

Vineyard Views

1710 Soscol Avenue, Suite 4, Napa, CA 94559

Telephone: (707) 253-4221 Fax: (707) 253-4434

Web Site: <http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu>

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State Budget Cuts Imperil UC Cooperative Extension and Ag Research

The current version of the Governor's 2003-2004 budget includes a 30% reduction in funding for UC Cooperative Extension, plus cuts in agricultural research on UC campuses. At the same time, the reduction in wider UC funding is only about 10%. This selective targeting threatens the future of UC Cooperative Extension in California. Because nearly all of our state funds go towards salaries and benefits, a 30% reduction will decimate the ranks of Advisors in California (already greatly reduced in numbers due to budget reductions in the early 1990's). Potential outcomes of such a drastic funding reduction include:

- Layoffs of UC Cooperative Extension Advisors throughout California
- Elimination of entire programs such as Integrated Pest Management, 4-H Youth Development, Sustainable Agriculture, the UC Master Gardener program, and others
- Reduced ability to respond to new pests (e.g. glassy-winged sharpshooters and vine mealybug) and to conduct applied research on issues of practical concern to Californians
- Closure of county extension offices
- Fees for service for UC Cooperative Extension activities

Our Goal

We hope to educate the legislature about the value of Cooperative Extension to all Californians, how we leverage state funds with matching funds, and to have our budget reduction brought in line with the rest of the University of California. This targeted 30% reduction is not in California's best interest. We appreciate the efforts being made on our behalf by the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, Wine Institute, the American Vineyard Foundation, the Napa Valley Vintner's Association, the California Farm Bureau and many other organizations.

What Can You Do To Help?

During May and June, the legislature will be developing a revised budget. One of the things you can do is write your legislators, stressing the importance of continued strong state support in UC Cooperative Extension by sharing your personal experiences of how specific Extension or research programs you value may be impacted by budget cuts. You may obtain the mailing or email addresses of your legislators at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>. For more information on the UC Cooperative Extension budget, see <http://ucanr.org/budgetnews.shtml>. Thank you for your support.

Vine Mealybug Update

Vine mealybug was first identified in two Napa County vineyards in September 2002. In October and November, an extensive trapping program using pheromone lures took place. This effort by the Agricultural Commissioner's office and UC Cooperative Extension resulted in the identification of 5 more infested vineyards, all with young vines present. The general locations include Howell Mountain, Spring Mountain, south St. Helena, Coombsville, Wooden Valley and Carneros.

All of the infestations are believed to have originated with infested grapevine nursery stock shipped to Napa County in the last two years. Both dormant and green-growing grapevines have been implicated. Many grapevine nurseries are now implementing control measures (such as hot water treatment and insecticide applications) that should greatly reduce the chances for subsequent introductions. However, we suspect there may be many more infestations already in Napa County (from plantings in 2001 and 2002) that have yet to be identified.

The known infested vineyards are operating under a Compliance Agreement with the Agricultural Commissioner with the goal of eliminating infestations and avoiding further spread. Control measures include the application of insecticides (Lorsban, Admire, and others) and an insect growth regulator (Applaud), sanitation measures, and controlled worker access.

Female mealybugs are damaging due to their feeding and reproduction. They do not fly and will only travel relatively short distances on their own. They are easily spread, however, on infested plants or contaminated equipment. Male mealybugs fly and are attracted to pheromones produced by the females. Mating is necessary for the females to reproduce (unlike phylloxera which reproduce without mating). A synthetic pheromone was recently developed at UC Riverside and is now available for use in sticky traps.

In 2003, further trapping in Napa County is being conducted by the Agricultural Commissioner's office and UC Cooperative Extension to search for additional infestations. The pheromone traps attract male mealybugs over a distance of several hundred feet. However, the males are extremely small and difficult to identify. Training and experience are necessary to accurately identify them. Many growers are establishing their own trapping programs and are working with the Agricultural Commissioner's office for help in identification of insects in their traps.

To date in 2003, male mealybugs have not been trapped in any of the infested vineyards. Females have been identified and are active. The cool spring weather has likely delayed development of males; we expect to begin catching them this month. Growers were advised to delay putting up their traps until males began flying; we are now recommending that traps be put up. If you have a vineyard with vines planted in the last two years, contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office to see about assistance with trapping in your vineyard.

Remember, there are now two mealybug species that can be found locally. The grape mealybug is quite common in Napa County vineyards, but rarely develops large populations that require treatment. The vine mealybug is the newly introduced species that we are especially concerned about because it is so much more damaging and difficult to control. If you see mealybugs in

your vineyard, contact my office or the Agricultural Commissioner for help in proper identification. English and Spanish workshops were held this winter to educate growers and field workers about vine mealybug and to alert them to be on the lookout in their own vineyards. A bilingual educational poster is available at no cost from my office.

During spring and early summer, look for ant activity as an early warning for the presence of vine mealybug. Ants foraging in grapevines are an indication that honeydew-producing insects are present, including scale insects, grape mealybugs or vine mealybugs. By mid-summer, evidence of vine mealybugs will be more obvious due to the production of excessive amounts of honeydew and the growth of black sooty mold on leaves, fruit, stems and trunks.

For further information about vine mealybug, visit my website at <http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/>.

Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group BBQ Fundraiser

"Celebrate Sustainable Farming" is a wine auction & BBQ fundraiser to support the efforts of the Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group to educate growers and the public about sustainable winegrowing practices in Napa Valley. The event will be held from noon-4pm on Sunday, May 18, 2003 at Bouchaine Vineyards in Carneros. Enjoy live music by Clorofila, vineyard nature walks with Bay vistas, range-fed beef & lamb, vegetarian dishes, a silent auction (great wines and packages!) and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door). Children under 10 years old are free! For tickets and directions call 707-252-4188 or e-mail nswg@naparcd.org.

Free Publications from UC Cooperative Extension

Many useful publications are available from UC Cooperative Extension over the internet (hard copies can be accessed at my office). Visit the following web sites and spend some time browsing the titles:

- UC Integrated Pest Management Guidelines – <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

The UC Pest Management Guidelines database supplies the University of California's official guidelines for pest monitoring techniques, pesticides, and non-pesticide alternatives for managing insect, mite, nematode, weed, and disease pests in agricultural crops. The Grape Pest Management Guidelines are available on this site.

- Pest Notes – also at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

This database supplies the University of California's official guidelines for pest monitoring techniques, pesticides, and non-pesticide alternatives for managing pests in homes and landscapes. Also look for the new *UC Guide to Healthy Lawns*.

- ANR Publications – <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/> - go to "Free Publications"

This site also has Pest Notes, but includes many other topics such as home fruit tree care, a farm water quality planning series, a rangeland management series, and much more. Over 200 titles are available.

American Journal of Enology and Viticulture (AJEV) on CD!

The AJEV is the leading journal for scientific research in viticulture and enology. Published by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) since 1950, the collected volumes include a wealth of information on all aspects of grape growing and winemaking. A 3-CD anthology including Volumes 1-51 (1950-2000) was recently released. Accessing back issues of the Journal is now easier than ever. The CDs are easily searchable and include individual Adobe Acrobat .pdf files of all journal articles, including tables, graphs and images. If you have ever needed to hunt down an old AJEV article, or are interested in continuing to learn more about grapes and wine, you'll want to purchase this valuable reference. It is available to ASEV members for \$125 (\$300 for non-members). For ordering information, contact the ASEV at (530) 753-3142 or www.asev.org.

Vineyard Views is written by:
Ed Weber
Viticulture Farm Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension, Napa County
eaweber@ucdavis.edu
<http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/>