Guidance for grape growers

The new Organic Winegrowing Manual is the perfect tool for those looking to grow organic wine grapes and goes hand-in-hand with the pocket-size Vineyard Pest Identification and Monitoring Cards.

Organic wine is becoming increasingly popular — according to the Organic Trade Association, in 2010 organic wine sales in the United States topped $169 million. Complete with detailed information on production issues, economics, weed and disease management, and organic certification, the Organic Winegrowing Manual is essential to the aspiring organic wine grape grower.

The nifty Vineyard Pest Identification and Monitoring Cards are an important field reference for all vineyard managers. This colorful guide, which fits in your back pocket, provides a quick field reference to more than 29 common pests, eight diseases, six beneficial insects, and more.

Organic Winegrowing Manual, ANR Pub No 3511, 192 pp, $35
Vineyard Pest ID Cards, ANR Pub No 3532, 50 cards, $25

To order:
Call (800) 994-8849 or (510) 665-2195
or go to http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu or visit your local UC Cooperative Extension office

Longitudinal section of grapevine with implanted RFID microchip

Uses of microchips in plants include product traceback, breeding and certification

Billions of microchips have been sold globally since the 1940s. As microchips become smaller, more powerful and less expensive, this technology is finding its way into crop agriculture. Microchips will most likely be implanted in valuable woody perennials such as grapevines, and fruit and nut trees. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology — coupled with scanners and computer, mobile and Web applications — can provide an instant link between specific plants and databases on pest and disease management, agrochemical use, irrigation and other agronomic factors. In turn, this information can serve a range of uses, from sanitary certification and breeding to geographic positioning, regulatory compliance, risk management, thievery prevention and product traceback for food safety. In the next issue of California Agriculture journal, researchers review potential applications of electronic identification technology in agriculture and their practical implications for growers.