

Subject: Grape Notes, Vol. 11, No. 8b, Sept. 23, 2016
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Current Conditions – Follow Up (S.

Schloemann): Rain after a long dry period is welcome but may come with unexpected impacts. Mature grapevines are very deeply rooted and are more drought tolerant than many other fruiting plants. However, a sudden rain after a very dry period can result in fruit splitting or cracking. This can lead to increased problems with fruit flies (SWD or other species), and increased cluster rot problems. The article below provides some

additional information on how to handle the remaining fruit that hasn't yet been harvested.

[SWD and sour rot of grapes](#)

Juliette Carroll, Cornell University

SWD populations are building up and the warm, humid weather of late summer and early fall is very favorable for spotted wing. Any fruit hanging will be at risk of infestation. Not until late November will the majority of female SWD no longer carry eggs, as they prepare for overwintering.

Wayne Wilcox, grape pathologist, Plant Pathology & Plant–Microbe Biology Section, Cornell University, sent this alert out, “...the warm, humid conditions are ideal for the yeast and bacteria that cause sour rot, not just for SWD. These weather conditions strongly favor sour rot, since sour rot appears to require three components: (1) yeast, (2) bacteria, and (3) fruit flies—either the “everyday” fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* or SWD *Drosophila suzukii*. SWD is NOT required for sour rot to occur and, indeed, we do not typically find it associated with sour rot in the Finger Lakes region, although sour rot can be common here.

Recent research information on grape sour rot from Wayne’s program was summarized last spring on pages 47–57 in [GRAPE DISEASE CONTROL, 2016](#). Included in these pages are details on research trials in field and lab, management tactics, efficacy of fungicides and insecticides, and impact of training systems on the development of sour rot in wine

grapes. For those of you growing wine grapes, advising growers on sour rot, or simply interested in a complex and difficult to control disease, these pages are definitely worth a read.

An interesting observation came in yesterday from a wine grape grower in the Finger Lakes where the region has been plagued by drought. Several inches of rain had fallen in their area recently, causing many berries in the cluster to swell and crack. This is an ideal setting for infestation by SWD, other *Drosophila* species, and fruit rot pathogens.

(Source: Cornell Spotted Wing Drosophila Blog, Sept. 23, 2016)

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