



In the Vineyard

DEDICATED TO THE SUCCESS OF ONTARIO'S GRAPE GROWERS

Curtis Fielding Named 2012 Grape King



Curtis Fielding—2012 Grape King

The Grape Growers of Ontario congratulate Curtis Fielding and his family of Beamsville on his selection as the 2012 Grape King.

After graduating from Georgian College, Curtis spent three years with winemakers in the Niagara area learning about the grape and wine industry before embarking on his own winery adventure.

At his winery, Curtis and his family have taken great care to be mindful of the environment, using as much natural light in the Wine Lodge as possible, utilizing a natural lagoon to treat wastewater, and recycling all leftover grape stems as mulch. Curtis is also starting the three-year process to have Fielding Estate Winery recognized as an organic winery. It was noted in the Grape King judging that Curtis's vineyard is "pristine."

The Grape Growers of Ontario thank Ed Hughes for serving as the 2011 Grape King and wish he and his family continued success.

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HOLD THE DATE: 2012 Cheque Day

2012 CHEQUE DAY IS SCHEDULED ON:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9 AM—2 PM

**GRAPE GROWERS OF ONTARIO BOARD OFFICE
1634 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2R 6P9**



Growing Forward 2

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Agriculture announced a five-year agreement on the Growing Forward 2 policy framework on September 14, 2012. The current Growing Forward programs end on March 31, 2013, so this announcement ensures that there will be no gap in programming.

Highlights of Growing Forward 2, non-Business Risk Management (non-BRM) initiatives include:

- 50% increase in cost-shared investments in strategic initiatives to stimulate innovation, competitiveness, and market development;
- Greater flexibility for provinces to tailor programs to local needs;
- Increased opportunity for provinces to invest in environmental initiatives and on-farm water infrastructure.

Changes to the Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, which help farmers manage risks from income declines beyond their control, are significant beginning in the 2013 program year:

AgriStability assists a grower experiencing large declines in income (margin):

- assistance will be provided once the producer's margin falls below 70% of their historical reference margin (reduced from 85%);
- The government payment will be calculated at 70% of the margin loss (removal of the tiered payments);
- Reference margins will be capped at the lower of the farm's historical reference margin or allowable expenses reported in previous years.

AgriInvest is a self-managed savings account with producer contributions matched by the government:

- Under the new agreement, producers can deposit up to 1.0% of Allowable Net Sales (ANS) annually (reduced from 1.5%), and receive matching government contributions;
- Limit on matching government contribution is \$15,000 (down from \$22,500);
- Producers will be able to contribute up to 100% of their ANS annually and up to 400% of ANS in total;
- AgriInvest accounts are held at a participating financial institution.

AgriInsurance (Production Insurance)

The Production Insurance programs have remained intact and will continue to be delivered by Agricorp.

AgriRecovery will continue to be available on a case-by-case basis to respond to natural disasters when assistance is needed beyond existing programs.

Advance Payments Program (APP) is a loan guarantee program that provides a cash advance based on the value of the agricultural products and secured by inventory and production insurance.

Governments will encourage the development of private sector risk management tools and will continue to monitor and review BRM programming over the term of the framework. Please visit www.agr.gc.ca for more information.

Hail the Grape Kings

Grape Kings celebrate the Grape Growers of Ontario's 65th Anniversary with a new float sponsored by Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, and donations by C. Frensch Ltd. The float was made possible with lots of elbow grease by H.A. Staff Ltd and Schenck Farms, and was designed by Kennedy Graphics.

To see more pictures of the float, Celebrity Luncheon, and 2012 Grape King installation, please visit the GGO Facebook page or website at:

www.grapegrowersofontario.com/eventphotos



Past Grape Kings in 2012 Niagara Grape and Wine Festival

Focus on the Grower: Wegman Family

As the Grape Growers of Ontario celebrates their 65th Anniversary, grape vines were discovered near Pelham, Ontario that were planted in their founding year.

In 1947, Henry Wegman's father planted a row and a half of Niagara grapes and another row and a half of Fredonia's. It was the same year the Grape Growers' Marketing Board (now Grape Growers of Ontario) was formed and empowered to negotiate the terms and conditions of the sale of grapes for processing and export, ensuring growers a unified, minimum, price for grapes regardless of processor.

Pelham grape grower, Henry Wegman, has witnessed a lot of changes in the industry over the last 65 years. He has seen markets come and go, but the farm his father bought in 1943 is still going. Henry started working on the farm when he was 10 years old, he says, along with his three brothers.

