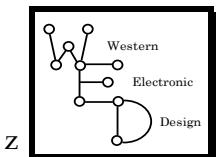




GrowCare Clare

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This message was posted on **Friday 7th January 2011** at 8 pm.
It will be updated as necessary for best management of downy mildew.

2010/11 Volume 1 Issue 6

Downy Mildew Infection Alert - Rain Events Monday

10th to Wednesday 12th January:

- **The Bureau of Met** is forecasting significant rain falls from next Monday to Wednesday next week. This is apart from a little rain forecast over the coming weekend and from the less certain forecast of another rain event late next week.
- **The rain events** this Monday evening to Tuesday morning and again Tuesday evening to Wednesday morning are likely to favour the development of downy mildew secondary infection (and perhaps primary infection).
- **Given the large** number of oilspots present in many vineyards, it seems likely that if these remain untreated, the forecast conditions will trigger spread of downy at this time. The risk to crops is not so much to the bunches - because the berries from pea-size onward, have acquired a high level of resistance to downy mildew. But the risk is to the spread of downy in the foliage. The oilspots present in many vineyards are reasonably large and many in number. If the conditions early next week favour spread, there is risk of defoliation if new generation oilspots are allowed to develop too far.
- **One action**, is to apply a protectant fungicide such as a copper or mancozeb before the rains next week. If this is to be considered, take note that a 30 day withholding period applies for both products. Also note that the harvest date this year is delayed by about 2 weeks compared to last season.
- **Alternatively**, many vineyards have been sprayed late last year with an effective post-infection fungicide such as Ridomil or a similar metalaxyl-based product. This will have either killed or reduced the disease potential from existing oilspots. This means that: 1) the oilspots may have been killed or reduced in number; 2) that surviving oilspots are likely to produce less spores; and 3) that any spores produced may well be reduced in their viability. In other words, the oilspots have less capacity to spread downy in the coming rains. In this case, it may be OK to wait until after the rain events and assess the risk of downy spreading and then either:
 - Apply a post-infection spray as soon as possible after this rain (if you can source any!?)
 - Apply a pre-infection spray (if withholding periods allow), as soon as possible before the next subsequent rain event (if any).

Powdery Mildew

- **In a number of** vineyards, unwanted levels of powdery mildew are likely to be appearing. It is most often found early in the New Year, inside the canopies out of sight from a walk past the vines.
- **Powdery is more easily** seen as the bunches develop and stand out in contrast with the canopies. Typically, powdery is more evident at this time, but if so, it has been progressing slowly and surely since early season!
- **It pays to have** a close look inside the canopy now for both mildews. If disease is found, if necessary, trim the vines back to allow free flow of air through the canopy and penetration of fungicide sprays.
- **If powdery is present** in your vines, apply a registered spray as soon as possible and if necessary, use slower than usual ground speed and higher rates of water to maximise spray coverage.
- **Before spraying**, remember to check withholding periods with your winery

Botrytis and Other Bunch Rots

- **Wet conditions this** harvest would lead to significant crop loss, especially this season, given the relatively high levels of inoculum that has developed to date.
- **Also monitor the** bunches for bunch rots, especially after the rains next week

For specific information on the mildews and other diseases of grapes and weather and rainfall forecasts, radar images etc, go to www.GrowCare.com.au. This site remains under development but has some useful information.

This message has been prepared by
Clare Region Grape Growers Association,
Magarey Plant Pathology, and
Western Electronic Design.

**GrowCare Clare will be updated
as soon as possible
after the next rain event.**