

Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

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Development of a Computer-Based Information System for Grapes and Small Fruits

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OBJECTIVE

To develop a computer-based information system for grapes and small fruits that will facilitate and increase access to information, and encourage increased communications among everyone involved in the industry.

RESULTS

A new information and communications resource is available to the Northwest winegrape industry - [The Northwest Berry and Grape InfoNet](#). The InfoNet was created as a World Wide Web homepage on the Internet to provide an easy-to-use tool to access the latest information on production recommendations, research results, weather and more.

The InfoNet contains more than 500 links to information on computers across the country and around the globe. The user finds the information by following the links, indicated by colored and/or underlined text, that are of interest. For example, to find the current recommendations for controlling Powdery Mildew of grape, [click here](#). When you reach the Grape Powdery Mildew section you can read a description of the disease symptoms and view photographs, as well as get the latest control recommendations. Several steps are involved in reaching the Powdery Mildew information because there are multiple menu options (leading to different pieces of information) at each step. In this search you are moving from a relatively broad grouping of information, Crop Recommendations, to a very specific piece of information, Grape Powdery Mildew control.

The information that is accessible through the Berry and Grape InfoNet is organized into nine major categories as indicated by the menu choices on the opening page. Three additional menu choices lead the user to information concerning the development and organization of the InfoNet. A brief description of the contents of each of the twelve opening page menu choices follows below:

Crop Recommendations: current pest control recommendations for the Northwest (with photos of insects and disease symptoms); pesticide information; links to Extension publications and other sources of crop production information.

Crop & Market Reports: reports on crop production statistics, daily market prices, market & trade reports, cold storage reports, and more.

Newsletters: electronic newsletters by Oregon State University Extension and industry groups.

Research: a searchable database of Northwest berry and grape research articles; links to U.S.D.A. and university research reports.

Libraries & Resources: links to online libraries with significant agricultural collections; links to major lists of agricultural information resources.

Communications: suggestion box for the InfoNet; an e-mail directory of research and extension personnel in the Northwest; subscribe to the Northwest berry mailgroup, the Northwest grape and wine mailgroup, and other topical mailgroups or newsgroups.

Weather: the latest weather reports, radar images and forecasts for Oregon, Washington and Idaho, as well as national & international weather.

Government: links to state and federal government offices and Internet resources.

Commissions & Organizations: links to crop commissions, grower organizations and professional associations.

About InfoNet: statement of purpose and acknowledgment of developers, contributors and funding sources.

What's New!: describes recently added features and updates to the InfoNet.

InfoNet Contents: provides brief descriptions of the twelve menu items on the opening page of the InfoNet.

In order to access the Berry & Grape InfoNet from your computer you will need the following:

1. a subscription with an Internet provider service with a local telephone number (many national and local companies are available);
2. a modem to enable your computer to call your service provider and connect to the Internet (14.4 or 28.8 b.p.s, the faster, the better);
3. software to enable your computer to connect to the Internet (TCP/IP software is generally supplied along with your Internet service subscription); and
4. software (known as a browser) to enable you to access the World Wide Web. Some Internet service providers have their own browser software, but the industry standard for which most webpages are written is Netscape's Navigator.