

Department of Horticulture | Oregon Wine Research Institute

# Adapting Vineyards for Climate Change

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**Why focus on climate change?**

environmental factors affect vine physiology and  
vineyard production practices

The  
Harvard  
Gazette

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## As climate changes, so will wine grapes

Though vineyards might be able to counteract some effects of climate change by planting lesser-known grape varieties, scientists and vintners need a better understanding of the wide range of grape varieties and their adaptations.

Credit: jimfeng/iStock



To adapt to warmer temperatures, vineyard owners have to plant lesser-known varieties.



**ScienceDaily**

Your source for the latest research news

### Global warming pushes wines into uncharted terroir

Heat has decoupled French grapes from old weather patterns

Date: March 21, 2016

Source: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

**Summary:** In much of France and Switzerland, the best wine years are traditionally those with an exceptionally hot summer and late-season drought. Now, a study out this week shows that warming climate has largely removed the drought factor from the centuries-old early-harvest equation. It is only the latest symptom that global warming is affecting biological systems and agriculture.

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### Factors of Change

- Temperature
  - Season length
  - Extreme heat/cold
  - Risk of frost
- Precipitation/humidity
- Solar radiation
- Increasing [CO<sub>2</sub>]

## Historical Climate Change

- **900-1300 AD** Vineyards in England Baltic Sea region
- **12-13<sup>th</sup> Century** Europe harvested grapes 1 month later than today
- **14<sup>th</sup> Century** Little Ice Age – vineyards shift to southern Europe



*Estimated 3°F change in temperature since 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century!*

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## International Predictions

- **Spain, Portugal, S. Africa, Australia**
  - Problem: Increasing heat inland
  - Resolution: Move to coastal regions and higher elevations
- **Europe**
  - Wine production moves north to cool climate regions
  - 85% reduced acreage in Mediterranean



Will land and water be available?



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# US Predictions

## Acreage Reductions

- Major regions - 81% (*White et al. 2006*)
- Premium wine regions - 20% by 2040 (*Diffenbaugh et al. 2011*)
- **How?**
  - Reduced fruit production (quantity and quality)
  - Lack of water availability
  - Shift in phenology, creating more risk

Temperature extremes =  
More days >95°F



<https://vineyards.com/photos/maps/USA%20Wine%20Map.png>

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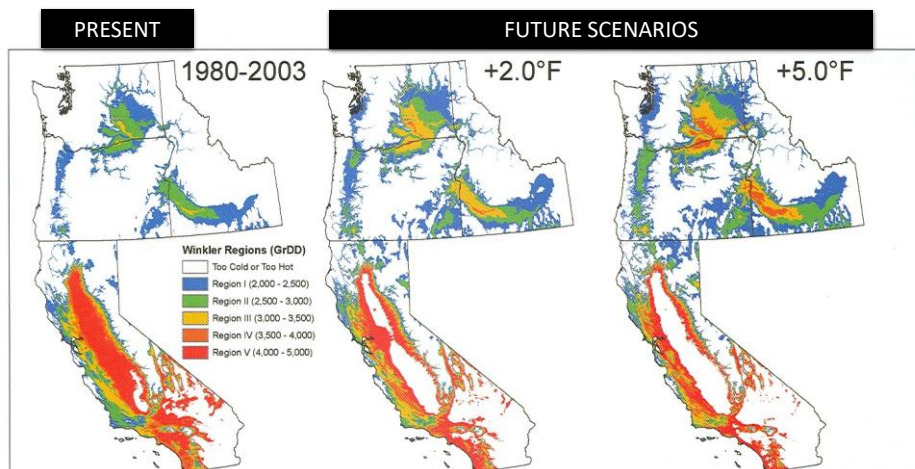
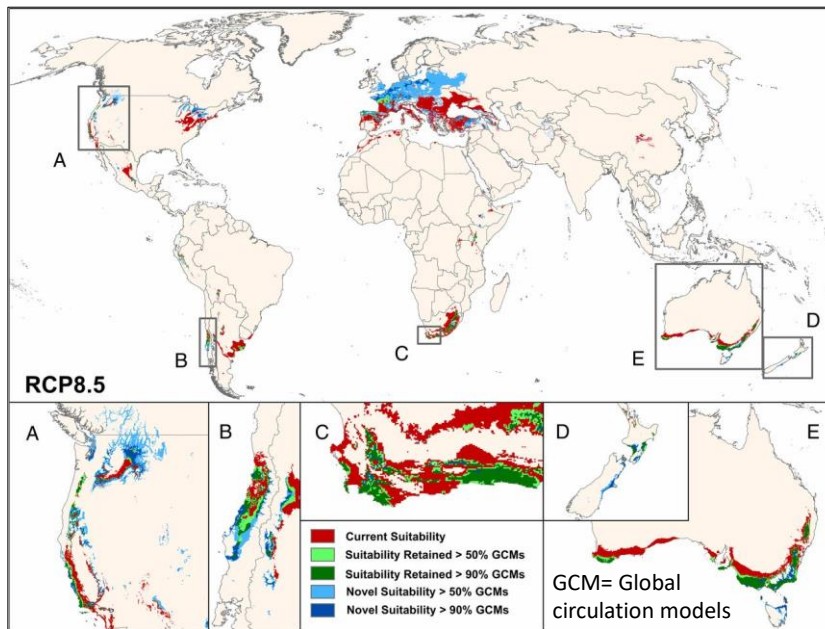


