President’s Message

Our annual vineyard tour and picnic arrives in less than three weeks, and we look forward to good attendance once again. Thursday, July 20, we will meet at 8am in the SOREC parking lot, so we can carpool to some nearby vineyards. The exact itinerary has not been set yet, but we will be joined by Alex Levin, Achala KC, and other specialists from OSU to look at the pressing issues in relevant vineyards. After the tour, we will meet back at SOREC where RVWA will host lunch for tour participants, so please let me know (kjohnpratt@gmail.com) if you plan to participate so I can plan enough food and drink. Later that afternoon, at 5pm, we will get together at Del Rio Vineyards for our annual barbecue dinner. OWA and OVS have given us generous sponsorships so we can offer dinner at a reasonable price ($10), but please let me know if you are attending.

Our June weather pattern, despite a minor cold/wet spell during boom, helped catch us up to a more normal phenological year. We seem to be 10-14 days behind last year, which puts us very similar to 2012, which was a very nice year. We will not have to worry about ultra-early ripening in August, which is a good thing. The totally full soil moisture profile has resulted in very vigorous shoot growth, and I have already hedged in most parts of my vineyard. Fruit set was very good here, and I am busy trying to get leaves pulled in the fruit zone.

We are very fortunate, after years of neglect due to lack of local researchers, to have a number of promising research projects started here in our area. Alex Levin has begun a trial, funded by the Oregon Wine Board, in the Applegate to look at the response of Pinot noir to various levels of water stress, and Alex and Achala are working together on a project, funded by the American Viticulture Foundation, to look at the response of red blotch infected vines to various irrigation treatments. These projects, and others pursued by our new team at SOREC, will surely increase our knowledge base and help us continue improving quality.

Mildew pressure has been light in my vineyard, and I hope it’s the same for you. With fewer arrows in our quiver now due to resistance, I hope we’re all careful about not overusing any of our available options. Looks like a string of warm but not too hot days on the horizon. I’ll post Greg Jones’ climate update on the website as soon as he delivers it. Paz--John

**Upcoming Events**

**RVWA Annual Vineyard Tour**

When: 8am-12noon, July 20

Where: Starting at SOREC, touring nearby

Cost: Free, but please RSVP if possible

Lunch will be provided after the tour in the SOREC Arboretum

**RVWA Annual Picnic**

When: 5-8pm, July 20

Where: Del Rio Vineyards

Cost: $10: RSVP by July 17

Please bring a bottle of wine to share

Grapes/Bulk Wine for Sale

2017 Pinot Noir Grapes:  20 tons of established grapes, hand harvested from a professionally managed vineyard (TYK Vineyard in the Applegate). Price does not include delivery.
3-TON MINIMUM – $1,900 per ton.  Contact:  Mark VonHolle via email: markv@golighthouse.com / 541-941-7892

2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Bulk Wine:  4,000 gallons, 14.2% alcohol, 3.59 pH, 7.4 g/L.  100% aged in oak barrels, including 20% in French oak.  Rich, full bodied Southern Oregon Cabernet Sauvignon. $10.50 per gallon.  Contact:  Mark VonHolle via email: markv@golighthouse.com / 541-941-7892

2017 Vermentino: 7 tons, $1,500/ton. 2017 Early Muscat: 1.5 tons, $1,500/ton. 2017 Barbera, 4 tons, $2,400/ton. Email kjohnpratt@gmail.com or call 541 535 1838. Will deliver.

10-11 tons of **Tempranillo** and about 3-4 tons of **Cabernet Sauvignon**.  Contact Chip Buxton at chip.buxton@gmail.com

Pearl Family Vineyards has 3 tons of **Viognier** (2017 harvest) available.  $1900/ton. Will deliver in the Rogue Valley. Contact pearl4675@aol.com

**Tempranillo**, 6 tons @$1900/ton Clone 1, clone 2, Duoro clone Salmon-Safe and LIVE certified, Applegate Valley AVA Viognier, 4 tons@$1900/ton ENTAV Clone 642 Salmon -Safe and LIVE certified, Applegate Valley AVA Recently awarded 93 points by the "Wine Spectator" Contact Ron: [541-621-3758](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?RogueValleyWinegrowe/01c4af553e/c85ed2a145/92bcc90d4e) steelheadrun@wildblue.net

**Naumes Fermentation Custom Crush**

**Are you in need of custom crush winemaking, cold storage for your winegrapes or wine lab services??  Naumes Crush is here for you!**

Naumes Crush is Southern Oregon’s newest, state-of-the-art custom crush winemaking facility.  Naumes Crush has plenty of capacity this coming season to vinify quality wines that your customers will love.  **Your grapes deserve the best- bring them to Naumes Crush and we’ll do the rest.** Be sure to visit [www.naumescf.com](http://www.naumescf.com) for more details, including testimonials from happy customers.

Naumes Crush has **extensive cold storage available for your grapes** this coming harvest.  If you need to pick but the winery isn’t ready, due to resources/labor, weather conditions, or any other reasons, cold storage can be an invaluable solution.  Process the fruit cold, at your convenience.  Consolidate multiple days of picking for a shipment.  Get it off the vines whether the winery is ready or not!  Reasonable rates.

