

# Oregon Wine Advisory Board Research Progress Report

1990 - 1991

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## Evaluation of New Wine Grape Cultivars for Production Potential in Southern Oregon

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**Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station Project:** #191

### Justification:

Climatic conditions in southern Oregon are unique among the wine-growing regions of the Pacific Northwest. Previous experience has shown that one strength of this region lies in the production of warm-climate cultivars which may not mature properly in other regions of Oregon. The current selection of such cultivars with known performance records, however, is limited. Many candidate cultivars known from Europe are present in the U.S. and are available for trial planting.

### Objective:

The immediate objective of this project is to establish a vineyard at the Southern Oregon Experiment station in which previously untested wine grape cultivars will be evaluated. The ultimate goal is to characterize the production and wine quality potential of these cultivars in southern Oregon.

### Procedures:

In the first year of the project a list of desired cultivars was established and sources identified. Cuttings were collected from virus-tested material and propagated in a greenhouse. The trial includes 17 candidate cultivars plus 2 standards (Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon). The vineyard was planted in spring 1989 at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station. Upon maturity, performance will be evaluated based on: budbreak and bloom dates, soluble solids and titratable acidity, yield, cluster weight, and disease incidence. Wine characteristics and quality will be evaluated by collaborators in the Department of Food Science and Technology.

### Progress Report:

Cuttings obtained from OSU and UC Davis FPMS were greenhouse- propagated in early 1989 and planted in the field in June 1989 (see Appendix). The vineyard consists of 12 rows of 40 plants each, spaced 10 x 51 with each cultivar represented in 5 randomly arrayed groups of 5 plants each. Plants appeared to establish well during the summer of 1989. A drip irrigation system is in place.

**Duration:**

Although evaluation of cultivar performance will continue for several years following maturity, requested and projected budgets at this time reflect establishment and maintenance costs for the test plot up to the bearing stage, approximately 4 years.

**Appendix:** Cultivars planted for evaluation at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station, Medford.

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Wine Type</u> <u>Red/White</u>
<b>A. Standards</b>		
1. Cabernet Sauvignon	OSU	Red
2. Chardonnay	OSU	White
<b>B. Previously untested cultivars</b>		
1. Cabernet Franc	FPMS	Red
2. Gamay Noir	OSU	Red
3. Syrah (Shiraz)	FPMS	Red
4. Sangiovese	FPMS	Red
5. Nebbiolo	FPMS	Red
6. Nebbiolo Lampia	FPMS	Red
7. Nebbiolo Fino	FPMS	Red
8. Refosco	FPMS	Red
9. Tempranillo	FPMS	Red
10. Graciato (Morrastel)	FPMS	Red
11. Pinot Gris	OSU	White
12. Pinot Blanc	FPMS	White
13. Viognier	FPMS	White
14. Grignolino	FPMS	Red
15. Petite Verdot	FPMS	Red
16. Lemburger	FPMS	Red
17. Freisa	FPMS	Red