



# Nebraska VineLines

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln | EXTENSION

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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## SPRING IS A “MIXED BAG” YET AGAIN!

Reports from some growers suggest that 2016 is going to be a wonderful vintage, others predict a total bust! The former growers' vines escaped significant winter or spring injury, while for a few growers the vines were variously impacted by late spring cold temperature events (frosts, freezes) and/or devastating hailstorms. For those of you who escaped the aforementioned problems, we have reason to be optimistic and can anticipate an excellent crop. Condolences to those that suffered serious bud damage and best wishes for good productive secondary bud growth. Our sympathies go to many growers in neighboring states, especially North Dakota and Minnesota, whose vineyards experienced much colder temperatures over the past weekend than were observed in most Nebraska vineyards. It is important for owners of such vineyards to use good management practices, including protecting vines from disease pressures so that the vines will grow well and prepare for next year's crop.

Most eastern Nebraska vines have well-developed shoots with several leaves unfolded and the flower clusters visible (approximately E-L Stage 12), so now it is approaching time to be especially vigilant with regard to insects and diseases. The young shoots are still susceptible to Flea Beetles (“steely beetles”) and Climbing Cutworms can still cause some damage. If you have been inspecting your vines carefully while pruning (you should, of course) and discovered holes in old canes, cordons or trunks caused by the Apple Twig Borer (= Grape Cane Borer) you may need to consider spraying for

this bothersome insect (see article on our web site <http://viticulture.unl.edu> for guidelines). As is often the case, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”, so complete vineyard hygiene, including destruction of damaged canes, removal of prunings and cleaning up/removal of nearby potential hosts such as wild grapes, crabapples, cottonwoods and other scrub trees that may be a source of overwintering borers should be on your “to-do” list. Furthermore, removal of prunings and last year's clusters that weren't harvested will also contribute to vineyard hygiene, reducing the sources of inoculum for several of the disease problems that afflict grapevines, especially Black Rot, Phomopsis and the mildews. Application of fungicides in the pre-bloom to post-bloom periods is regarded by plant pathology professionals as the most critical timing for effective disease control.

## TWO IMPORTANT FIELD DAYS JUST AHEAD

**June 11 Field Day at the Smutko Vineyard, near Blair, Nebraska.** Bill tells us that last year was his best crop ever and that his vineyard is on track to match or exceed the 2016 vintage. This field day will focus on vineyard management issues, including some of the practices that Bill attributes to the success experienced in 2015. We will look at trellis and training systems; discuss crop estimation and adjustment; review shoot positioning and shoot thinning; explore fertilizers, nutrition and tissue testing; in addition to other timely topics related to vineyard management. It is anticipated that we will also have a discussion on grower/winery relations to encourage dialogue and cooperation for the mutual benefit of the grape and wine industry. As Bill says, “The growers need

the wineries and the wineries need the growers, so collaboration is essential.”

The fee for this informative and educational Field Day will be \$20, which includes lunch and any hand-outs. To help with lunch plans it will be appreciated that potential participants pre-register by email or phone by June 9 to Paul Read ([pread@unl.edu](mailto:pread@unl.edu), Tel: 402-472-5136) or Steve Gamet ([sgamet@unl.edu](mailto:sgamet@unl.edu)). The agenda for the June 11 Field Day is as follows:

Registration - 9:00 am

Program begins in the vineyard at 9:30 am

11:30am to 1pm – networking lunch - eat, wander through the vines, discuss with colleagues

1:00 to 2:00pm - Grower/Winery Relationships Discussion

2:00 to 3:30 – Continue program in the vineyards

**Location** Smutko Vineyards near Blair, Nebraska

From Omaha, take Nebraska 133 north, from the Interstate 680 interchange it will be 11 miles north to Rd 32, turn east, go approximately 1 mile, North side of road.

From Blair it is 5 miles south on Nebraska 133 to Rd 32, turn east, go approximately 1 mile, North side of road.

Address: 10750 Road 31, Blair, NE.

More details on program specifics will be posted on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program Web Site <http://viticulture.unl.edu>

**Mechanization and More – Old Cellar Vineyards, Arapahoe, Nebraska, July 16, 2016.**

Gary Thompson, owner of Old Cellar Vineyards, has a great deal of information and hands-on experience to share with those who attend this exciting Field Day. Machine harvest, other mechanization approaches and Gary’s successful experiences with “ozogation”, (use of ozone technologies for pest management in the vineyard)

will be highlights of the July 16 Field Day. Old Cellar Vineyards is a beautifully managed vineyard, a “must-see” venue. More details will follow in subsequent Nebraska VineLines and on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program web site, so save the date!

**Save the Date: Fall Workshop Date Set, November 5, 2016 in Lincoln, Nebraska.**

More details will follow and be posted on the UNVP web site.

**Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry, Two-Day Workshop in Iowa, June 15-16**

Clark Smith of Napa Valley College, UC Davis extension, and CSU Fresno brings his two-day workshop on the Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry, to the Ames, Iowa campus of Iowa State University. For further information:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/wine>

**The Science Behind the Craft, A Workshop for Craft Brewers coming to Innovation Campus in July**

The demand for craft beer is rapidly growing. Craft breweries and local brew pubs are popping up in every community. Whether you are a seasoned brewer or just getting started this workshop will help you understand the science of beer production so you can improve the beer you are producing or create new offerings. This workshop combines theory from industry experts and University of Nebraska faculty, along with laboratory exercises and of course, beer tasting! More information is available at:

[fpc.unl.edu/science-behind-the-craft](http://fpc.unl.edu/science-behind-the-craft).

## Reminder Calendar:

**June 11, 2016** Field Day at Smutko Vineyard near Blair, Nebraska. 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**June 15-16** Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry with Clark Smith, ISU, Ames, IA. Further info:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/wine>

**July 16, 2016** Field Day: Mechanization and More – Old Cellar Vineyards, Arapahoe, Nebraska

**July 25, 2016** The Science Behind the Craft, A Workshop for Craft Brewers, Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE. Information at [fpc.unl.edu/science-behind-the-craft](http://fpc.unl.edu/science-behind-the-craft). Register at:

<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1835381>

**November 5, 2016** Fall Workshop, Lincoln, Nebraska

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