



Vine Lines

Stephen J. Vasquez, Viticulture Farm Advisor

December 2007 Issue

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- Census of Agriculture Gives Farmers a Voice in their Future
- Cultivar Focus: Cabernet Sauvignon
- USDA Drought Monitor
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Cultural Practices for Autumn King

Autumn King (US Plant Patent 16,284) is a late-season white seedless table grape developed by David Ramming and Ronald Tarailo of the USDA-ARS in Fresno, California. The cultivar, formerly known as C10, was released in 2006 and resulted from the cross of USDA selections A61-20 x B99-131. The parentage of Autumn King is complex and includes Agadia, Blackrose, Calmeria, Cardinal, Divizich Early, Italia, Maraville, Muscat Hamburg, Muscat of Alexandria, Perlette, Sultanina and Tafafihi Ahmur. The cultivar produces medium-sized (0.5 kg/1.1 lb.), conical to cylindrical-shaped clusters that are medium to well filled. The natural berry size of Autumn King is quite large and without gibberellin or girdling, berry weight can average 8-9

grams or more. Berries are cylindrical to ovoid in shape, and have medium to firm flesh and skin. The berries contain 2-3 aborted seeds which are inconspicuous when eaten and the flavor is described as sweet and neutral. Autumn King ripens mid-September to late-October, or about eight weeks after Thompson Seedless, and the appeal of Autumn King will certainly rest on its large natural berry size and late harvest.

Site Selection and Planting

Autumn King is moderate-to-highly vigorous when planted on its own roots. Rootstock selection should be based on site-specific soil pest or soil chemistry problems. Common rootstock choices for Autumn King have included Freedom and 1103-P, but rootstock effects on fruit

yield, quality and vine performance have not yet been evaluated. It is likely that grafting to these and other rootstocks common for table grape production in the San Joaquin Valley will increase vine vigor.

Training and Trellising Systems

Autumn King should be head-trained and cane-pruned for maximum productivity and fruit quality. Depending on vine vigor and trellis system, 5-8 canes that are 12 to 15 buds long are retained at pruning. Up to 4, 2-bud renewal spurs must be left to generate canes for the following year. Head trained, cane pruned Autumn King vines may be trellised to the standard California "T", but the open gable "Y" system is preferred.

(Continued on page 2)

2008 San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium Wednesday, January 9, 2007

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Pay with Visa or MasterCard at <http://ucanr.org/sjvgrapesymposium>

For more details visit our website at:

http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu/Viticulture/2008_San_Joaquin_Valley_Grape_Symposium.htm

Autumn King

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Productivity and Crop Load Management

Information on commercial production potential has yet to be established given its brief production history. However, experimental observation and data indicate that mature Autumn King will yield 700-800 10 kg (22 lb.) boxes per acre for head-trained, cane-pruned vines grown on a gable system. Initial cluster counts during the spring ranged from 50-80 per vine and crop load may need to be adjusted by thinning to about 40 clusters following berry set so as not to impede fruit growth. Due to its moderate cluster length, cluster tipping is not normally necessary.

Girdling and Gibberellic Acid

The natural berry size of Autumn King is very large (≈ 10

grams, 24 mm berry diameter, 29 mm berry length), possibly limiting the need for cultural inputs to increase berry size. The application of a girdle at berry set to increase berry size is not recommended, however a bloom-time girdle (70% bloom) may be necessary in areas where vines are extremely vigorous and poor berry set is observed. Gibberellic acid (GA) thinning sprays are generally not necessary due to the cultivars naturally loose architecture. Autumn King is extremely sensitive to applications of GA at berry set which have reduced return fruitfulness below acceptable levels and is not recommended at this time.

Canopy Management

Canopy management practices, including shoot thinning, sterile

(Continued on page 3)



Autumn King produces naturally large berries with a sweet neutral flavor.

USDA Drought Monitor

Drought is the leading hazard in economic losses each year in the United States. In the summer of 1999, a monitoring tool known as the Drought Monitor was developed to help assess U.S. drought conditions. The Drought Monitor is a collaborative effort between Federal and academic partners.

Produced on a weekly basis, the Drought Monitor is a synthesis of multiple indices, outlooks, and impacts depicted on a map and in narrative form.

The Drought Monitor is released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

In the spring of 2002, drought experts from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico met to discuss the development of a North American Drought Monitor. Issued monthly since March 2003, the North American Drought Monitor is based on the end-of-month U.S. Drought Monitor and input from scientists in Canada and Mexico. Major participants in the North American drought-monitoring effort include Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, the Meteorological Service of Canada, the National Meteorological Service of Mexico, and the entities involved with the production of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The current U.S. Drought Monitor can be accessed at:

<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Census of Agriculture Gives Farmers a Voice in their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come. That opportunity will come from their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agriculture data for every county in the nation, said Vic Tolomeo, director of the California field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Services.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else—information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in myriad ways," he said.

Policymakers factor census data when shaping farm policies and rural programs, he noted, while community planners use the information to target needed services in rural residents. The USDA uses the information to ensure that local service centers are staffed at appropriate levels. Companies and cooperatives also rely on census data to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers, he added.