Figure V. Winkler Regions for the western U.S. based on Daymet (Thornton et al., 1997) daily 1 km resolution daily temperature data (growing degree-days, base 50°F over Apr-Oct). The left panel is the average over the 1980–2003 time period. The middle panel is a projection of a +2.0°F increase over 1980–2003 (low range of projected climate change by 2049). The right panel is a projection of a +5.0°F increase over 1980–2003 (high range of projected climate change by 2049).

Jones 2007

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[Hannah et al. PNAS 2013](#)

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## A warming climate shifts grape phenology

- 1.8°F increase = ~1 week earlier harvest
- France 2.7°F in 20<sup>th</sup> Century and harvest 2 weeks earlier

## How changing climate impacts the wine industry...



**Vineyard**  
*yield, growth, fruit composition*



**Winery**  
*amendments, processes, style*



**Sales**  
*Price and market*

Drought  
Excessive heat  
Freeze/Frost  
Erratic rainfall

Atypical ripeness  
High alcohol  
Erratic fermentation

New cultivar identity  
New wine styles  
Changing consumer preference



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# Climate Change Adaptation

## Modify

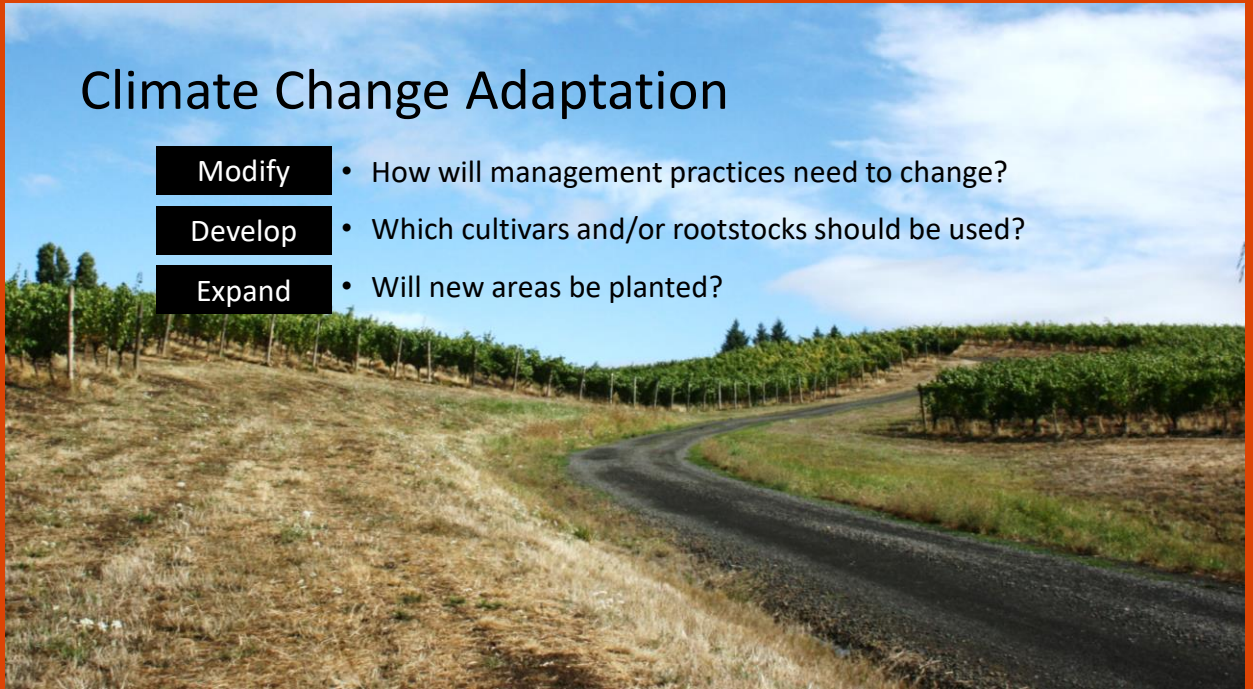
- How will management practices need to change?

## Develop

- Which cultivars and/or rootstocks should be used?

## Expand

- Will new areas be planted?



# Modifying Current Vineyards

*Short Term Options*



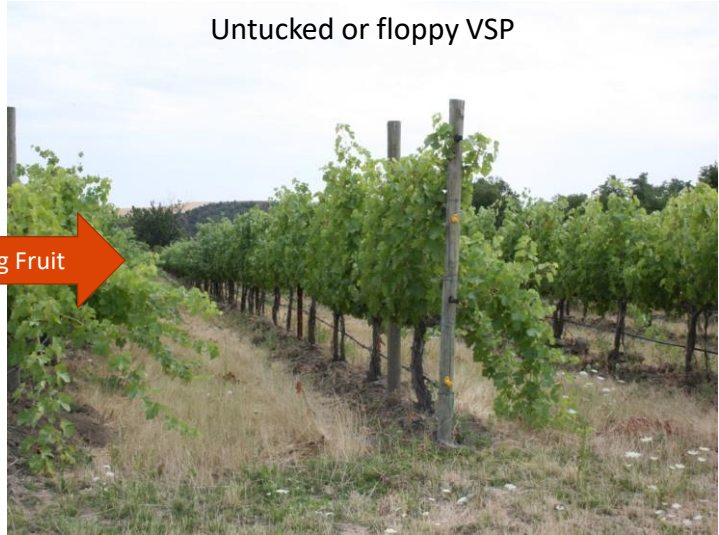
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## Modifying Training Systems



Shading Fruit



Untucked or floppy VSP

## Modifying Training Systems



"Messy" VSP



Floppy VSP

## Hanging Systems for Shading

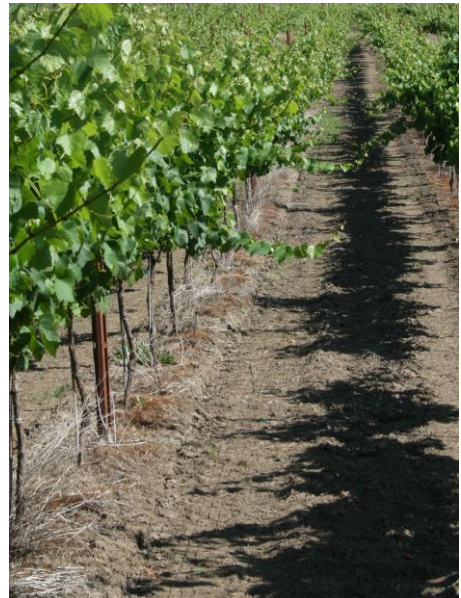


- lower density plantings to conserve water
- hanging systems with higher shoot density or double canopy

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## Temperature modifications

- **Retrain to higher head height/fruit zone**
  - Frost protection
  - Heat reduction from soil surface
- **Vegetation on vineyard floor**
  - Reduced heat near soil
  - Increased humidity
  - Soil moisture to mediate temperature
  - Water penetration (California 2023!)



