

Grape Crop Alert Report September 18, 2009

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This is the Grape Crop Alert for September 18 sponsored by the Grape Growers of Ontario prepared by Kevin Ker and Ryan Brewster of KCMS Applied Research and Consulting Inc.

. **MALB UPDATE** - KCMS has begun 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 targeting early ripening cultivars first. The majority of the species observed so far have been identified as MALB. In our monitored vineyards, we have already identified higher MALB numbers this season than we recorded for the entire 2008 harvest season.

MALB numbers have been highest in vineyards where weed growth is still continuing. These growing weeds have attracted aphids that the beetles are feeding on during the day. With cool morning or evening temperatures, we have observed beetles congregating within clusters, however, very few beetles have been observed within clusters during the mid-day hours where they have been mostly seen on foliage or in the understory. Be sure to monitor early ripening blocks closely and apply a control material if beetle presence is observed as wineries have a very low tolerance for beetle presence in harvested bins. 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

*****GBM WARNING - GBM UPDATE** - We are continuing to monitor some grape berry moth traps located at higher pressure locations. Trap numbers from these locations were very low this week indicating that there is no need to apply a general insecticide targeting GBM at this time. Remember to routinely check border areas and historical pressure locations for the presence of GBM. Apply an insecticide immediately if larval presence is observed.

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

Product selection for downy and powdery mildew should be based on protectant products until the end of the summer. With the recent stretch of dry weather, application intervals can be extended to 10-14 days as long as you are free from active mildew. These protectant products include; **Copper, Captan/Maestro or Folpan for downy mildew and Sulphur/Kumulus for powdery mildew.** Be aware that we are now likely within the PHI on EBDC

Downy mildew has been observed in the upper canopy in many blocks. If you have a high percentage of leaves infected, we are recommending to not extending your spray intervals past 10 days (even shorter if significant rainfall is experienced).

Some latent **powdery mildew** infections have recently been observed on fruit clusters and foliage with the majority of observed on Chardonnay.

Check your blocks regularly to determine if botrytis is present. If sporulation is observed, apply a botrytis specific material immediately. Remember that 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.

Continue 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 bronzing or mite activity. Envidor, Pyramite and Acramite are all labelled for ERM control in grapes. Be aware that Acramite and Envidor have a 14 day PHI and Pyramite/Nexter has a 25 day PHI.