While Henry and his brothers tended to the one-acre farm during the day, their father was working in town to provide a living for the family. Like his father, Henry says he too wanted to be a farmer, but had to work during the day to feed his family.

With six kids to support, he worked at John Deere in Welland until his retirement. "It was my desire to farm, but when you've got six kids, you've got to provide for them so I went to the factory."

When Henry's father planted those three rows of Niagara's and Fredonia's in 1947, he was among a small group of pioneers. Other pioneers of that era were Rodger Whitty, Ronald Moyer, Roy Johnson, Roy Masterson and Bruce Lambert. That year, there were 15,000 acres of vineyards with only 36,000 tonnes of grapes harvested. Processing sales to wineries were just \$2 million with the government raking in another \$2 million. Prices for wine grapes were negotiated at \$95 a tonne, a level not reached again until the 1960s.

But while the Wegman's were among the pioneer grape growers, they've

never been able to grow grapes for wine because "the ground is too hard." Instead they've concentrated on grapes for juice, fresh market and now home winemakers.

Over the years, Henry has lived through "markets disappearing and new ones coming on." In the 1950s, he planted de Chaunac grapes but then that market disappeared and he planted Concords. The Concords are sold to National Grape in the U.S. Later still, he pulled out the Fredonia's. "When we pulled out the Fredonia, we pulled out of the market."

There used to be a fair number of



Henry Wegman with vines planted in 1947

growers in Pelham, but many of them have disappeared over the years as well. Despite the challenges, Henry says he enjoyed farming. "I always had the desire to farm, to be out in the warm air. And it was good for awhile," he says. "I like the fresh air. Get out there first thing in the morning. The birds are singing."

Other grape growers have witnessed many of the same changes Henry has. In the 1950s, the demand for dessert wines flattened at the same time as there was a growth in table wines. In the mid 1970s, consumer tastes swung from red wines to white wines, catching Ontario's grape growers unprepared, as they'd been concentrating on the red wine varieties. The 1980s saw an explosive growth in supplies of the grapes for table wines. While just 38% of winery buying was French hybrids and viniferas, by 1989,

the supply had risen to 90%. Then came the Free Trade Agreement in the mid 1980s, which saw 8,578 acres of vineyards disappear within six years. More than 5 million vines were affected; 94% were varieties grown for wines. As well, Labruscas would no longer be used for table wines.

Next came the expansion of winery stores after the Ontario government approved both Sunday openings and credit card sales at Ontario Winery Retail stores. Almost overnight, the popularity of winery stores soared. In 1995, the average price per tonne broke through the \$600 ceiling, at \$614. In 2007, Cadbury Schweppes Beverages, who owned the plant built by Ontario Grape Growers' Co-operative in 1948, closed. "Everything is changing all the time, just like everything else, I guess," Henry says.

The years of working full time while also running a farm took their toll on Henry's health, he admits. "I'm paying for it now. You can't burn the candle at both ends so to speak."

But family history repeated itself. Like Henry's brothers, five of his six kids decided to pursue other lines, except for his son Stephen. Stephen took over running the farm in 1993. And like his father, he worked at John Deere during the day until it closed in 2009, his father says, before moving to a fencing company. He still works full time and tends to the now 10-acre farm.

Henry says Stephen planted the additional acres in the last two years. Stephen has local buyers plus a roadside stand in addition to selling to home winemakers. And while Henry says he can't imagine his son being able to make a living strictly from farming—"you can't make a living (at it) unless you're big now-a-days"—he believes that as long as there are customers for their grapes, "I imagine he'll keep (at it)."

But one thing has remained constant: those Niagara's Stephen's grandfather planted 65 years ago.



Crop Insurance/OVIP Grower Meetings

The Grape Growers of Ontario will be holding grower meetings in all districts to present changes to Crop Insurance and the Ontario Vineyard Improvement Program. To register for a meeting, please contact Nick Lemieux at 905-688-0990 ext 228 or nlemieux@grapegrowersofontario.com.

- Niagara— November 19, 1 pm, Bethany Community Church, St. Catharines
- Southwest—November 20, 1 pm, Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery, Harrow
- Prince Edward County—November 22, 1 pm, Huff Estates Winery, Bloomfield

