

# Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

1990 - 1991

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## Evaluation of Winegrape Varieties, Clones, and Rootstocks

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**Collaborators:** Barney Watson and Mina McDaniel, Food Science and Technology Bev Clark, Foundation Seed Project

### Objectives:

1. Introduction of new winegrape varieties and new clones of important commercial varieties in Oregon.
2. Evaluation of vine and grape characteristics of selected varieties.
3. Evaluation of phylloxera-resistant rootstocks.

### Background and Justification:

The Oregon wine industry is based on a relatively narrow genetic base of grape varieties and clones. Diversifying varieties that are currently in commercial production by introducing and testing new clones will broaden the scope of those varieties and provide added complexity to the wines. New varieties will expand the diversity of products offered by the Oregon wine industry and could provide regions outside of the Willamette Valley with varieties better suited to their regional requirements. Phylloxera resistant rootstocks could offer horticultural characteristics to improve production or quality in addition to protection from phylloxera.

### Progress Report:

1. A problem was discovered with the identity of three Pinot noir clones. Misidentified clones were discovered in the OSU mother block. Visits to clonal collections at UC Davis, Carneros Creek Vineyard, and grower cooperator plots in Oregon suggest that clones in the KEV and 5MV may be misidentified as well. Work on chemical identification using polyacrylamide electrophoresis was initiated in association with Larry Daley and Alfonso Gardea in the OSU Horticulture Department. Pinot noir clones with questionable identification were pulled from the Foundation Seed Project (FSP) distribution program.
2. The clonal trial at Woodhall III Vineyard was planted in June 1989 and a drip system was installed. Vine growth was adequate and all vines will be pruned to two buds this spring. Two new Pinot noir clones will be planted in the trial this spring (UCD 23 and UCD 17). Clone UCD 1 was removed from the trial. UCD 29 will be replanted with stock from FPMS. The trellis system was not installed this year because a grant from GCAC did not come as expected. The status of the Dijon material imported in 1987 is still not clear, however if CH 95 is released from quarantine it will be included in the Chardonnay trial.
3. We worked with Dave Sugar at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station establishing a variety

trial.

4. Rootstocks from Virginia were bench grafted and planted in the nursery. Average take for all rootstocks was 45%. There is enough plant material to plant a rootstock trial at Woodhall III Vineyard this spring. Couderc 1616 will be planted as rootstocks and grafted in the field because of poor take bench grafting.

**Work Plan:**

1. The main objective of the clonal and rootstock program is to bring the new trials into production. A trellis system will be installed in both trials and a drip system will be installed in the rootstock trial.
2. We will be working with industry members and the WAB Vine Improvement Committee to develop a system for testing rootstocks in vineyards. There are several options for cooperation, some of which may involve WAB funding.
3. We will be working with personnel at OSU and UCD to attempt to clear up the problems of Pinot noir clone identification.