"And farmers themselves can use census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," Tolomeo said.

NASS will mail out census forms on December 28 to collect data for 2007. Completed forms are due by February 4. Producers may return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they may fill out the census online.

U.S. law requires all those who receive a census report form to respond even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007. The Census of Agriculture defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agriculture products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

"Respondents are guaranteed by law that their information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals," Tolomeo said. The report cannot be used for taxation, investigation or regulation. The privacy of census records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

NASS will release census data, in both electronic and print formats, beginning in February 2009. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states, and the nations.

"We're committed to making this census the best count ever," Tolomeo said. "We want farmers and ranchers to know: The

Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility," he added.

Census of Agriculture data is available through the state NASS field offices, as well as many depository libraries, universities, and state government offices.

It is also available online at www.nass.usda.gov or www.agcensus.usda.gov.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture or any NASS survey, call the NASS California Field Office at (800) 851-1127, the Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Autumn King

(continued from page 2)

shoot removal, leaf removal around the clusters and summer pruning, should be performed as with Thompson Seedless and Princess. It is important to remove leaves in direct contact with clusters following fruit set in order to reduce the potential of berry surface bruising. However, care must be taken to avoid excessive and/or direct sunlight exposure of clusters that results in yellowing of the berry surface. In general, fruit should be well shaded until just before harvest. The fruit of Autumn King is harvested very late, making it susceptible to heavy rains and frost and may necessitate the use of plastic vine covers in northern table grape production areas.

Cultivar Focus: Cabernet Sauvignon

The fourth in a series of courses that focus on the viticulture of select wine grape cultivars will take place on Thursday, May 15, 2008. In this one day series of lectures to be held at UC Davis, Cabernet Sauvignon, renowned for its use in red winemaking worldwide will be examined. The origin of Cabernet Sauvignon, its importance, development, selection of clones; and the experience of growing and vinifying Cabernet Sauvignon will be shared. This lecture series on the premier cultivar, Cabernet Sauvignon, will lead to a greater understanding of its unique characteristics.

Presentations will be given by UC Davis faculty, UC farm advisors, experienced California growers and winemakers as well as a guest speaker from France, the home of Cabernet Sauvignon and the other Bordeaux cultivars.

Speakers and Topics

Dr. Phil Freese, owner of Vilefonté and consultant, will provide a global perspective on the role of climate and site on management of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Dr. Deborah Golino, director of Foundation Plant Services, UC Davis, will discuss the availability of Cabernet Sauvignon clones in the United States, efforts to preserve Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon as clean stock, and a new project to provide a greater diversity of clones in California. She will also share data on the effects of common grapevine viruses on the yield and quality of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Glenn McGourty, Mendocino

and Lake Counties UC Cooperative Extension viticulture advisor, will share both observations and wines from Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in these counties. He will also share data from a Lake County clonal trial established in the 1990's. Experiences from high elevation (>1000 feet) vineyards using advanced technologies that minimize inputs (sustainability) to produce high quality fruit will also be discussed.

Scott McLeod, Director of Winegrowing at Rubicon Estate in Rutherford, Napa Valley has extensive experience working with Cabernet Sauvignon. The estate boasts a long history with Cabernet Sauvignon and is now in the process of "rescuing" old clones from Rutherford. He will discuss the reason and process for preserving unique clones of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Dr. Christophe Sereno of ENTAV – ITV, will discuss the clonal development programs in France. France is noted for the meticulous development of clones by ENTAV and INRA and conducting rigorous research trials over the last half a century. Many of the most desirable Cabernet Sauvignon clones found in their trademark program will be discussed.

Michael Silacci, Winemaker, Opus One, will discuss the differences between old world winegrowing and new world winemaking, as demonstrated by the French-American joint venture at Opus One.

Charles Sullivan, a leading

expert on the history of California wine, will share information on the history of Cabernet Sauvignon. Mr. Sullivan has conducted extensive research on Bordeaux wines in the United States and Europe. He will share his knowledge on the cultivars history, his thoughts on the quality of the wines now being produced, observations on prices (grapes and bottle), geography and alcohol levels, and what the future holds for this remarkable grape.

Ed Weber, Napa County UC Cooperative Extension viticulture advisor will be pouring wines and discussing the effects of 'Hang Time' on Cabernet Sauvignon under Napa's growing conditions.

Dr. James Wolpert, UC Davis viticulture specialist, is the project leader for a extensive Cabernet Sauvignon clonal trial at the UC Oakville Station in Napa. He will share data on the trial which includes old California selections, the new Heritage Cabernets in the FPS program and clones from the French ENTAV-INRA program.

