chemical controls included on the *LIVE Yellow List of Approved Pesticides*. Please reference the *LIVE Passport* for your growing region to view the Key Pest List.

Our methodology for confronting the potential threat of SWD will be the same as other similar **potential or unexpected** pest issues in the past. For instance, when voles first became a widespread problem a few years ago, LIVE did not include them on the Key Pest list. Each occurrence was quickly reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the technical committee and measures were drafted and published to address this pest.

We are currently working with OSU extension to adopt IPM procedures in the event that this pest becomes widespread. Currently you may follow Patty Skinkis' and Vaughn Walton's recommendations for monitoring and trapping to identify if you have the pest. Patty's email is pasted below.

Hello Oregon Winegrape Industry Members,

There has been a lot of concern lately about the Spotted Wing Drosophila and winegrape susceptibility to this pest. The best management recommendations at this point is vineyard monitoring for presence of the pest. Attached is a guide to making your own monitoring traps.

Below is a statement released by the Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University regarding this pest and timing and use of insecticides that MUST be considered. Please read this and share with appropriate personnel in your operation.

*Kind Regards,
Patty Skinkis*

Spotted Wing Drosophila Control Strategies – Update

The purpose of insecticide sprays applied against SWD is to protect the fruit that they attack during the period when it is susceptible to oviposition. For damage to occur the fruit needs to be in a susceptible stage and the flies need to be present. Please consult <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/> for the latest information about management and control recommendations in individual commodities.

The following statements apply in all cases.

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THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION WHATSOEVER FOR TREATING CROPS THAT DO NOT HAVE SUSCEPTIBLE FRUIT PRESENT.

Many Oregon commodities are weeks away from this susceptible stage at the moment, some even in the pre-flowering stage. None of these commodities should be treated against this pest until fruit are present.

SWD may be detectable in monitoring traps that are placed in orchards and farms before susceptible fruit are present, as is the case with many insect pests. It is certainly worth continuing to monitor, but there is no justification for treatment simply because flies are found. The flies are mobile, they may exhibit so-called marauding behavior where populations move between locations over time, and the factors that attract them to particular fields and farms now may be absent by the time fruit is at a susceptible stage.

The goal of spraying is not to suppress populations prior to fruit set and this will not be an economic or effective strategy for anyone to undertake. In order to have any impact at all on fly populations over the scale of Oregon counties, spray application would have to be on a massive scale and combined with a number of other practices. On individual farms and fields, sprays before susceptible fruit are present will be wasted and will only incur unnecessary costs and potential risks to operators, farm workers, the environment and for the onset of pest resistance.

Foliar sprays are to be applied ONLY to the target commodity that is written on the pesticide label. Unless explicitly permitted, spray application to the ground or surrounding vegetation is illegal and not permitted under any circumstances.

Finally, where susceptible fruit are present, and flies are detected in monitoring traps, there may be significant risks of damage to fruit and in that case, it is essential to be prepared and to follow the recommendations available from county extension offices, supported by up-to-date information on the SWD website:

<http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/>.

SWD pest release provided by:

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Short-Shoot Syndrome and Grape Rust Mite Controls

A few of our members have contacted us about strategies for controlling Short Shoot Syndrome and Grape Rust Mite. In OSU Extension's latest [newsletter](#), Dr. Patty Skinkis draws the following conclusion¹:

Short shoot syndrome has been a perennial problem in some areas of the Willamette Valley. The extent of the mite damage and the short shoot growth response is likely linked to other factors in addition to mite feeding, such as frost damage, apical dominance and cold weather. Other insect feeding such as thrips also coincides with mite feeding, particularly after bud-break. Other complex site-associated factors have also been explored to explain the extent of mite infestation and damage. The high use of sulfur is postulated to cause decreases in predatory mites while the lack of sulfur use in a largely systemic fungicide program may lead to rust mite population increases in some vineyards. The best advice to growers in preventing and managing rust mite damages include scouting young vineyards for presence in the first few years, monitoring symptomatic blocks for mite presence in-season (leaves) and in dormancy (cuttings), and using appropriate management methods.

All these efforts will better allow growers to assess the problem and assist researchers in identifying causal relationships. For more information and questions regarding mite-related research in Oregon, contact the vineyard mite research team:

Dr. Vaughn Walton, Horticultural Entomologist at OSU
(<mailto:waltonv@hort.oregonstate.edu>)
Dr. Amy Dreves, Entomology, OSU Crop & Soils
(amy.dreves@oregonstate.edu)

The two mite controls approved by LIVE remain Sulfur @ 5lbs/acre or Paraffinic Oil such as Stylet Oil[®], Pure Spray Green[®], or other light horticultural oils. Contact the LIVE Vineyard Certification Technical Committee for your region if you should have any specific questions about this (or any) pest.

¹ Skinkis, Patty. "Spring-time Short Shoots and Grape Rust Mites, a Continuing Saga." [OSU Wine and Grape Research and Extension Newsletter](#) May 2010: Page 4.

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Lecture Series and Upcoming Trainings and Events

Integrated Solutions for Sustainable Wine & Winegrape Production Presented by Oregon Vineyard Supply/Results Partners and WillaKenzie Estate will be featuring the following four lectures this summer:

June 10 | 1:30-2:30pm (as part of OSU Grape Day): Vineyard and Multi-Crop Farm Biodiversity Panel with Rick Hilton, Steve Renquist and Rebecca Sweet at Umpqua Community College.

June 17 | 8:30-11:00am: Strategies for Managing Soil Health and Vine Nutrition with Paul Anamosa, PhD at Northwest Viticulture Center

July 15 | 1:00-4:00pm: Winery Safety – Confined Spaces, Heavy Equipment, Noise Management and More with Oregon OSHA at Argyle Winery

August 12 | 9:00am-12:00pm: Vineyard Floor and Vigor Management Field Day with Patty Skinkis tentatively scheduled at REX HILL Vineyard.

All lectures can be registered for online at www.liveinc.org/lectures and qualify for continuing education bonus items on the applicable LIVE Checklist (vineyard or winery).

There will be two general training sessions in June. These will be held at the Northwest Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Road in Salem. The first will be from 1-3pm on Monday, June 14th and a second will be held from 9-11am on Monday, June 21th. Topics will include general Integrated Pest Management issues and website reporting training.

Last but not least, our 2010 winery standards will be released at a social event on June 15th from 1-4pm at REX HILL Winery, 30835 N Hwy 99W in Newberg. At this event you will be able to interact with other members who have gone through the winery certification process, meet prospective members, and ask questions of inspectors and the technical committee. Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share with friends.

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. Have a great summer (if it ever arrives)!

Chris Serra

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