



Nebraska VineLines

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University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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CELEBRATE: A GREAT NEBRASKA VINTAGE, WRAPPING UP, AND PLANNING FOR 2025

Although the 2024 growing and winemaking season had its challenges, overall it was a great year for Nebraska wines, with numerous awards that should indeed be celebrated! I listed some of these award-winning wines in an earlier Nebraska VineLines, and several were available for tasting at the Holiday TOAST event, so I won't repeat them here. However, I encourage you and friends and family to celebrate the season by buying Nebraska wines to enrich your gift-giving list. They are great and make impressive additions to holiday festivities and meals.

Under the heading of "wrapping up", I encourage you to consider a few of the following notes with regard to post-harvest vineyard management:

- Vineyard hygiene/clean-up will be necessary. Do not leave diseased clusters hanging on the vines or to accumulate under the vines. They can serve as inoculum for future disease problems.
 - Be sure to clean up and destroy all prunings that might also serve as hosts for insects and inoculum for future disease outbreaks.
 - Use appropriate fungicides to combat serious infections. Diseased leaves still hanging on the vines and those that have fallen can also be sources of inoculum for Black Rot, Downy Mildew and Phomopsis. It may seem late, but if foliar diseases were a post-harvest problem, it is worth considering.
 - In dry soils it may be necessary to irrigate (especially in western Nebraska vineyards and vineyards with well-drained sandy soils). Fertilizer applications should have ceased well before harvest, although if tissue analyses have indicated micronutrient deficiencies, sprays of these elements could

have been beneficial if applied to healthy vines. (Remember nitrogen applications late in the season can cause soft growth, so such applications should not have been undertaken after harvest.)

- For new plantings that may have been protected with gro-tubes or other vine shelters, these protective devices should have been removed shortly after harvest, if not already removed.
- If you have planted vines that are borderline for your location such as viniferas, 'Traminette', 'Norton', Chambourcin' or 'Seyval Blanc', you may wish to consider mounding soil around the base of the vines, usually around 15 to 18" in depth. Be sure to cover the graft union for grafted vines (viniferas). Our research has demonstrated that soil mounding is effective in providing winter protection, especially for viniferas such as 'Gewurztraminer'.
- If you plan to start a new planting or expand existing plantings, be sure to get your order in to the nursery of choice (see lists in our University of Nebraska Viticulture Program viticulture website (<https://viticulture.unl.edu>). Some cultivars, especially newer ones such as 'Clarion' and 'Itasca' may sell out fast.

CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE! Celebrate the successful 2024 vintage, Celebrate the Holiday Season, and Celebrate loved ones and each other. We in the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program wish you and yours a most happy and blessed Holiday Season and a great year in 2025! Paul, Steve, Ben and Diane

One big item for your Calendar:

The Eastern Winery Exposition+Conference returns to Lancaster, PA, March 25-27. With [47 Speakers](#), [44 Workshop and Conference sessions](#), including a full Marketing track from the [License to Steal®](#) wine marketing conference, a [trade show](#) with 200+ exhibiting companies, tastings, networking and social events, EWE is where you need to be in March.

Registration is open. The [full program](#) is now available on the [EWE website](#). Take a look and start your planning now for a jam-packed week in late March. Bookmark the [registration link](#) now and be sure to secure your spot early.

Hotel room blocks is open. Choose from [accommodations](#) at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square and the Cork Factory Hotel. Special EWE rates are available.



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