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Antonio Perez Ortiz

Cover crop improves water infiltration

Central Valley California  
January 2023

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## Vine Stressors and Disease Severity

Greater vine water, nutrient, and heat stress lead to more disease expression

- **Viruses**
  - Red Blotch
  - Leafroll
- **Grapevine Trunk Diseases**
  - Botryosphaeria Die back (Bot canker)
  - Esca
  - Eutypa

**Modified irrigation, nutrition, floor management will be required**





- Cultivars
- Rootstocks
- Vine spacing
- Training System
- Site selection (move?)

# Developing Vineyards

*Long-term Options*

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## Wine Grape Cultivar Diversity Needed



Pinot noir



Pinot gris



Chardonnay



Merlot



Tempranillo

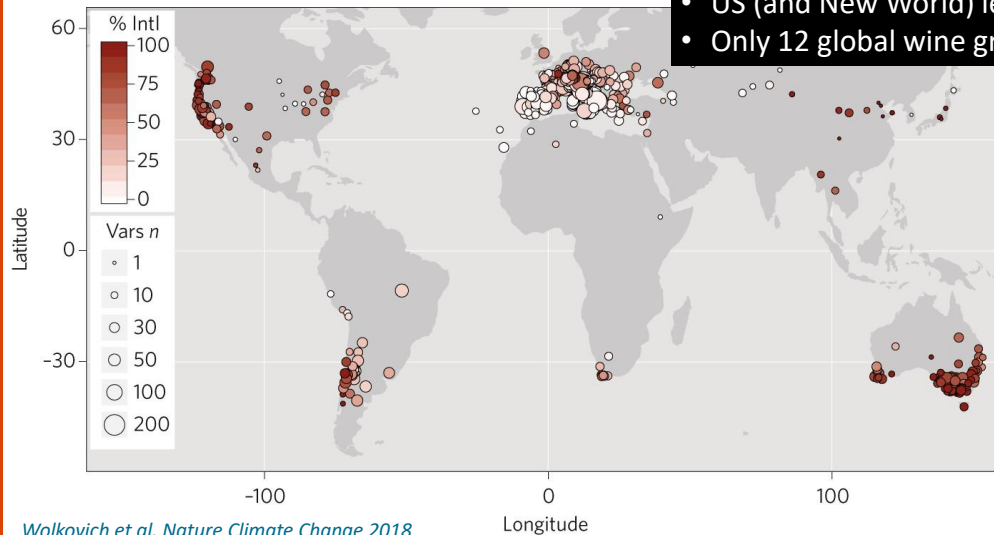
Q. How many different **wine grape** cultivars exist in the world?

Q. How many different cultivars make up the majority of **wine grapes** worldwide?

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## Grape Cultivar Diversity



- Greatest diversity in Europe
- US (and New World) least diversity
- Only 12 global wine grape cultivars

## Welcome New Cultivars



### Explore existing diversity or develop new?

#### • Existing:

- *Vitis vinifera* wine grapes = 1,100 varieties
- Evolved from selection pressures over centuries

#### • Developing

- Takes 20-30 years or more!
- Unknown suitability to new environments, production

## Rootstocks for the Future

- Rootstocks allow flexibility
  - Poor soils
  - Drought
  - Pest pressures
- Suitability needs further testing
  - Trials in progress throughout US, World
  - CO, CA, OR, WA, TX, MO, etc.



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Table 1. Grapevine rootstock ratings.

