

## **Grape Crop Alert Report October 16, 2009**

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This is the Grape Crop Alert for October 16 sponsored by the Grape Growers of Ontario prepared by Kevin Ker and Ryan Brewster of KCMS Applied Research and Consulting Inc.

### **GRAPES**

**MALB UPDATE** - KCMS is monitoring select vineyards across the Niagara growing region for the presence of lady beetles as part of a project funded by the Ontario Grape and Wine Research Committee. We are examining 12 vineyards twice a week throughout the harvest period targeting the earliest ripening cultivar still to be harvested at each location.

MALB presence in monitored vineyards has decreased this week. Recent sub zero overnight temperatures have reduced the risk levels for MALB problems in local vineyards. However, these observations are site specific and each block should be monitored very closely before making the decision NOT to spray. Many harvested loads have been rejected this year for the presence of MALB and with the winery thresholds set very low, growers must be diligent in making sure MALB is not present come harvest time. For vineyards located in historically high pressure locations, we are continuing to recommend preventative sprays. Remember that Ripcord has a 7 day PHI. Malathion is also labelled for MALB control and has a 3 day PHI however there is potential for re-infestation after 3 days from application with this product. Only use Malathion if you cannot meet the 7 day PHI associated with Ripcord.

With the cooler temperatures, it is highly unlikely that botrytis or mildew will be a problem at this time.