



# Nebraska VineLines

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln® EXTENSION

**University of Nebraska Viticulture Program**

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## **SPRING HAS SPRUNG OR HAS IT?**

As we approach the time for lots of activity in the vineyard, the ups and downs of temperature and precipitation impact our daily vineyard chores and remind us that we are not totally in charge, Mother Nature is! However, there are many aspects that are within our control, including delaying pruning as late as we can. Although bud swell and early bud break are occurring with some early bud-break cultivars (Marquette and Edelweiss to name a couple), delayed and/or long pruning can help with preparations for a good crop.

Depending upon your location in the state, early bud-break may not be a problem, but we're not "out of the woods" yet, with frost and freeze probabilities still quite high, depending upon location. We often see bud break and early shoot development occurring in the southeastern part of the state, while buds are still in their tight bud stages in central and western Nebraska. So this means that we don't have a "one-size fits all" philosophy when it comes to vine management in relation to potential spring frost/freeze damage management. Cultivars that we consider to be the hardiest (the Frontenacs, for example) can be pruned at this time, but delaying pruning of more sensitive cultivars such as Edelweiss may be a good management practice. These cultivars should perhaps be long pruned leaving six to eight buds, planning to come

back later and remove the distal buds which will have broken first, ending with the desired two or three basal buds still intact for production purposes. As noted by UC-Davis plant pathologist Kendra Baumgartner, later pruning reduces the time of wound susceptibility to trunk diseases from several weeks to only a matter of a few days.

Loss of the primary buds to winter injury is more serious in cultivars such as Edelweiss, because it is less fruitful on secondary buds than is the case for Marechal Foch and the Frontenac cultivars. Newer cultivars such as the Frontenac group, Petite Pearl and Itasca exhibit the features of later bud break together with excellent cold-hardiness.

## **Disease Management**

As bud break approaches, diligence in combatting early season diseases such as Phomopsis, Black Rot and Downy Mildew may be early season concerns. In addition, Crown Gall may be a problem if sensitive cultivars were damaged by winter cold, since it tends to be especially invasive of winter damaged tissues near the soil line. Follow the recommendations of the Midwest Spray Guide made available by the NWGGA recently.

## MIDSUMMER FIELD DAY SITE SELECTED

The University of Nebraska Viticultural Program (UNVP) has reached an agreement for its mid-summer field day to be held at the Homestead Prairie vineyard of the Henry Prokop family near Crete Nebraska in July (date to be determined). Growers and winery professionals will be invited to participate and assist the UNVP in providing this educational

program. Details of topics and the potential for this to be an in-person field day are currently being explored and will be announced in the Nebraska VineLines and the UNVP web site <https://viticulture.unl.edu>.

Watch the Nebraska VineLines and the UNVP web site <https://viticulture.unl.edu> for details and date to be announced.

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### Reminder Calendar:

**May 5, 2021** - 2021 Cold Climate Grape Grower Webinar Sprayer Tank Mixing - Jason Deveau, a.k.a. "The Spray Guy" [z.umn.edu/Sprayer2](https://z.umn.edu/Sprayer2)

**May 14 and 15, 2021** NWGGA's Toast Nebraska Wine Festival at Stinson Part at Aksarben Village. Use Code: **HUSKERWINE** for \$10 off your ticket! [www.toastwinefest.com](http://www.toastwinefest.com) for more info.

**May 19, 2021** - 2021 Cold Climate Grape Grower Webinar Bud break – Focus topics: Weeds, disease, planning your bird control strategy. [z.umn.edu/Bud21](https://z.umn.edu/Bud21)

**June 2, 2021** - 2021 Cold Climate Grape Grower Webinar Bloom – Focus topic: Japanese beetles. [z.umn.edu/Bloom21](https://z.umn.edu/Bloom21)

**July 7, 2021** - 2021 Cold Climate Grape Grower Webinar Mid-season – Focus topic TBD. [z.umn.edu/Canopy21](https://z.umn.edu/Canopy21)

**August 4, 2021** - 2021 Cold Climate Grape Grower Webinar Pre-harvest – Focus topic TBD. [z.umn.edu/Brix21](https://z.umn.edu/Brix21)



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