Classified

-full listings are found at <http://www.grapegrowersofontario.com/buy-or-sell>

For Sale	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydraulic press with stainless steel case and wooden cage and 2 carts. \$4500.00 	Marco	416-417-1737 or 416-751-4891
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Ft Pipe on Pipe, Chiller/Heater, 6 pipes, 4 inch openings • Hyster Tow Motor, 6000 lb lift, pneumatic tires with turntable, gas \$5800.00 • Used 2 yr old. 225 L French Oak Barrels (red) \$225.00 		289-214-3300
1999 Massey Ferguson 384GE – Vineyard Tractor 755 hours, 3.9L 4 Cyl. Perkins Turbo Diesel, 65 HP Independent Rear PTO, 540/1000 RPM PTO, Dual Rear Remotes, 12 Forward/12 Reverse Speeds, Loaded Rear Tires, ALO Quicke 710 Loader with Down Pressure, Always Stored Inside. \$21,000	Bill	905-651-0357
Wanted	Contact	Telephone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grapes for distilling 	Dave	416-580-4967
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used 1 tonne insulated grape bins 	Eva/Abdul	905-397 7568 or 289-407-5270

To place an ad (including job postings), please contact

Gillian McWilliams at 905-688-0990 x224 or gillian@grapegrowersofontario.com

Grapes for Sale?

Please call Nick Lemieux at 905-688-0990 x228

GGO Services

- Grape Pricing & Promotion
- Grape Research
- Grape Inspection
- Government & Industry Relations
- Government Lobbying
- Government Policies & Regulations
- Farm Labour Legislation & Program
- Chemical Registration
- Nutrient Management
- Crop Insurance Requirements
- Business Risk Management
- Weather INnovations Incorporated (WIN)

2nd CANADIAN MINOR USE LABEL EXPANSION GRANTED FOR BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG ON SEVERAL CROPS

J. Chaput, OMAFRA, Minor Use Coordinator, Guelph

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced the approval of the 2nd Canadian minor use label expansion for brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) for **CLUTCH™ 50 WDG insecticide (clothianidin)** for suppression of BMSB on pome fruit, stone fruit and grapes in Canada. CLUTCH™ was already labeled for management of a variety of insect pests on several crops in Canada.

This minor use submission for BMSB was sponsored in 2011 by the minor use office of OMAFRA in response to the urgent threat posed to agriculture by this new invasive pest and minor use priorities identified by producers and extension personnel in Canada.

BMSB has a very wide host range (over 300 known plant species) including many important agricultural crops such as tree fruit, berries, vegetables, corn, cereal grains, ornamentals and many others. Damage from BMSB has been extensive in many areas of the U.S. in recent years and crop losses have been severe.

Management of BMSB is very difficult and a significant research effort is underway to determine the best combination of integrated management strategies. Although the use of insecticides such as Clutch™ can help to reduce BMSB populations and damage in some crops, the longer term approach will require a robust combination of pest management strategies. For more information about BMSB visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/insects/bmsb-resources.html>.

The following is provided as an abbreviated, general outline only. Users should consult the complete label before using Clutch™ insecticide for BMSB.

Crop(s)	Rate (g/ha)	No. apps / year	PHI (days)
Pome fruit	210 - 420	2	7
Stone fruit	210 - 420	2	7
Grapes	210	2	1

Clutch™ insecticide should be used in an integrated pest management program and in rotation with other management strategies. Follow all other precautions and directions for use on the Clutch™ insecticide label.

We wish to acknowledge the personnel of **Valent Canada Inc.** for their support of this registration and the personnel of the **Pest Management Regulatory Agency** for evaluating and approving this important pest management tool.

For copies of the new supplemental label, contact Hannah Fraser, OMAFRA, Vineland (905) 562-1674, Jim Chaput, OMAFRA, Guelph (519) 826-3539 or visit the Valent Canada website at www.valent.ca.

Grapes worth celebrating

PURE PROTECTION LEADS TO PURE PERFECTION



PureSpray™ GREEN Spray Oil 13E. Protection at its purest - CAS# 8042-47-5

Introducing PureSpray GREEN Spray Oil 13E, from the largest producer of white oils. It's proof that not all spray oils are created equal. It is an innovative isoparaffin oil that offers the highest purity levels on the market with CAS# 8042-47-5. This means it's formulated with 99.9% pure isoparaffin base oils and is guaranteed to be free of aromatics, which harm the food chain. And since it's suitable for organic production, both organic and traditional growers can benefit from its many strengths.

PureSpray GREEN Spray Oil 13E effectively protects your high value grape crop by quickly controlling pests and disease, and providing extended protection within your IPM program. All without any

resistance, phytotoxicity or burning issues, when used as directed. So use it early to avoid the need for traditional toxic chemicals later.

As many pesticides are being delisted, your choices are limited and becoming more so every day. So when you have a choice to make, be sure to choose the purest - PureSpray GREEN Spray Oil 13E. It's an effective choice with unlimited possibilities. For more product information visit www.purespraygreen.com/grapes.

