

# Summary – PCA Breakfast

Sonoma County

02. May. 2024

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## Topics for Discussion

### 1. Early Season Pests

- Mildews
- Leafhoppers
- Spider Mites
- Vine Mealybug
- Pierce's Disease
- Weeds
- Orange Tortrix

### 2. Grape Growing Conditions

3. Updates from the participants on pest issues and vine disorders observed.

4. Monitoring and best management practices including new and soft materials or conventional control options if needed.

5. Discuss timing of systemic insecticides targeting mealybugs for maximum uptake relative to cultural practices (leaf removal and shoot thinning) and soil texture.

## Other topics

1. Upcoming Events
2. Research Projects
3. c

**7:30am – 7:40am = Introductions**

**7:40am – 9:00 am = Discussions**

## **1. Pre-Discussion**

### a. Upcoming Events

- i. May 5 – 4H Chicken Que
- ii. May 17 – Pinot Fest
- iii. May 28 – Pear and Grape Day
- iv. June 5 – Oakville Grape Day
- v. June 12 – Soil Carbon Workshop
- vi. July 30 – North Coast Olive Field Day

### b. Research Projects

- i. Need vineyards in Sonoma with bird boxes already in the field; with weekly access to collect bird waste. For BG sharpshooter control via bird predation

## **2. Early Season Pests**

### a. Spotted Lanternfly

- i. Viable egg masses found on statue in Truckee by CDFA (Shipped from East Coast)
- ii. Statue still had egg masses on it when off-loaded in Petaluma
- iii. Verify that workers know what SLF looks like in all life stages
- iv. UCCE IPM can provide help with identification resources

## b. Cutworms

- i. Not an issue right now in Sonoma County
- ii. Spotty concerns
- iii. What could attribute to changes in cutworm populations
  1. No-till can decrease disturbance in the habitat of overwintering cutworms
  2. Are there products that used to be applied that may have provided some control?

## c. Leafhoppers

- i. 2% oils applied recently (May 2024)
- ii. Western grape application models are too late
- iii. Western grape LH need to feed on grapes before being able to lay eggs
- iv. VCLH can lay eggs on first, fully expanded leaves
- v. There is a need to build a VCLH specific model
- vi. Organic farming practices make it harder
- vii. Why would VCLH be more of a problem in Lake/Mendo?
  1. Evolutionary pressure in native ranges (VCLH from the Midwest)
  2. May be more active in colder conditions than WGLH (Colder in Lake than in Sonoma Co.)
  3. Time of activity during the daytime
  4. May be harder for WGLH to survive in colder areas

## d. Vine Mealybugs

- i. Better overwintering population in Carneros
- ii. Seeing all life stages under bark in Carneros
- iii. Last year (2023) had fewer overwintering VMB

1. Maybe due to more freezes in 2022-2023 winter
- iv. Control
  1. Suterra
    - a. Used to put tags up around fruit drop
    - b. Now, claims it is useable for a year
    - c. Will put them up earlier
    - d. Save money on flowable
    - e. Swapping old ones out (sometimes)
    - f. Does it really work all year?
    - g. Combine passes with wire drop
    - h. Can another product be cut out too?
      - i. Movento ; Platinum
  2. Pheremone Trapping
    - a. Good for identifying VMB
    - b. Can be good to see if products are effective
- v. Degree Day Model for VMB
  1. Lower limit = 16.6 °C
  2. Upper limit = 35.6 °C
  3. Biofix Date = 235 GDD (°C )
  4. What about winter variables (i.e., freezes)
  5. Other variables
    - a. Vine phenology
- vi. When to treat newly planted vines
  1. Treat via spray without cartons first
  2. Then treat through drip
  3. Maybe lower rate and do split applications
  4. Concentrate dose on root ball

5. Don't start until vine starts growing (same year as planted)

e. Caterpillars

- i. One BT spray at bloom can help
- ii. Start earlier with better coverage
- iii. Start with pre-bloom foliar with 3x applications
- iv. Two subspecies used
- v. Has to be timed right when feeding starts

f. Ants

- i. Indicator of Mealybugs
- ii. Baits
  1. Polyacrylamide or auger based
  2. Protein or sugar feeders
  3. Ant bait demonstration
    - a. May be too much work at the wrong time of the year
    - b. Need a simpler option than "cooking" a bait gel
  4. Development in the San Joaquin Valley
    - a. Also have Citrus Mealybug
  5. Timing
    - a. Bait after rains (rains destroy bait)
    - b. Stability of bait should be better
  6. Baiting stations
    - a. Dehydrate and then are no longer effective
    - b. Dilution would prevent ants from dying immediately and move the bait back to the colony first

- 7. Abamectin bait for ants
- 8. Platinum added to polyacrylamide
- iii. Organic production focus more on ant control
  - 1. Harder to control Mealybugs in organic
  - 2. Ant control helps control mealybugs
- iv. Ant Species
  - 1. Argentine ants – multiple queens
  - 2. Pavement ants – single queen (can destroy colony using baits)
  - 3. Odorous House ants – can be found in the field
  - 4. Majority of ants identified by UC IPM in Sonoma County are Pavement Ants
- v. Tillage
  - 1. No-till decreases ant colony disruption
- g. Blue Green Sharpshooters
  - i. Past month growers have trapped BGSS in West County and Westside Road

### **3. Growing Conditions**

- a. Budbreak
  - i. Earlier than last year by about a week
  - ii. Uniformity in budbreak of cane pruned vines is good this year
  - iii. More concerned about cane break in cabernet than in chardonnay (more dead positions in cab)
  - iv. More uniformity is needed in Cabernet for winemaking
- b. Fewer freezes in 2023-2024 than 2022-2023 winter
- c. Phytotoxicity reaction to spray oils

- i. May have to do with a brand (Vista Clear)
  - ii. Diluted to 1%
  - iii. Can grow out of it
  - iv. Occurred in cooler regions (may be impacted by frost)
  - v. Viscosity + urea (dormant oils)
- d. Bloom and set
  - i. Temperatures are too cool and forecast isn't looking good
  - ii. May be a long bloom period
  - iii. Longer bloom will increase variability in set and berry sizes

#### **4. Observed Pests Issues and Vine Disorders**

- a. Powdery Mildew
  - i. Wind is delaying treatments
  - ii. Treatments will start after wind subsides
- b. No concerns with vine nutrition

#### **5. BMPs for new and soft materials or conventional control**

- a. Sun Star (new Movento product)
  - i. Supposed to be registered for Grapes, but may not be yet
  - ii. There's a concern with Movento decreasing efficacy
  - iii. Any cases of documented field resistance?
  - iv. Application issues?
- b. Complexity of new mixes
  - i. More in the mixes, but lower concentrations of each
  - ii. Thresholds for everything

#### **6. Timing for insecticides**

- a. In other topics by pest