

# Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

1992 - 1993

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## Viticulture Personnel Development and Extension

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### INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

There have been significant changes in personnel assignments in the OSU Viticulture program during the past year, resulting in shifts in assignments and responsibilities affecting both research and extension in viticulture. Some of these changes are temporary and the current Extension program in viticulture should be considered an interim program.

Porter Lombard retired in February 1992. He is still active in the program and has been a tremendous help in managing the new variety trial at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station. Since Porter's retirement I have been managing the viticulture research program at OSU. Much of my work load is unchanged but Porter's expertise and understanding of winegrapes in Oregon is sorely missed. The core research program has not changed but the lack of a professor-level position means that we do not have graduate students directly involved with our program. Dr. Pat Breen is currently serving as advisor for Glen Creasy and his grape nitrogen research program.

The viticulture position that was advertised a year ago is still on hold. It is likely to remain in limbo until a new department head of Horticulture is in place and the ramifications of the University's restructuring are apparent.

The new viticulture position will have an Extension assignment but in the meantime Extension responsibilities for grapes has shifted to my position. Bernadine Strik has taken on new research and administrative responsibilities at the North Willamette Experiment Station but she will continue her research program in grape phylloxera.

Both the Oregon Agriculture Experiment Station and the Extension Service have assisted our program during this interim period and have provided funds for activities in research and Extension that would not have been possible without their support. The Oregon Wine Advisory Board has provided both salary and program support that has been essential for the continued operation of the viticulture program. We are grateful for their long standing and continued support.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Funds provided by the Extension Service and the James K. Weatherspoon Foundation supported a ten day visit by Armond Kasamatis in July and August. Mr. Kasamatis visited twenty eight vineyards in the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rouge regions. Mr. Kasamatis was winegrape extension specialist at the

University of California, Davis for many years and his experience and expertise was a valuable addition to our program. We would like to have Mr. Kasamatis return to Oregon this June for a similar visit.

Dr. David Jordan, federal viticulturist for New Zealand, came to Oregon on a similar visit in early September. His visit unfortunately coincided with harvest but he was able to visit twelve vineyards and assisted us with our research trials. Dr. Jordan was particularly helpful to us after his return to New Zealand in providing information on leafroll occurrence and spread in New Zealand (see Variety, Clone, and Rootstock report in this publication).

The Oregon Grape Pest Management Guide was revised in December and currently being reprinted. This publication should be a basic resource for all Oregon grape growers. It provides information on disease, insect, weed, and vertebrate pest management and has the most recent registered control options available to Oregon growers. In past years this publication was available at County Extension Offices or through the OSU Publications Office. However, only 70 were sold in 1992. To increase use of this valuable resource we have decided to send the publication to all Oregon commercial winegrape growers in 1993 free of charge.

A viticulture and enology Extension newsletter has been started in conjunction with the enology program. The first issue will be sent to all Oregon wineries and growers in February. The objective of this publication is to provide timely information on practical problems facing the Oregon wine industry as well as a place for announcements on university and industry events. We hope to get out three or four issues a year.

The Oregon Horticulture Society Annual meeting is one of the major informational events of the year for winegrape growers. This year, I served as secretary of the organizing committee and arranged for the visit of Steve Smith to talk on managing phylloxerated vineyards. His presentation and the publication in the proceedings will be useful to many growers as they start to deal with the realities of phylloxera.

As part of an effort to expand the range of information available to Oregon winegrape growers we have decided to send the OWAB research progress reports to all Oregon growers. This publication is intended to outline the scope and range of OWAB funded winegrape research at OSU. Transfer of information from the University to industry is one of the objectives of the Extension Service. This publication should give more growers access to the research in progress at OSU and we hope it provides more channels for communications between the researchers and growers.

## **FUNDING HISTORY**

Oregon Wine Advisory Board support for a viticulture research assistant was initiated in 1983. WAB support in 1992-1993 for the project: Personnel Support in Viticulture was \$22,250. This funding was matched by funds from the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station.