



# Nebraska VineLines

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## University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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### MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FIELD DAY AT FOX RUN VINEYARDS NEAR BRAINARD, NEBRASKA: CHUCK FRANCIS TALK ADDED

Another reason to not miss this exciting field day is the addition of world renowned agricultural ecologist, Professor Charles Francis to the program. Chuck will present “Sustainable Agriculture Becoming Mainstream”, a topic that will include comments on education in **organic** farming, current research in practices and systems, and political momentum toward more efficient systems. (See full information about Field Day at the end of this issue.)

### PLEASE PREREGISTER FOR FIELD DAY, PLEASE

We realized we forgot to ask attendees to preregister for the May 11<sup>th</sup> Field Day. Although preregistration is not required, we would appreciate hearing from you if you are planning to come. To make preparations easier, we would like to have at least an estimate of attendance by Thursday, May 9. Just drop a note to [dnolan2@unl.edu](mailto:dnolan2@unl.edu). Thank you for your help.

### WHAT A CRAZY SPRING! AFTER LAST YEAR, IT'S CLEAR THAT “NORMAL” ISN'T NORMAL!

I have been asked several times in the last few days, what will this weather do to the grapes? Unfortunately, I have to give the answer that my students don't like to hear, “It all depends”. Depends on what?

- 1) What stage were the buds at?
- 2) What cultivar(s)?
- 3) How cold did it get in the vineyard?
- 4) What part of the vineyard?

- 5) How long did the cold persist?
- 6) Were any protective measures taken?
- 7) In what part of the state?

All of the above and other aspects of the geophysical environment will determine the impact of recent cold temperature events. Because cultivars vary in their relative time of budbreak, some will be more or less vulnerable to cold temperatures than others. If buds were still in the tight bud stage (Eichorn-Lorenz Stage 1 or 2), it is unlikely that buds will be damaged, while buds at later stages (E-L Stage 4, green tip, for example) damage may be severe. In addition, some cultivars fruit better than others on shoots from secondary buds if their primary buds were killed. For example, LaCrosse and Marechal Foch fruit well on secondaries, whereas Edelweiss seldom produces well on shoots from secondary buds. Another potentially unforeseen problem may result from excess sap in the trunks or cordons, causing splitting if the cold temperature was extremely cold or persisted for a long period of time. Vines in low-lying parts of the vineyard will also be more likely to exhibit damage symptoms than those on higher ground. It also has been our experience that as a rule, vineyards in central and western parts of Nebraska usually lag behind in their phenology (stage of development), which could be the proverbial “blessing in disguise”!

Vineyard operators are encouraged to share their observations with the UNVP staff (call Paul at 402-472-136 or email [pread@unl.edu](mailto:pread@unl.edu) or [sgamet@unl.edu](mailto:sgamet@unl.edu)) to up-date us on any damage observed. This information will be useful as we evaluate this crazy season's impact

and share the information in future Nebraska VineLines communications.

### BE A GOOD SCOUT AND BE PREPARED!

As this unseasonable spring draws to a close, it is highly likely that shoot growth will take place in rapid fashion, necessitating scouting for climbing cutworm and grape flea beetle populations. Both of these insects love to chew on newly opening grape buds and can reduce your potential yield significantly, especially if you have reduced your bud numbers by pruning to a projected yield target. Consult the 2013 [Midwest Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide](#) for control recommendations.

ALSO, according to expert plant pathologists Wayne Wilcox (Cornell University) and Mike Ellis (Ohio State University and a former speaker at our Forum and workshops), spraying for Phomopsis should be considered for shoots at approximately the 3-inch stage, especially if a lot of rain is experienced as the shoots are beginning to grow. In addition, if the weather warms up rapidly, the shoots will also grow rapidly, which will mean close attention must be paid to timing of pre-bloom and post bloom sprays for the mildews and Black Rot. Dr. Ellis considers the pre and post-bloom sprays the most critical for fungal disease control. He has published an excellent fact sheet

entitled "[A Description of Currently Available Fungicides for Grape Diseases](#)" and as noted above, the Midwest Spray Guide can also be consulted. Of course, **always follow label directions**, since "the label is the law".

Good luck as you work with this challenging season in the vineyard and the winery. HAPPY VINTAGE 2013!

**SECOND EDITION AVAILABLE:** [Grape Pest Management](#) Click on the link to go to site for purchase.

**AN INTERESTING ARTICLE FROM TEXAS A&M:** [Phosphorous Acid Products for Controlling Downy Mildew of Grapes, Fritz Westover](#)

### CORNELL NAMES TWO NEW GRAPES

These two announcements will be sent separately naming two new grapes. Watch for the two announcements in the next posting. Editor's note: 'Aromella' is a grape that has been around for some time, usually designated as NY 76, while 'Arandell' is from Professor Bruce Reisch's "no-spray" program. For further comments on these new grapes, get in touch with Paul Read or Steve Gamet.

## MAY 11, 2013 FIELD DAY – DON'T MISS IT!

Where? Fox Run Vineyards and Makovicka Winery, near Brainard, Nebraska

When? Saturday, May 11, 2013 - 9:30 a. m. to 3:00pm

Cost? \$10.00 per person, includes lunch and hand-outs

**Why should you attend?** Exciting topics that you may have asked about or need to know answers to include **Ground Covers** (in-row and between-row), **Mulches** and alternative weed management strategies, **Weed Identification and Control**, **Canopy Management**, **Vine Balance** and **Crop Estimation** to name a few critical issues to be addressed by UNL Viticulture and Weed Management specialists.

**Christina Bavougian**, PhD candidate will discuss her unique experiments employing crushed glass and distillers dried grains as mulches, in addition to her in-row and alleyway cover crop studies – Christina has some really interesting results! University of Nebraska Viticulture Program experts, Professor of Viticulture **Paul Read** and Viticulture Technician **Steve Gamet** will discuss canopy management, vine balance, late pruning and crop estimation and answer your other vineyard management questions, including disease and insect prevention and management.

**Ever wondered what that weed was?** Have you wanted to know how to control it and other weeds in the most effective and efficient manner? Answers to these and other weed management questions will be provided by UNL's weed specialist, **Lowell Sandell**. Lowell will also conduct a weed survey in and adjacent to the vineyard, identify any mystery weeds that you may bring and provide insights and examples related to weed management strategies for your vineyard.

As mentioned above, lunch will be provided as part of the Field Day. In addition, the **Makovicka family** has invited attendees to visit their nearby winery, one of Nebraska's newest, to see their specially designed tasting room and sample some of their wines. Who knows? You might just wind up buying a bottle or two! We appreciate the Makovicka family helping us complete this exciting and educational day by hosting Field Day participants.

Of special note is the generosity of the **Bailey family**, both for providing a location for Christina's PhD research studies and allowing us to hold this Field Day at their vineyard. We also appreciate the chance to observe their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) enterprise. We appreciate their hospitality.

**Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the program will begin at approximately 9:30.**

**Directions to Fox Run Vineyard:**

The farm's address is 124 North Cleveland Street, Brainard, Nebraska 68626, about 43 miles (50 minutes) from Lincoln.

From Lincoln, take US 34W (I-180) north and then west out of town (7.9 miles).

Turn right onto NE-79N (NW 56<sup>th</sup> Street), following signs for Raymond/Valparaiso (22.7 miles).

Turn left onto NE-92W/County Road K (9.0 miles).

Turn left onto State Highway 12F Spur, following signs for Brainard (1.5 miles; becomes Cleveland Street).

Fox Run Farms is on the right.



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