Rootstock	Riparia Gloire	3309C	101-14 Mgt	Schwarzmann	420A Mgt	5BB	SO4	8B	5C	125AA	161-49C	99R	110R	1103P	140Ru	1616C	44-53 Malague	Gravesac
Adaptability to shallow, dry, clay soil	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	—	3	3	1	2	4	3	3	1	2	2
Adaptability to deep silt or loam	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Adaptability to deep, dry, sandy soil	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	—	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	2	2	3
Tolerance of water-logged soil	3	3	3	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	2	3	3	3
Tolerance of lime	1	1	1	—	3	3	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	3
Tolerance of acid soil	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	—	1	3	—	4	3	2	1	1	3	4
Nitrogen uptake	2	2	3	2	4	4	4	1	2	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2
Vigor conveyed to vine	1	2	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	1	2
Drought tolerance	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	2	3	4	4	2	2	1
Resistance to ring nematode	2	1	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	—	—	2	3	1	2	—	2	1
Tendency to overbear	4	3	1	4	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
Vegetative cycle (time to ripening)	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	2	4	1	4	2	4	2	2

### Vegetative cycle:

1=shortest, 4=longest

### Nematode data:

1=highly susceptible

2=susceptible

3=moderately resistant

4=resistant

### All others:

1=lowest, 4=highest

**101-14 not ring  
nematode resistant**

From Grapevine Rootstocks for Oregon Vineyards, OSU Extension

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TABLE 1. Rootstock characteristics

Rootstock	Parentage	Vigor*	Drought resistance	Lime tolerance† %	Salt resistance	Wet feet‡	Soil preference§
St. George	<i>V. rupestris</i>	H	Var	14	M/H	L/M	Deep, uniform, loam
1616C	<i>V. solonis</i> × <i>V. riparia</i>	L	L	L/M	M/H	H	Deep/fertile
3309C	<i>V. riparia</i> × <i>V. rupestris</i>	L/M	L/M	11	L/M	L/M	Deep, well-drained
44-53	<i>V. riparia</i> × 144M	M	M/H	10	na	H	Loam/good fertility, high Mg
101-14	<i>V. riparia</i> × <i>V. rupestris</i>	L/M	L/M	9	L/M	M/H	Heavy, moist clay
420A	<i>V. berlandieri</i> × <i>V. riparia</i>	L	L/M	20	L	L/M	Fine texture, deep/fertile
5BB	<i>V. berlandieri</i> × <i>V. riparia</i>	M	L/M	20	L/M	Var	Moist clay
5C	<i>V. berlandieri</i> × <i>V. riparia</i>	L/M	L	20	M	Var	Moist clay
1103P	<i>V. berlandieri</i> × <i>V. rupestris</i>	H	H	17	M	H	Adapted to drought, saline soils
110R	<i>V. berlandieri</i> × <i>V. rupestris</i>	M/H	H	17	M	Var	Hillside soils, acid soils, moderate fertility
Freedom	1613 C × <i>V. champinii</i>	H	M/H	M	L/M	L	Sandy to sandy loams
Harmony	1613 C × <i>V. champinii</i>	M/H	Var	M	L/M	L	Sandy loams, loamy sands
Ramsey	<i>V. champinii</i>	VH	H	M	H	L/M	Light sand, infertile soils
O39-16	<i>V. vinifera</i> × <i>V. rotundifolia</i>	H	L	L	L	na	Poor on coarse, sandy soils

\* L = low; M = medium; H = high; VH = very high; Var = variable; na = not available.

