



# Nebraska VineLines

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln | EXTENSION

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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## **OH, THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL, BUT THE FIRE IS SO DELIGHTFUL, SO SINCE WE’VE NO PLACE TO GO, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!**

Well, the words of this popular wintery song may seem instructive and staying inside is probably going to be the mantra of the next several days, and of course if the snow is deep you can’t follow the old adage of the best management practice is the grower’s footprints in the vineyard. However, if you haven’t already done so, this is a good time to take stock of your vineyard’s (or winery’s) current status and your plans for the coming growing season. Is equipment in good repair? Have you finalized your plant order for a new planting or replacement plants? Have you lined up necessary labor? Already ordered or received fungicides and other chemical needs?

**Is this going to be another “test winter”?** With the current low temperatures and those to come, how will our “cold hardy” cultivars handle them? Which ones will survive, and more importantly which ones will produce a crop in the 2024 growing season? Of course only time will tell. I have high hopes for relatively new ones such as Itasca, Petite Pearl, Clarion and Aravelle. How will they stack up with old standbys, the Frontenacs, Edelweiss, Lacrosse, Brianna, Msrquette and La Crescent? One bright spot is the snow. Snow is a good insulator, so root damage will be minimal

if you have several inches of snow in your vineyard. Even though it may be tempting to start cutting a few buds (if you can get into the vineyard), I suggest that we wait a few weeks to see how well our vines and buds have survived this cold temperature onslaught. Hopefully they hardened up well with the gradually cooling temperatures in the fall and early winter and we’ll see good results come spring.

**Attend Educational Events.** This time of year is a good time to attend conferences (see those listed in the calendar at the end of this Nebraska VineLines). They can be a great opportunity to learn from your grape growing and winemaking colleagues, both local and national. It’s also a time to consider reading or re-reading books and other publications on viticulture and winemaking. Since you can’t be doing much with growing your vineyard, you can grow your knowledge base, grow your mind!

As I said, we’ll have to just wait and see, since there isn’t much that can be done with regard to temperatures and snowfall. We know that Mother Nature is in charge, but we can plan for a successful growing and winemaking season as winter progresses with spring just around the corner. Best wishes from your University of Nebraska Viticulture Program team for a successful 2024 vintage year. Cheers!

### **A request for information**

The following is a timely request from colleagues Watrelot (Iowa State) and Hickey

(PSU). Please give strong consideration to completing their survey:

With a team of research and extension faculty members in viticulture, enology and marketing, we have been working on a questionnaire that seeks to identify needs across the grape and wine industry in the United States. This is the first step in our USDA SCRI Research and Extension planning project entitled “Enhancing regional grape and wine production and quality”.

The primary goal is to engage industry stakeholders to identify the primary concerns and issues impacting the industry. We are seeking feedback in (1) viticulture, (2) enology, and (3) winery business management.

This questionnaire is voluntary and data will be aggregated. Your responses will be confidential and no identifiable information

will be collected or linked to your responses. The link below will take you to a 5 - 30 min questionnaire.

[https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b966INTYx57Y4Wa](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b966INTYx57Y4Wa)

Results will be used to assist the research team in providing the industry with new outreach (Extension) resources and information.

The questionnaire closing date and time will be **March 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 by 5pm Central Time.**

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Aude Watrelot at [watrelot@iastate.edu](mailto:watrelot@iastate.edu) or Dr. Cain Hickey at [viticulture@psu.edu](mailto:viticulture@psu.edu).

Thank you for your willingness to participate!

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#### Items for your Calendar:

**February 19, 2024**, NWGGA Annual Meeting, Graduate Hotel, Lincoln, NE, Contact Alyssa Brodersen at [alyssa@nebraskawines.org](mailto:alyssa@nebraskawines.org) for more information.

**February 19-20, 2024**, Ohio Grape + Wine Conference, Embassy suites Columbus/Dublin, Ohio. Contact Christy Eckstein for further information, Phone: 614-381-0412 Fax: 614-466-7754 [christy.eckstein@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:christy.eckstein@agri.ohio.gov).

**March 12-14, 2024** Eastern Winery Exposition, , Oncenter, Syracuse, NY , information about registration <https://easternwineryexposition.com/registration-2024/>

**May 17-18, 2024**, TOAST Nebraska, Stinson Park, Omaha, NE



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