Naumes Crush also offers comprehensive **laboratory services for analyzing your vineyard, juice, must and wine samples**.  Receive accurate results without the delay of shipping, at much lower costs than leading wine labs.

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To Hedge or Not to Hedge

From *The Coffee Shop Blog* of Stan Grant

Hedging is a summer pruning method involving the removal the distal or apical ends of shoots.  In some parts of the world hedging is called topping or tipping.  Like all pruning methods, hedging depresses vine growth vigor and capacity.   It does so by reducing the number of leaves and buds, which contain potential leaves.  Leaves, of course, function similar solar panels, converting solar energy into the chemical energy that drives vine growth and development.  Because of its effects, hedging may either be a useful vineyard management tool or an impediment to fruit production and quality depending on when and how it is used.  We will examine such uses in this article.

**When is hedging useful**?

It is useful in young vineyards during cordon establishment for enhancing uniformity among spur positions.

In the first step in cordon training a shoot originating a near the top of a trunk is tied to the cordon wire of the trellis.  Once the shoot is horizontal, the shoot tip looses its dominance over the lateral buds, which are located at each node of the shoot in the axil between petioles and main stem.  No longer held dormant by hormones produced in the shoot tip, lateral shoots emerge from the lateral buds to form future spur positions.  In this discussion, these lateral shoots, which emerged from buds on the primary stem, are called primary lateral shoots.

The primary lateral shoots to emerge first are on the portion of the new cordon nearest the trunk.  Having a head start, they quickly establish dominance, suppressing the emergence and growth of primary lateral shoots further from the trunk.  Left unimpeded, the early emerging lateral shoots will form stronger spur positions at the expense of those at the distal ends of cordon.

The dominance of early developing primary lateral shoots can be minimized by light hedging or tipping when they are eight to twelve inches long, removing only the shoot tip and the upper one to three nodes (Fig. 1).  It normally takes two to three weeks for secondary lateral shoots to emerge and grow from the buds below the hedging cut on the primary lateral shoots.  During this time, primary lateral shoots on the distal portion of the new cordon will continue to elongate, frequently reaching lengths similar to the hedged lateral shoots.  (This assumes appropriate irrigation and fertigation.)  By equalizing primary lateral shoot growth along the length of new cordons with hedging, you will have enhanced uniformity among future spur positions.

It is useful for mitigating shoot length variability in producing vineyards.

Variability in shoot length is common in established vineyards.  It occurs to some extent among shoots on individual vines, but marked differences in shoot length among vines within vineyards is normally a greater concern.  Variations in root zone characteristics, especially water holding capacity and fertility, are typically the basis for such variability.  Irregular fruit production and ripening are immediate concerns, while overcropping leading to vine decline are common long-term concerns associated with restricted vine growth within highly variable vineyards.

Hedging is key part of a method for promoting shoot length uniformity.  To this end, hedge canopies after fruit set if canopy development on normal growth vines is excessive (>20 leaves or nodes per shoot).  During such hedging, shorten only excessively long shoots to a length of around 18 to 20 nodes (Figs. 2-4).  To be successful, such hedging requires concurrent actions to improve root zone conditions in areas of lagging growth, such as modifying irrigation schedules for a continuous supply of moderate soil moisture and applying appropriate soil amendments and fertilizers.  Early cluster thinning to avoid crop stress and redirect internal vine resources toward shoot elongation may also be beneficial for equalizing shoot growth.

**When is hedging detrimental?**

 When it is used repeatedly and in place of other practices to control foliage growth and limit canopy size.

It is established fact – excessively large canopies and associated shading are detrimental fruit production, grape quality, and pest and disease management.  Usually, excessive vegetative growth is a symptom of inappropriate vineyard management or vineyard design.  Immoderate irrigations or nitrogen fertilization are common causes of too much foliage.  Severe dormant season pruning resulting in too few buds per vine is another promoter of extreme shoot growth.  Some vineyard designs restrict the number of buds per vine, inducing the same effect.  High-density plantings with closely spaced vines on fertile soils are classic examples. In these cases, hedging is viticulturally inefficient, causing the unprofitable loss of invested water, mineral nutrients, carbohydrates, and time.

When it is applied improperly.

The detrimental effects of hedging become acute when hedging is applied too early or too severely to producing vineyards.  Hedging any time before, during, or immediately following bloom will lower yields due to decreased fruit set.  Also, early hedging while soil moisture is abundant will promote lateral shoot growth leading to increased canopy density, increased bunch rot, decreased fruit quality, and possibly, second crop.  Severe hedging will delay ripening by reducing leaf area (Fig. 5).  Many times severe hedging also exposes unacclimated fruit to direct sunlight, increasing sunburn and berry shrivel.

**Conclusions**

Hedging, like all vineyard practices, has potential risks and benefits.  Both are controllable with properly set hedgers used at appropriate times.  Under most circumstances, hedging established vineyards late, light, and in conjunction with regulated deficit irrigation and balanced mineral nutrient management is best.