

Grape Crop Alert Report August 14, 2009

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This is the Grape Crop Alert for August 14 sponsored by the Grape Growers of Ontario prepared by Kevin Ker and Ryan Brewster of KCMS Applied Research and Consulting Inc.

Japanese Beetle: We expect activity to decline very soon. Adult beetles feed on susceptible plants, usually on the foliage of low growing plants such as grapes, raspberries, shrubs and trees (ornamental and fruit trees). In Canada, Imidan is labelled for use on all tree fruit and grapes for Japanese beetle. **SEVIN XLR is not registered for use for control of Japanese Beetle on tree fruit or grapes in Canada.**

PHI RESTRICTIONS FOR GRAPES – We are now entering a time when growers should be contacting processors/buyers with respect to final pesticide applications. Some processors have a 30 day PHI regardless of the materials being used. Contact your processor to determine if they have any special restrictions.

With all of the frequent rains, we are seeing downy mildew, powdery mildew and black rot on leaves and fruit throughout the Niagara region.

At most locations we are at the bunch closure stage for most vinifera cultivars with some veraison noted in labrusca and hybrid cultivars. Black rot lesions and active mildew sporulation from downy and powdery mildew have been documented by the scouts in many monitored blocks. Recent weather conditions are perfect for further infections by mildews. Be aware of which products are capable of controlling each of these diseases.

More powdery mildew infections (fruit and leaf) have been observed this past week all across the peninsula. We are observing the majority of the infections in Chardonnay, Riesling and Vidal. A few undetected fruit infections by powdery mildew can appear and spread very fast. Maintain protectant intervals of 7-10 days to ensure newly developed tissues are protected.

Product selection for downy and powdery mildew should be based on protectant products until the end of the summer: While these products won't eliminate the existing infections, they will at least protect uninfected tissues and possibly kill off spores on the surface so that there will be fewer infections. Remember, Dikar has a 30 day PHI.

Powdery mildew can produce yellowish lesions that might be mistaken for downy mildew. The difference between these two can be detected using a hand lens or magnifying glass. Make sure you know what you're spraying for as most products are specific to one disease or the other!

Where obvious Powdery Mildew symptoms are observed you may wish to use the product MilStop to eradicate the infection. MilStop is a bicarbonate fungicide that will kill off powdery mildew on the surface of leaves and fruit and **should only be used post-infection and not as a protectant**. This formulation contains a sticker-spreader but is still susceptible to wash off and should be reapplied 5-7 days later if rain occurs. **Do not** include oil as a spreader-sticker as it will increase the potential for burning. Keep in mind that adding bicarbonates to water will raise the pH. This can significantly reduce the activity of other pesticides that are tank mixed with bicarbonates. **Therefore, bicarbonates are best applied alone.**

If **downy mildew** has been observed in your blocks we are recommending to not extend your spray intervals past 7 days (even shorter if significant rainfall is experienced) and to rely on protectant materials. If active sporulation is present, you are now able to apply eradication measures.

Botrytis sporulation has already been documented in many monitored blocks. Check your blocks regularly to determine if botrytis is present. If sporulation is observed, apply a botrytis specific material immediately. We do not recommend the use of Rovral any later than bunch closure because of concerns regarding residues (LCBO standards) in the finished product and the manufacturer of Scala does not recommend using this product any later than early veraison. Scala and Vanguard are from the same chemical family and should not be used in consecutive sprays. This spray should be made specifically to the fruiting zone and not directed at the entire canopy. It is critical to get good coverage on both sides of the clusters so be sure to use adequate water volumes to deliver the material to this target area. For resistance management (and cost) each botrytis specific product should never be used more than once per season.

Recent regional trap captures have remained very low and THERE IS NO NEED any additional specific sprays for GBM at this time.

Very good GBM control has been seen in most vineyards that have practiced good canopy management and have followed the spray timings outlined in previous reports. Taking advantage of the unique mode of action displayed by the newer products like Altacor and Delegate have also proven to be well worth the cost of the product. Mating disruption has too been effective in the lower pressure areas. We will be continuing to monitor GBM flight patterns throughout September at select locations and we will notify growers if there is a need for additional insecticide applications targeting GBM.

Leafhoppers continue to be active in some grape blocks. Some stippling and leaf cupping has been picked up by scouts throughout the canopy. These are site specific pests and the need to spray will depend on vine age, vine health and amount of injury observed. Remember that Guthion/Sniper has a 28 day REI and PHI.

We are continuing to monitor for the development of mites (ERM). Some vineyard blocks are exhibiting low to moderate levels of ERM with associated leaf bronzing while other block are experiencing very little activity. Threshold levels are reached once damage can be easily seen more than half way up the canopy (in a VSP system) with more than 5 mites per leaf sampled from the mid canopy zone.