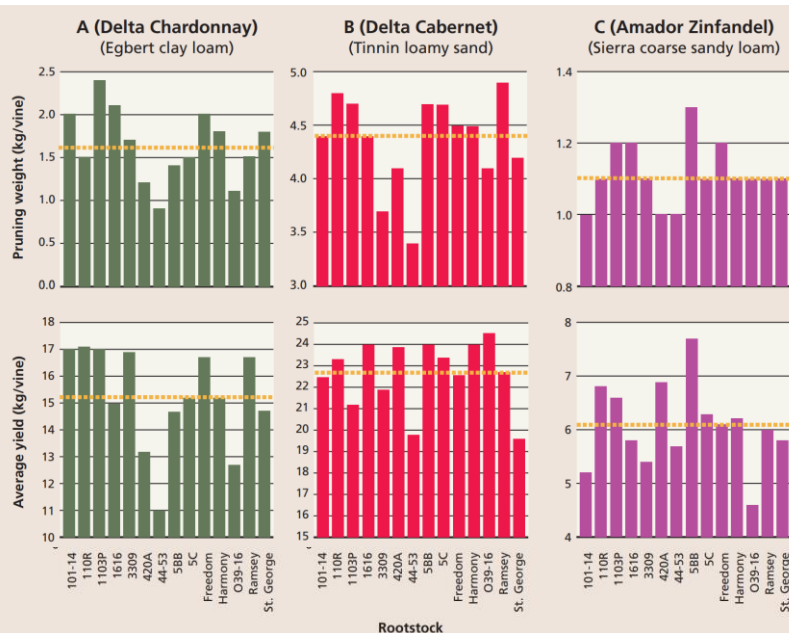
† Tolerance to lime-induced chlorosis (percent by weight of finely divided calcium carbonate in soil that can be tolerated by the rootstock).

‡ Wet feet = tolerance to excessive moisture caused by poor soil drainage.

§ Actual performance characteristics of these rootstocks on specific soils and scions may vary.

Source: Christensen (2003) and Pongrazz (1983).

Christensen et al. 2003



Lambert et al. 2008, California Agriculture

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## OSU Rootstock Research



101-14  
1103P  
110R  
125AA  
140R  
161-49  
1616  
3309C  
420A  
44-53  
5BB  
5CTE  
8BTE  
99R  
BOER  
GRAV

own-rooted  
Riparia Gloire  
Schwarzmann  
SO4

### Most drought-tolerant

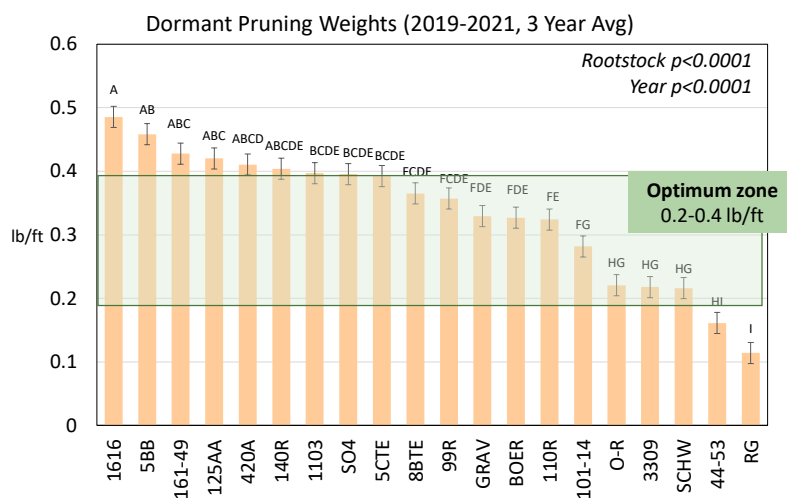
- 125 AA
- 1103 P
- 140 Ru
- 110 R
- 5 BB
- 8 B

### Least drought-tolerant

- Riparia Gloire
- 101-14
- Schwarzmann
- Gravesac

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## Impacts on Vine Growth – *Pruning Weight (OR)*



