UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Summary – PCA Breakfast

Sonoma County
01. May. 2025

Topics for Discussion

1. Pre-Discussion – Events and Other Items
2. Early Season Pests
3. Early Season Invertebrates
4. Other Concerns
5. UC ANR Advisors and Resources

Other topics

1. a
2. b
3. c

7:30am – 7:40am = Introductions

7:40am – 9:00 am = Discussions

1. **Pre-Discussion**
    a. Upcoming Events
        i. May 15-16 – Small Vineyard Management II
            - Mostly for folks new to viticulture
            - Taught by 4 Vit Extension Advisors
        ii. May 16-18 – Pinot Fest (Anderson Valley)
            - Mark Battany
            - Main topic = Assessing AI and new vineyard technologies for usefulness and longevity in the marketplace
        iii. June 4 – Oakville Grape Day
            - UC Davis event
            - Main focus will be technology and regenerative agriculture practices
        iv. June 11 - Sharpshooter & Leafhopper ID for Seasonal Workers
        v. July 15th 8am-11am - Vertebrate Field Day
            1. Michel Schlumberger
                - 4155 Wine Creek Rd., Healdsburg, CA 95448
            2. Maximum of 60 Attendees
        vi. July 30 – Olive and Grape Field Day
            - Terra Savia/Olivino (Hopland, CA)
            - Includes tour of olive mill and winery
            - Field talks/demonstrations
        vii. August TBD – LAMP Assay (need location)
            - Likely will be at Santa Rosa JC

    b. Main Topics voted on
        i. Powdery Mildew
        ii. Vine Mealybug
        iii. Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper

2. Early Season Pests

a. Powdery Mildew

i. Minor populations prior to cold snap last week
    1. Pre April 14th ideal conditions
ii. Scouting in progress
iii. 2-3 weeks earlier than 2023
iv. Balancing costs vs benefits
v. Surveying
vi. Sprays
    1. Sulfur sprays require timing and cost analysis

b. Phomopsis and other fungal pathogens

i. Starting to see in nearby vegetation
ii. Moves with the shoot growth on larger vegetation
iii. Should be sent to Eskalen lab
iv. Symptoms were seen in both riparian areas (Oak and Vinca) and in nearby adjacent vineyards
v. Unsure if Phomopsis, Esca, or Eutypa

c. Pinot Leaf Curl

i. Not as much as recent years
ii. Seems to affect one variety or clone of pinot more than another
iii. Consistent cold weather prior and during budbreak seems to increase incidence
iv. More frost protection needed then maybe more Pinot Leaf Curl seen (colloquial observation)
v. Last time it was high impact was 2021-2023
    1. 2021 was little precipitation in winter
    2. 2021 was an early year
    3. 2023 was a good rain year
    4. Both years were cold springs

vi. It has to do with nitrate and ammonium, putrescene production
vii. Is there an impact of fertilizing post-harvest
    1. Not really seen in vineyards that either post-harvest fertilize or don't

d. Spring Fever

i. Post-harvest fertilizer can make this work
ii. Most commonly seen in coastal regions
iii. Suggestion: Sunlight might

3. Early Season Invertebrates

a. Blue-Green Sharpshooters

i. Seeing large numbers in some places
ii. Dry Creek ≈ 5/leaf in treated vineyards
iii. Russian River (non-flooded areas) ≈ 80/leaf
iv. Some areas are "hot spots" for BGSS
v. UCCE trapping
    1. 6th year of trapping
    2. Pattern emerging; not statistically identified yet
    3. Looking at Temperature:Precipitation in areas
    4. Haven't found any yet
    5. 3 week rotations on trap checking
vi. More hard freezes in winter will decrease overwintering rate of all overwintering invertebrates
    1. Sustained freezing temperatures are more effective at reducing both BGSS and *X. fastidiosa* populations
vii. Ground cover and litter also improves over winter survival rates
viii. Precipitation
    1. Supports alternative host plants of BGSS
ix. Relationships with low-managed vineyards

1. Not really a factor it seems (yet)
2. Most hot spots are near riparian areas

x. Pierce's Disease Resistant Cultivars
1. May be difficult to grow for sparkling
2. Caminante blanc might have lots of green notes if harvested too early

xi. Bacteriophage Inoculations for PD (XylPhi)
1. Inoculates bacteriophage into grapevines
2. Seems to work
3. But is costly and requires 2-3 treatments
- $3.50/vine
4. For high-precision corrective treatments
5. Probably can't treat whole vineyard
6. Akif Eskalan's study fell out
7. Vine can get reinfected

b. Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers

c. Vine Mealybug

4. Other Concerns

a. Dormant Bench Grafts and Trichoderma

i. Treat DBGs before planting to avoid fungal pathogens
1. Trichoderma/Bio-Tam used by some growers
2. Establish on the wounded root system

ii. Nurseries tend to use Ozonated water and Trichoderma to limit spore production

b. Overwintering

i. Insect behavior over winter
1. Some overwinter on ground litter
2. Some overwinter on nearby vegetation
3. Some do both

4. Some insects go through:
    - Dormancy
        i. True dormancy
        ii. Metabolism slows and feeding stops
    - Quiescence
        i. Sleep when cold; active when warm

c. Cane Pruned Vines

i. Budbreak and blind buds
    1. Blind buds more common this year
    2. Mostly in red varieties

5. UC ANR Resources

a. Clebson Gonçalves (Diversified Ag Advisor)

i. Mendocino and Lake Counties
ii. Background in Agricultural weed management
iii. Works in Olives and Pears (sometimes Grapes)
iv. goncalves@ucanr.edu

b. Other crops to replace grapevines

i. Ellie Andrews – Specialty Crops Advisor (Sonoma)
ii. Clebson Gonçalves – Diversified Ag Advisor