For additional information:

<http://calendar.ucanr.org/eventdisplay.cfm?calevent-num=28491&group=w5760>

Calendar of Events

Local Meetings and Events

San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium

January 9, 2008
 7:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
 C.P.D.E.S. Hall
 172 W. Jefferson Avenue
 Easton, California
 Register at: <http://ucanr.org/sjvgrapesymposium>
 (See insert for details)

U.C. Davis University Extension Meetings

(800) 752-0881

Managing the Small Vineyard I

February, 9, 2008
 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
 198 Young Hall, East Quad
 Davis, CA
 Instructor: Donna Hirschfelt and Ed Weber
 Section: 073VIT207

***Introduction to Sensory Evaluation of Wine**

February 23-24, 2008
 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
 Da Vinci Building, 1632 Da Vinci Ct.
 Davis, CA
 Instructor: John Buechsenstein
 Section: 072VIT202

***Introduction to Wine Analysis for Professional Winemakers and Winery Lab Workers**

March 8, 2008
 8:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
 123 Enology Building, California Avenue
 Davis, CA
 Instructor: Michael Ramsey
 Section: 073VIT204

Recent Advances in Viticulture and Enology

March 8, 2008
 8:30 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.
 Freeborn Hall, North Quad
 Davis, CA
 Instructor: Faculty
 Section: 072VIT201

*Participants must be 21 years of age or older to enroll and attend.

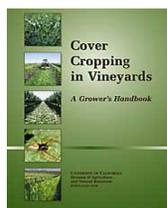
Publications from the University of California



Weeds of California and other Western States, 2007

ANR Publication 3488
 Price - \$100.00 + tax and shipping

This easy-to-use guide is the most comprehensive guide available on weeds in the Western United States. Package includes a CD of all of the photographs from the book.



Cover Cropping in Vineyards, 1998

ANR Publication 3338
 Price - \$20.00 + tax and shipping

This guide details technical and theoretical information on how cover crops affect vineyards and promote ecological stability.

Order Form

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Vine Lines

Produced by U. C. Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor Stephen J. Vasquez. Contact me for further article information, or to be added to the mailing list.

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Fresno, CA 93702
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Please Join Us
Wednesday,
January 9, 2008



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Grape Symposium

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

We proudly present our Keynote Speaker, Bill Coate, National Award Winning Historian and Author of *Twist in Time and History's Shocking Secrets*.



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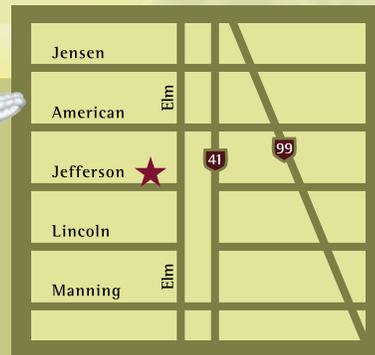
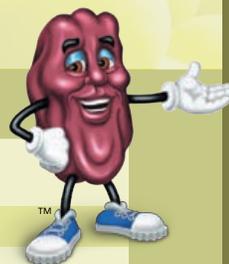
* Must pre-register for symposium and be present at time of drawing.

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San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008



Meeting Agenda

7:00am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
7:45	Morning Welcome
8:00	New Rootstocks for SJV Raisin Vineyards Peter Cousins, USDA-ARS - Geneva, NY
8:30	Irrigation Management for DOV Raisin Trellis Systems Larry Willams, UC Kearney Agricultural Center - Parlier, CA
9:00	Vine Mealybug Management Kent Daane, UC Kearney Agricultural Center - Parlier, CA
9:30	Break and Refreshments
10:00	Health and Nutrition Research Update Julie Jones, College of St. Catherine - St. Paul, MN
10:45	Marketing Activities Update
11:30	Nutritional Characteristics of New Raisin Cultivars Stephen Vasquez, UC Cooperative Extension - Fresno, CA
12:00pm	Lunch / Keynote Speaker - Bill Coate (Educator/Historian)
1:00	The Potential Use of Abscission Agents for Raisin Production Matthew Fidelibus, UC Kearney Agricultural Center - Parlier, CA
1:30	Prize Drawing

Location: C.P.D.E.S. Hall
172 W. Jefferson Avenue
Easton, California

From North of Fresno:

Take Highway 99 South to Highway 41 south. Take Highway 41 south to American Avenue. Turn west on American Avenue towards Elm Avenue. Turn south on Elm Avenue towards Jefferson Avenue. CPDES Hall will be on your right.

From South of Fresno:

Take Highway 99 south to Manning Avenue. Turn west on Manning Avenue to Elm Avenue. Turn north on Elm Avenue towards Jefferson Avenue. Turn west on Jefferson Avenue. CPDES Hall will be on your right.

Continuing education PCA and CCA hours have been requested.

Registration Form **San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium** Register online at <http://ucanr.org/sjvgrapesymposium>

Company:

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Address:

City: Zip:

Attendee Names:

Mail Payment and registration to:
San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium
1720 S. Maple Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702
559-456-7285

Make Checks Payable to: UC Regents
Late registration for Meeting/Proceedings Only:
\$20 per person



Fees: Registration and Payment Must be Received by December 31, 2007

Meeting/Proceedings and Lunch: _____ x \$10 each = \$_____

Check Number _____ Amount Enclosed \$_____