### Above optimum PW (High Vigor)

1616  
5 BB  
161-49  
125AA

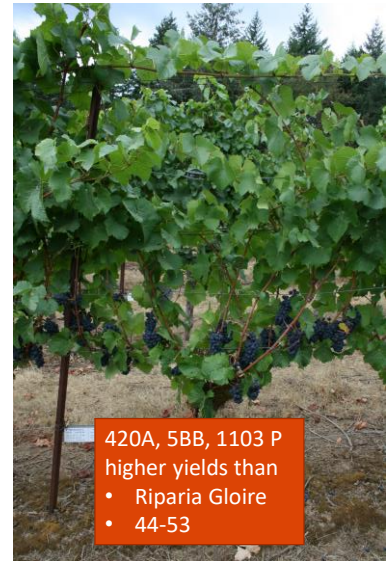
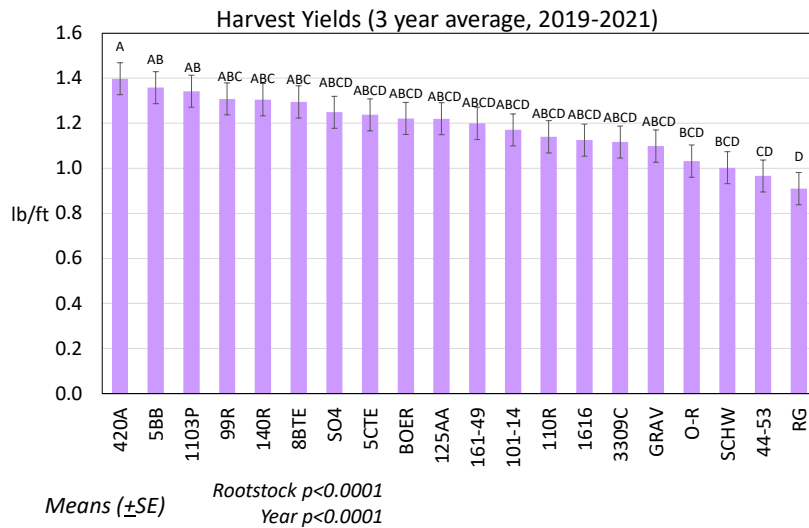
### Below optimum PW (Weak Vines)

44-53  
Riparia Gloire

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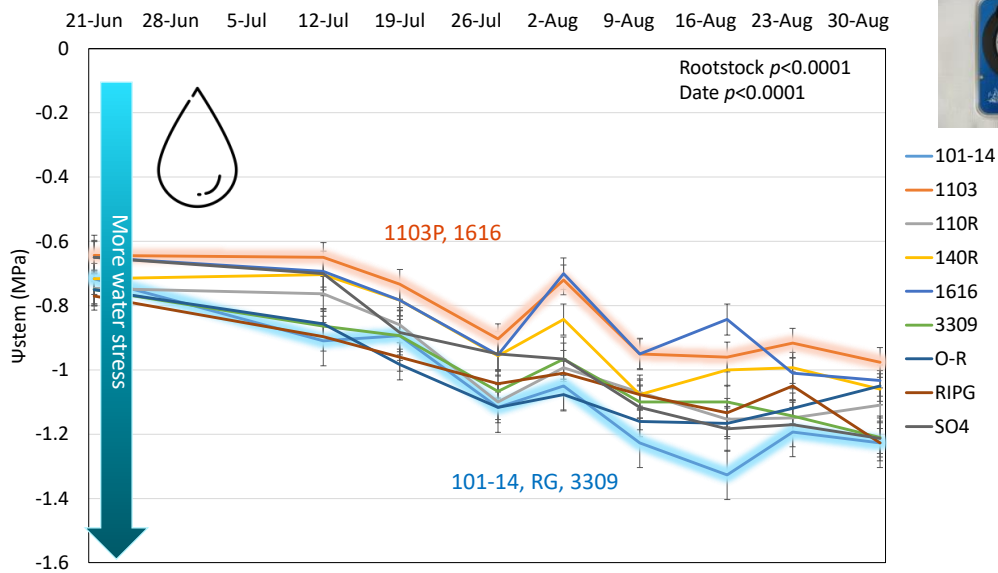


## Results – *Harvest Yields*



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## Stem Water Potential of Pinot noir Grafted to Different Rootstocks (2021)



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## Vineyard Design

- Row Orientation
- Row and vine spacing
- Training system
- Head height
- Irrigation methods
- Permaculture techniques

