



University of California Cooperative Extension:
El Dorado and Amador Counties



FOOTHILL VINEYARD NEWS- POWDERY MILDEW BULLETIN

*A newsletter produced for foothill wine grape growers and the grape industry by your local
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OOPS! I have some mildew. Now what??

This season's weather (spring rains=large canopy + cool summer= mildew conditions) has meant some of you have encountered more powdery mildew than in previous seasons. Now that we have veraison, should you be worried? I called Dr. Doug Gubler, UC Cooperative Extension Plant Pathologist, and asked him what a grower should consider IF he/she finds mildew at this stage of the season. Here is what Doug had to say:

- Powdery mildew lesions continue to sporulate for 28 days after the lesion first forms.
- No new infections develop on berries once veraison occurs, except on the rachis which is not a big deal for wine grapes.
- 3% or more mildew can result in off flavors in wine.
- At this time of the year, with cooler temps. and shorter day lengths, the mildew mycelium on berries switches into "survival mode" and becomes thick and rough which is (obviously) undesirable.
- If a grower has 3% or more mildew at veraison, they should either prune those bunches out or consider putting on a treatment.
- Eradicant treatments may consist of either JMS Stylet Oil or Kaligreen.
- JMS Stylet Oil can be applied at 0.5 -2%; a 0.5% oil treatment should not result in phytotoxicity, even if temperatures exceed 90°F. (Oil can produce phytotoxicity at higher concentrations with high temperatures.)
- Doug said Kaligreen has been an "intermediate" product in his experience. He said some people love it and some hate it, depending on who you talk to.
- **COVERAGE is key.** This means high volumes and targeting the fruiting zone with your nozzles. You may need to pick leaves in the fruiting zone to target bunches. Doug said a volume of 600 gal. per acre is not unheard of if the canopy is thick, in order to get adequate coverage. (I replied no one would use 600 gal/acre here and he said "whatever it takes to get the coverage")!!
- What about sulfur at this point in time? Doug said the old recommendation used to be 600 gal water/ac + 5 lbs. microthiol sulfur + some soap to break surface tension.