

**May 3, 2016**

**Texas Gulf Coast Grape Growers:**

Vineyards that began the season with a dormant spray of Lime Sulfur and have sprayed timely fungicides 4-5 times are likely showing no to minimal symptoms of fungal disease right now. If this is not you, don't give up and don't hesitate to contact me to discuss options that may be available.

This wet, humid growing season has created an enormous amount of fungal disease pressure to the grape clusters and the grapevines. In a "normal" year, our grapevines are threatened with black rot, phomopsis, downy mildew, and anthracnose. Fungal fruiting bodies, when not treated, explode with spores infecting leaves, shoots, berries, and the rachis. Once an infection reaches the rachis and/or berries, the entire clusters can be lost to disease.



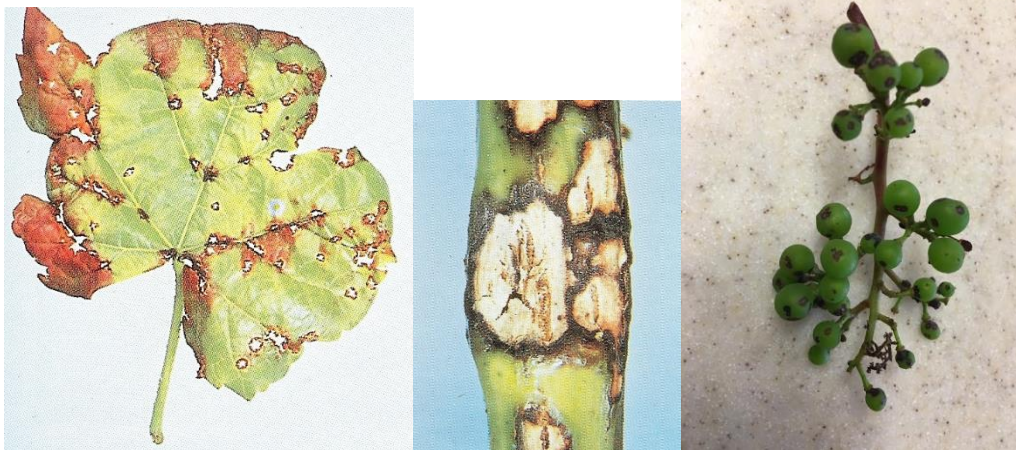
Fungal pathogens create a complex of diseases surrounding clusters.

Heightened disease pressure calls for use of fungicides at their maximum label rate. The instructions and rates on pesticide labels are the result of years of research. So, when the appropriate chemical is used in a timely manner according to the label instructions, ***the product works***. Liquid pesticides, measured in fluid ounces, are decidedly easier to accurately measure. The label rate for dry pesticides is listed by dry weight. Manufacturers of granular or powder pesticides often provide their own specific measuring tool. This tool should be used only with its corresponding product since each product has a different dry weight. Your agriculture chemical salesperson should offer or at least have access to the appropriate measuring tool.

An open canopy allows better coverage of timely fungicide sprays. Excess shoots and leaves can block fungicide sprays, air and sunlight. Shoot positioning and the removal of excess shoots and leaves allow air and sunlight to penetrate the microclimate surrounding the clusters. We are fighting diseases that take advantage of berries with damaged or compromised grape berry skin, whether from Grape Berry Moth, wind, hail, or mechanical damage. Preventative, timely sprays are always cheaper and more successful than attempting to fix disease symptoms.

Here is a look at some current problems that attack leaves, shoots, and clusters:

**Anthracnose:**



**Black Rot:**





Downy Mildew on Blanc Du Bois:



Downy Mildew on Lenoir/Black Spanish:



**MARK YOUR CALENDER for this Significant Event**

**2016 Black Spanish/Lenoir Symposium, Taming the Beast**

**Friday - May 20, 2016**

Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall

13035 Hall Road, Cat Spring, TX 78933

\$75 pay at the door, RSVP to Fran Pontasch

**Winemaking Topics**

- Lenoir By Choice
- Signature Estate Port
- Slightly Sweet Lenoir
- 100% Dry Lenoir
- Evolution of Premium Lenoir Wine

**Viticulture Topics**

- Managing Canopy & Growth for Quality Fruit
- Optimizing Harvest Chemistry

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Coming up in the High Plains:

**Effective Vineyard Spraying Workshop**

**June 22, 2016**

**Registration: Opening May 9, <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm>**

**Workshop fee: \$80.00**

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center – Lubbock  
1102 East FM 1294, Lubbock, TX 79403

*This workshop will include activities in the AgriLife research vineyard to work with components and adjustments to sprayers.*

**Topics of the class include:**

- Canopy and Herbicide Sprayer Designs
- Sprayer Layouts and Components
- Nozzles and Droplets
- Nozzle Selection and Sprayer Calibration
- Adjusting the Sprayer for Improved Deposition
- Pesticide Drift and Its Reduction
- Safety and Reducing Operator Contamination and Exposure

I hope this update finds you well! Please call or email me for any comments, questions, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Fran*

Fran Pontasch

**Gulf Coast Extension Viticulture**

**Region 3**

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Notice: This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulation occur constantly and human errors are possible. Read the label before applying any pesticide. The Texas A&M Univ. System and its employees assume no responsibility for the effectiveness or results of any chemical pesticide usage. No endorsements of products are made or implied.

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