

Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

1992 - 1993

Matching Support Funds for Extension Agent in Viticulture for Josephine County

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

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 \$1,500 of the estimated \$3,000 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 \$1,500 to support winegrape extension activities beginning in 1991-92 and again in 1992-93.

Through this project matching funds are provided for an area Extension agent to conduct educational programs, applied research, and grower support in viticulture for residents of Josephine County. The majority of the funds will be used for travel and related expenses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

One-on-one support for Josephine County winegrape growers continues to be provided by area OSU Extension agent. Information provided includes pest identification and management, fertilization, soil sampling, rootstocks, vineyard economics, phylloxera update, training, and site selection.

Black vine weevil, cutworm, and thrips populations were monitored on a weekly or biweekly basis in one Cave Junction vineyard during 1992. A better understanding of insect development, chemical control, and timing of applications was achieved, but research needs to be continued for at least another one to two years. With the assistance of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Dr. Glenn Fisher at OSU, winegrape growers will now find imethoate" listed in the 1993 Oregon Vineyard Pest Management Guide for control of thrips on winegrapes.

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 1992: February, Private Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Training (Core A and B); May, Vineyard Nutrition; July, Oregon's Phylloxera Infestation; August, Southern Oregon Vineyard Tour-, September, Nematodes and Your Vineyard.

Funding History

Year Initiated: 1991-92 \$1000

1992-93 \$1500