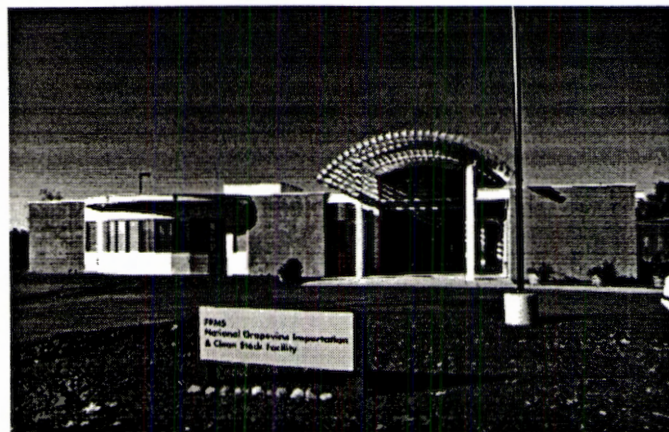


FPMS GRAPE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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The newsletter this year includes information about negotiations for new French clones, future changes to the California grapevine certification program, results from a recent inspection of vines for trueness to variety, new materials available from FPMS, price and policy changes. Ordering materials for the 1996-97 dormant season are enclosed for your use. We expect materials to be in short supply, so be sure to order by the November 15 deadline to receive an allocation.

New materials available from FPMS

Seventy-four grape selections have been added to the list of registered materials available from FPMS as foundation stock in the 1996-97 season. Added materials include new selections being registered for the first time and some old selections that were recently moved to the new foundation blocks. The enclosed list entitled "All FPMS Registered Grape Selections (11/6/96)" includes all grape selections available as foundation stock from FPMS. The newly registered and reregistered selections are underlined. For a complete listing of source, treatment and testing histories, consult the "California Grape Register" and the "All FPMS Grape Selections" booklets, which are available from FPMS for \$10/each.

A number of new grape selections that have passed all the disease tests have been planted in the foundation blocks. Some of these vines were large enough for Boursiquot (see below) to confirm that the leaf characteristics were correct, but too young to fruit and be verified true to variety. A list of these selections entitled "New materials available from FPMS in the 1996-97 season" is enclosed. Customers may order nonregistered mist propagated plants, but no hardwood cuttings will be available from these selections this season. The selections with correct leaf characteristics according to Boursiquot are noted on the list. Retroactive certification tags will be issued upon request in the future if the vines are verified true to variety.

Variety inspection by Dr. Jean Michel Boursiquot

In August 1996 Dr. Jean Michel Boursiquot, Maitre de Conférences, U.F.R. Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier, France, inspected over 4000 grapevines planted in the various FPMS vineyards for trueness to variety. His report, along with an earlier report by Dr. Anna Schneider (September 1992), professor of Viticulture from the Centro di Studio per il Miglioramento Genetico della Vite, CNR, Torino, Italy, is summarized here. Funding was provided for both of these projects by the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board. Dr. Andy Walker of the UCD Viticulture and Enology Department also contributed many hours to this work inspecting vines and evaluating reports.

SYNONYM ISSUES

In addition to verifying the identity of many FPMS vines, Boursiquot provided European names for a number of varieties that are named differently in California. Some of these names have been used in California for many years. Changing names used commonly in California could create confusion. Instead, we plan to create a synonym file for each variety in the FPMS computer database where the European name will be entered if it is different from the name used in California. Eventually, we hope to be able to provide synonym information for all grape materials sold, along with the source, treatment, and testing documentation now included with grape orders. The first name shown below is the name we will continue to use at FPMS. The second name will be listed as a synonym.

Alicante Bouschet/Alicante Henri Bouschet N.
Almeria/Ohanes B.
Burger/Monbadon B.
Dattier/Dattier de Beyrouth B.
Early Burgundy/Abouriou N.
Flame Tokay/Ahmeur bou Ahmeur Rg.

