



WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

<http://pawinegrape.com/>

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Long Island: I was on Long Island again for Alice's Ag Forum meeting, which featured Dr. Wayne Wilcox (Cornell) and Dr. Wendy McFadden-Smith (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), two of our best grape pathologists who talked about botrytis and sour rot. With the smell of VA still fresh from 2011, it is necessary to seek strategies to avoid the late season rot problems that troubled so many vineyards. Dr. Tim Martinson, state viticulture extension coordinator at Cornell gave a terrific presentation on work he is doing on the affects of nitrogen on yeast assimilable nitrogen and fermentation quality, and severity of botrytis. Much of this material will be presented at the Finger Lakes grower convention and Wine Industry Workshop in March. My NOTES from their talks, as well as a day of vineyard visits hosted by Alice and Libby, a visit to Shinn Estate Vineyard, and conversations about sustainable viticulture should be interesting to any wine growers in the Northeast who suffered through Irene and Lee.

A **New Grape Grower Workshop** will be held on Friday, March 9th from 8 AM to 5 PM as part of the new Eastern Winery Exposition (EWE) at the Lancaster Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Lancaster, PA. This workshop is intended as a one-day, intensive overview of what is needed to start a commercial wine vineyard in the Eastern U.S. Topics include: grape varieties, clones, and rootstocks, marketing wine grapes, vineyard economics, site selection and preparation, vineyard design and development, equipment and supplies, training and trellising, plant materials, new vine cultivation including disease, weed and pest management. It is an ideal course for anyone considering starting a vineyard or someone who has a new vineyard. Instructors are Dr. Joe Fiola (Univ of Md), Mark Chien, Dr. Noemi Halbrendt, and Dr. John Halbrendt (Penn State). Click [HERE](#) for registration materials, [full program](#) and [course information](#). Cost is \$125/person. Participants will receive a 15% discount towards your EWE registration.

Pruning workshops in PA: The 1/21 pruning workshop at Naylor Wine Cellars was postponed due to lousy weather. The new date is Saturday, 18 February from 9AM to NOON. A second workshop will be

at Blair Vineyard in Kutztown (Berks) on Wednesday, 8 February from 9AM to NOON. Click [HERE](#) for information and registration for either workshop.

Registration and Information is available for the many other meetings in Pennsylvania and around the region, mostly on the organizer's website:

- Wine grape section of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey on Wednesday, February 1
- PA Winery Association in Lancaster on March 6
- Eastern Winery Exposition in Lancaster from March 6-8

The [2012 Viticulture and Enology Regional Events Calendar](#) is getting new listings almost every day. Please check it regularly for events of interest to you.

News: The Pennsylvania Wine Marketing and Research Program referendum was successfully passed so the program will continue for another five years. PWMRP uses a producer charge to fund research, education and marketing projects, largely done by Penn State and PWA. The fund is not large, but it is very carefully and thoughtfully allocated by a board consisting of producers, Karl Zimmerman from Shade Mountain Vineyards is the current chairperson. Our industry must thank the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and in particular its Director of Marketing Lela Reichart and her assistant, Jennifer Leshner, for their outstanding administrative support of the program. PWMRP funds support the enology and viticulture extension programs, the PA wineries brochure, the economic impact studies, and many lower profile projects and programs that help keep the wine industry moving forward.

The ***2012 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes*** is now available!! This is the bible for integrated pest management in vineyards and includes vital information about pesticides registered for use in NY and PA vineyards, disease, weed and insect management, sprayer calibration, safety measures, and much more. This important manual is updated each year by a team of Cornell and Penn State extension educators and researchers, led by Tim Weigle, NY grape IPM coordinator. The manual can be ordered from <https://psep.cce.cornell.edu/store/guidelines> or by calling 607-255-07282.

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