



Meeting Announcement

Early Season Management of Hybrid Grape Varieties

June 3, 2008, 4:00 - 7:30pm
UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research and Education Center, 391 Sabin St. (off RT 181), Belchertown, MA
\$25 fee (payable to Massachusetts Farm Winery & Growers Assoc.) includes light fare

Pre-registration strongly advised, but not required.
Please contact Sonia Schloemann at sgs@umext.umass.edu
or call 413-545-4347 for more information



Please come to a Vineyard Twilight meeting for New England Wine Grape Growers
CoSponsored by UMass Extension Fruit Program and
The Massachusetts Farm Wineries & Growers Association

Come visit the [UMass Cold Spring Orchard](#), the fruit research facility for the University of Massachusetts. In recent years, this facility has added acreage of both seedless table grapes and cold hardy wine grapes as well as the beginnings of a demonstration small scale winery and juice facility to its operation. A farm tour will include visiting these plantings and discussing current and future viticulture research plans. This meeting will focus on management considerations for hybrid grape varieties for New England.

Special Guest Speaker [Dr. Justine Vanden Heuvel](#) from Cornell University will return to UMass to discuss her research on Canopy Management for Hybrids. Growers of *V. vinifera* grapes are familiar with canopy management practices that improve cluster and canopy exposure to light. These practices improve the character and quality of wines produced from vineyards where canopy management practices are put in place. They have not been used as extensively with hybrids, yet similar principles apply. Dr. Vanden Heuvel has conducted research on adapting canopy management practices to new (Noiret and Corot Noir) and 'old' (Marechal Foch) hybrids. She will show that simple canopy management practices, such as shoot thinning and hedging, can be adapted to the different growth habits of hybrids at a reasonable cost to improve fruit quality.

Fruit Pathologist [Dr. Daniel Cooley](#) will lead a discussion of disease management strategies for hybrid varieties. These varieties are being planted in Massachusetts and around New England with increasing frequency. Understanding how these varieties respond to common grape diseases will be covered. Season long effective, economical management of grape diseases while avoiding the risk of fungicide resistance development from overuse of specific fungicides is key to fruit quality and long term success.

This is intended as a very practical session where growers will share information and learn from one another as well as from the invited speakers.

Cost: \$25. Please pre-register (so we can plan for food) by contacting Sonia Schloemann at sgs@umext.umass.edu or 413-545-4347 by May 30th.

Program

- 4:00 *Welcome and registration*
- 4:15 *Vineyard Walk-around, (Sonia Schloemann and Others, UMass).*
- 5:00 *Canopy Management for Hybrids: Will it improve wine quality? (Dr. Justine Vanden Heuvel, Cornell University.)*
- 6:00 *Disease Management in Hybrid Varieties for New England (Dr. Dan Cooley, UMass, and others TBA)*
- 6:45 *Informal Discussion and Light Fare*