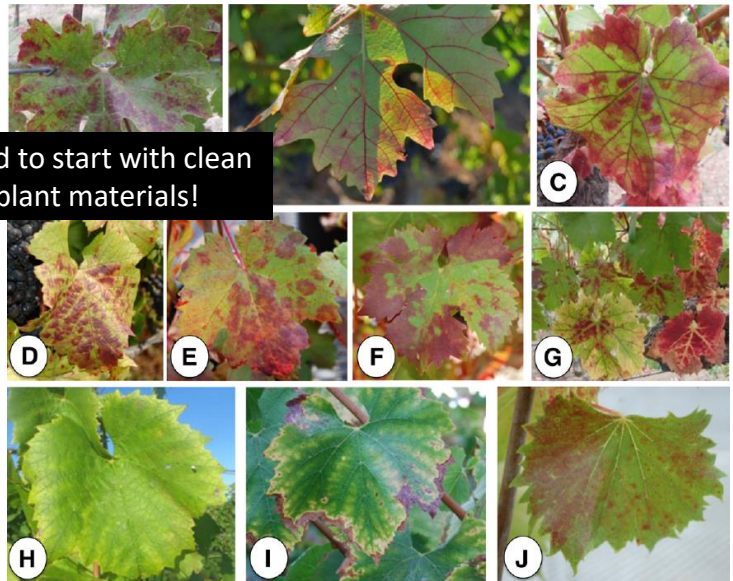


## Grapevine Viruses

**More than 80 viruses of grapevines!**

- Red Blotch
- Leaf Roll
- Fan Leaf
- Pinot gris Virus
- Grapevine virus A
- Grapevine virus B
- Rupestris stem pitting
- Tomato Ring Spot Virus
- Many more...

**Need to start with clean plant materials!**



Source: Sudarshana et al. Phytopath. 2015

## Plant Materials - *Certified or not?*

### • Certified plant materials

- Propagated from mother vines that are part of a state certification program.
- Certification program has protocols to evaluate and test vines for **viruses and other diseases of importance**.
- Tested only for known viruses listed in state certification program.
- Not all are free of crown gall.

### • Non-certified materials

- Not guaranteed to be free of viruses or diseases of concern.
- Not propagated from vines under strict evaluation of a certification program.
- Buy at your own risk.
- **Often “new” cultivars or those that lack wide commercial significance are not certified.**

**NCPN Grapes**

**Welcome to the National Clean Plant Network for Grapes**

**NCPN-Grapes**

The National Clean Plant Network for Grapes (NCPN-Grapes) is a body of industry members, experts in plant pathology, regulators and clean plant centers that were created to develop and provide healthy grapevine material to the grape industry in the United States.

NCPN-Grapes clean plant centers improve the health and productivity of vineyards in the United States. The headquarters of NCPN-Grapes is at Foundation Plant Services at the University of California, Davis. FPS also manages the primary foundation vineyard for NCPN.

**NCPN-Grapes Clean Plant Centers**

- Foundation Plant Services**, University of California, Davis
- Clean Plant Center Northwest**, Washington State University
- The Midwest Center of NCPN-Grapes**, Missouri State University
- The Eastern NCPN-Grapes Center**, Cornell University

Learn more at:

[National Clean Plant Network for Grapes](https://www.ncpn-grapes.org/)



## Summary

- **Develop for changes**
  - Increased temperatures
  - Drought
  - Erratic rainfall/storms
  - Frost/freeze
  - Shifting grapevine phenology
- **Methods to adopt**
  - New varieties
  - Rootstocks
  - Training Systems
  - Vineyard design



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## CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM

Part Two – Enology

NAPA



74TH ASEV NATIONAL CONFERENCE JUNE 26-29, 2023

[asev.org/2023-national-conference](http://asev.org/2023-national-conference)

Interested in  
learning more?

[www.asev.org](http://www.asev.org)

[ASEV membership:](#)

Access to recorded sessions from  
Viticulture Climate Change  
Session in 2022!

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# Questions?

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