

# PSU Grape Tests Show Good Results

Three grape varieties grown at the Erie County Field Research Laboratory of The Pennsylvania State University produced superior wines in both the 1970 and 1971 growing seasons, it was announced recently during the Fifth Pennsylvania Wine Conference at University Park.

The superior grapes were Vidal, producing a white wine, and DeChaunac and Chelois, producers of red wines, according to Dr. Robert B. Beelman, assistant professor of food science at Penn State. The Field Laboratory is located in North East, heart of the Pennsylvania grape country.

Dr. Beelman said the three superior wines had also been rated highly in studies in Ohio. The 1971 evaluations rated five other wine grape varieties also superior—Seyval, Vignoles, GW-4, all for white wines, and Foch and Baco Noir, red wine cultivars

Since the results are preliminary, Dr. Beelman advised grape owners and wine producers to use caution in making final judgements of the sensory quality of these wines or of the potential of the grape varieties for wines. He said the studies need to be extended for several years to evaluate varieties producing consistently superior wines.

Hybrid grape plantings at the Erie County Field Research Laboratory, North East, were described by Dr. Carl W. Haeseler, associate professor of pomology.

In yields per acre, the leading varieties were Chelois, averaging 7.7 tons per acre; DeChaunac, averaging 7 tons per acre, Vidal 256 with average yields of 6.5 tons per acre; and Chancellor with 6.2 tons per acre.

In quality of sugar content, the best hybrids were somewhat reversed, compared to yields.

Delaware, Foch, and Chancellor were the most promising in this respect.

Dr. Haeseler reported that several wine grape hybrids had been planted in 1971 on lands of cooperating farmers in Juniata, Adams, Franklin, York, and Bucks counties. Plantings were also made at the Southeastern Field Research Laboratory at Landisville, Lancaster County, and at the Fruit Research Laboratory at Biglerville, Adams County. All hybrid varieties are showing satisfactory growth in these Southeastern counties, he indicated.

He said plantings of European wine varieties, over and above the hybrids, had also been made at the various locations in the Southeastern counties. Such plantings had been tripled by 1971. Growth has been better than expected in two or three years, he said.

Donald H. Peterson, professor of plant pathology, described black rot as the mostly widely distributed and most destructive disease of grapes east of the Rocky Mountains. Destruction of the berries is the main loss, he pointed out. Infections of the berries result in their darkening and shriveling. Infection takes place only during muggy periods of 2 to 3 days. Such wet weather

can come from rain, dew, or fog—or combinations of these.

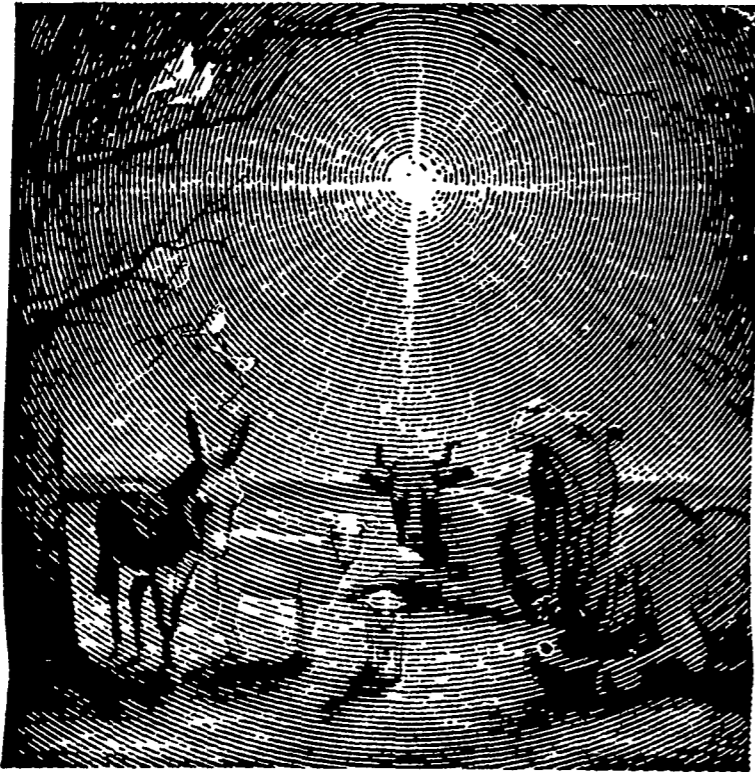
Dr. Peterson suggested using ferbam, captan, or folpet to control black rot. Four times for spraying were recommended. The first spraying should be done when new shoot growth is 4 to 6 inches long. The second spraying should be made just before blossoms open. Make the third spraying when most of the blossoms have fallen. Apply a fourth spray 10 to 14 days after the last one.

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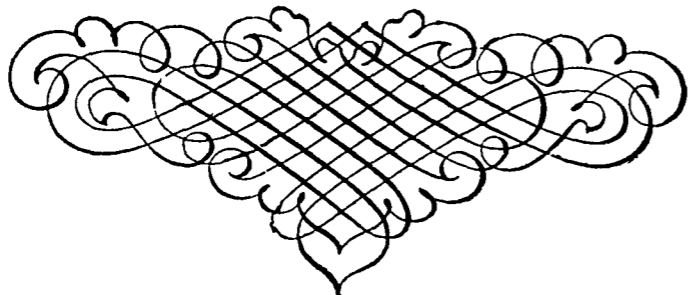
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