



December 2007

North Texas Vineyard News

Newsletter items:

- 1.....Dormant Opportunities?
- 2..... Show me the Money
- 3..... Extension events



Fran Pontasch

Viticulture Advisor – North TX, Region 2

(254) 968-4144

(254) 977-3641

fmpontasch@ag.tamu.edu

Dormancy Opportunities?

Simple scientific cold weather fact: plants go dormant while animals hibernate. And winegrape folks? We get neither, except for next week!

In our 2007 War with Fungi, advance against Black Rot was VERY successful throughout most of North Texas, Region 2. However, according to many sources including the viticulture team, Downy Mildew was nearly victorious. And the Hill Country reported battles with Bot Canker and Esca - both fungal pests attack woody tissue. Examine a cross-section of your suspect canes. Bot Canker damage is wedge-shaped,

while Esca damage is seen as darkened rings in the woody tissue. Phomopsis was also out in full force with its stem lesions (elliptical pits on canes) and leaf lesions. Take advantage of THEIR dormancy to examine wood for signs of 2007 infections that are in position to spread at first leaf, 2008. Know the enemy and stockpile with the correct chemical ammunition.

With right fungicide use, good pruning and training will help fight these pathogens. Proper pruning and training will improve air circulation, promote drying of foliage, and allow better spray penetration and coverage. Certain pathogens and insects will over winter in leaf litter, and others

will over winter in dormant wood and mummified clusters. Removal of all mummified clusters and old pruned wood is vital to a successful disease and pest control campaign.

American vines can be treated for Anthracnose using a dormant spray application of lime sulfur at 10lbs/acre. Lime sulfur, although foul, is effective against Anthracnose and helps fight back Phomopsis.

Dormancy is opportunity to catch up on information and links found on the Texas winegrapes website:

www.winegrapes.tamu.edu .

Consider ordering *Compendium of Grapevine Diseases*, if you haven't got it already, through UC-Davis bookstore, Amazon, etc. for around \$50. The bimonthly, *Practical Winery & Vineyard*, www.practicalwinery.com , is also very helpful.

Show Me the Money

Attached to this email is an article by Todd Staples, Agriculture Commissioner: "Financing Optimism and Opportunities" from *The Texas Independent Banker*.

According to Amy Lorange, TDA Rural & Agribusiness Specialist, TDA will soon begin its kick-off campaign for these loans. A good place to start is to make/ have/keep a good relationship with a banker and financial analyst.

The article by Todd Staples describes two TDA loan programs:

1. Young Farmer Loan Guarantee

This program provides financial assistance through loan guarantees to eligible applicants. Eligible applicants include:

- Ages 18-39
- Who plan to establish or enhance farm/ranch; or establish ag related business

The YFA program provides up to 90% guarantee, not to exceed \$250,000 and offers reduced interest rate.

Contact:

Allen Regehr, TDA Financial Analyst
allen.regehr@tda.state.tx.us

2. Linked Deposit Program

This TDA financing can facilitate commercial lending at below market rates to qualified applicants for eligible projects that include:

- Production of an alternative crop
- Processing and marketing of agricultural crops or livestock
- A business that is located in a U.S. Department of Agriculture- or Presidential-declared disaster area
- **Project using water conservation techniques or purchasing water conservation equipment**
- Business loan that will enhance or maintain rural economic development.

Contact:

Sage Chandrasoma
Sajeewa.Chandrasoma@tda.state.tx.us

The TDA website
<http://www.agr.state.tx>
has more information. Look for
“Building a Small Business Plan”.
This includes a business plan guide
and worksheets for plan preparation.

Extension Events

The following events are scheduled for
1st Quarter, 2008. Unless indicated
otherwise, these events are provided
free of charge. Please call or email
if you plan to attend.

Grapegrower/Winemaker Meeting with Mike Sipowicz

Feb. 4 , Tuesday, 1-4pm
Lightcatcher Winery
6925 Confederate Park Rd
Fort Worth, Texas

Following Mike’s presentation, we
will have a moderated question and
answer panel discussion. Submit
discussion topics to Mike or Fran.

Winter Vineyard Practices - For enrollees in the TTU Certificate Program, paid online to TTU.

Feb. 26 – Post Oak Vineyard, located
at: Lone Oak Winery
2116 FM 731
Burleson, 76028

Pruning Demo

Jan. 25, Friday 10:00 – 12:00
Tara Vineyard & Winery
8603 CR 3914
Athens, Henderson County
Followed by a short drive to:
Pine Plantation Vineyard
CR 4835
Athens, Henderson County

Pruning Demo

Feb. 29, Friday, 9am-noon
Brushy Creek Vineyard
572 CR 2798
Alvord, Wise County

Pruning Demo

Mar. 4, Tuesday, 9am-noon
Cedar Crest Vineyard
Old Airport Road
Dension, Grayson County

East Texas Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Conference, \$20:

Feb. 19 – Tyler, Smith County

Topics include:

- Disease and Pest Management
- Practical Differences of American
and French Winegrapes

Notice: This publication may contain pesticide
recommendations. Changes in pesticide
regulation occur constantly and human errors
are possible. Questions concerning the legality
and/or registration status for pesticide use
should be directed to the appropriate state
regulatory agency. Read the label before
applying any pesticide. The Texas A&M
Univ. System and its employees assume no
responsibility for the effectiveness or results of
any chemical pesticide usage. No
endorsements of products are made or
implied.

Extension programs serve people of
all ages regardless of socioeconomic level,
race, color, sex religion, disability or national
origin. The Texas A&M University System,
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the County
Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

