

Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

1993 - 1994

Matching Support Funds for Extension Agent in Viticulture for Josephine County

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INTRODUCTION

For over 13 years there has been an Area Horticultural Extension Agent available to assist winegrape growers in Jackson and Josephine Counties with production problems by conducting educational programs and applied research projects. While the salary for this position is paid by Oregon State University Extension, support funds which pay for travel expenses, office, office supplies, postage, secretary support, etc. are provided by the county in which the agent works, in this case Jackson and Josephine Counties. Beginning in 1991 after the passage of Proposition 5, support funds for this position and others were cut from the Josephine County budget, leaving the county without an extension agent to assist the wine industry.

In 1991, with the assistance of members of the Rogue Chapter of the Oregon Winegrowers Association, an agreement was made with Josephine County Commissioners which stated: If Josephine County winegrape growers could provide \$1500 dollars of the estimated \$3000 needed to support extension winegrape activities, the county would match that amount. A request was made to the Oregon Wine Advisory Board for assistance and the board has provided a grant in the amount of \$1500 to support winegrape extension activities beginning in 1991-1993 and again in 1993-94.

OBJECTIVES

To provide matching funds for area Extension agent to conduct educational programs, applied research, and grower support in viticulture for residents of Josephine County. The majority of the funds to be used for travel and related expenses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. One-on-one support for Josephine County winegrape growers continues to be provided by area OSU Extension agent. Information provided: pest identification and management, fertilization, soil sampling, rootstocks, vineyard economics, phylloxera. update, training and site selection. Over 250 calls or farm visits were made during the 1993-94 season.
2. Thrips populations were monitored on a weekly or biweekly basis in one Cave Junction vineyard during 1993. A better understanding of thrips species involved, development and damage thresholds were achieved (See attached report). However, this project needs to be continued for at least one more year.
3. Cooperative educational programs with the Rogue Chapter of the Oregon Wine Growers Association continue to be conducted in Grants Pass and Medford, Oregon.

Programs conducted during 1993-94: July, Southern Oregon Vineyard Tour; Oct., Components of a Complete EPA Pesticide Training Program and Spray Record Keeping Requirements; Feb., OSU Grape Day presentation on "Southern Oregon Thrips Survey;" April, Winegrape Grafting Workshop; and May, New Winegrape Varieties for Southern Oregon, and Wine Tasting.