Grand noir/Grand Noir de la Clamette N.
 Green Hungarian/Putscheere B.
 Gray Riesling/Trousseau G.
 Inzolia/Ansonica
 Lambrusco/Lambrusca di Alessandria
 Malaga/Valenci blanco B.
 Mataro/Mourvedre N.
 Napa Gamay/Valdiguie N.
 Orange Muscat/Muscat fleur d'orange B.
 Pinot Meunier/Meunier N.
 Pinot St. George/Negrette N.
 Red Malaga/Molinara gorda
 Refosco/Mondeuse N.
 Sabal Kanskoi/Sabalkanskoi Rg
 Saint George/Rupestris du Lot
 Sauvignon vert/Muscadelle B.
 Shiraz/Syrah N.
 Tinta Bairrada/Baga N.
 Tinta Roriz/Tempranillo N.
 Vernaccia/Bianchetta trevigiana
 Zinfandel/Primitivo (FPMS will continue using both
 names depending on the source)



RENAMED SELECTIONS

Gamay Beaujolais-01 & 02/Gamay noir-04 & 05--
 Boursiquot says that these are true Gamay noir. Because they have not been widely distributed as Gamay Beaujolais, we are changing the name now to Gamay noir. Gamay N. and Gamay Beaujolais will be listed as synonyms. Selection 04 is stem pitting positive and will remain nonregistered. Selection 05 was negative on all tests and will be registered after it is fruited and verified true to variety.

Rulander-01/Pinot gris-06 -- Boursiquot says that Rulander is Pinot gris. Since the name Rulander has not been used extensively in California, we will change the name to Pinot gris, which is a more familiar name and the prime name according to the French. Rulander will be listed as a synonym. This selection is infected with stem pitting, and so will be available only as nonregistered material.

Walsh Riesling 01/ Riesling Italico 01-- The materials labeled Walsh Riesling at FPMS have not been widely distributed, so the name will be changed to Riesling Italico, which is more correct according to Boursiquot. Walsh Riesling and Riesling Italico B. will be listed as synonyms. Riesling Italico 01 will be available as registered material this season.

MISIDENTIFIED SELECTIONS

The following selections are misidentified according to Boursiquot, so FPMS will stop distributing them.

Charbono-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08/Corbeau N.-- Boursiquot says that Corbeau N. is the correct name. This is not the Italian Charbono according to Boursiquot and Schneider. FPMS will stop distributing these selections, but registration will not be canceled.

Chardonnay 16-- Boursiquot says that this selection looks different than most Chardonnays. It may be a tetraploid. Walker says that it looks more like Chardonnay than any other variety, but agrees that it looks slightly different. This is the only selection of Chardonnay that Carole Meredith has been able to distinguish from other Chardonnays using DNA analysis. In winemaking trials this selection has, upon occasion, produced inferior wines. FPMS will therefore stop distributing this selection, but registration will not be canceled.

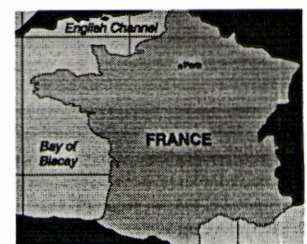
Olivette blanche-01, 02 & 03/Santa Paula B. --
 Boursiquot says that Santa Paula B. is the correct name. FPMS will move this variety to the germplasm collection and stop distributing it, but registration will not be canceled.

Checking FPMS grape materials in private vineyards for trueness to variety

It is important to check grapevines in private vineyards propagated from FPMS materials for trueness to variety after they have fruited and before the vines are used as sources of propagation stock. Even though the mother vines at FPMS are checked for trueness to variety, verifying the identity of vines in private blocks is the only way to assure materials have been transferred accurately. Also, please note that nonregistered grape materials distributed by FPMS may not have been checked for trueness to variety and are sold on a strictly *as is* basis.

Negotiations for new French clones

Robert Boidron, Director of ENTAV (Establishment National Technique pour l'Amelioration de la Viticulture, l'Espiguette, France) and several of his associates visited FPMS and several California grape nurseries this fall to discuss the new ENTAV-INRA (INRA = Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France) trademark that will be used in over 50 countries in Europe and America to identify French grape clonal materials in the near future. Their trademark will guarantee French clone authenticity and sanitary condition. Only materials originating from ENTAV and produced by nurseries licensed by ENTAV will qualify to carry the trademark. They plan to



license a few nurseries in California to propagate and sell grafted vines and budwood of trademarked materials. They also plan to require that growers sign an agreement promising not to propagate from their vineyards planted with trademarked materials. They feel that by limiting the number of nursery licensees, especially in the beginning, they will be able to maintain better control of the materials sold under the trademark. ENTAV will collect a royalty from licensees, but the amount per vine has yet to be determined.

One of the reasons for Boidron's visit to FPMS was to determine the extent to which French clonal materials are already available in California from FPMS. We showed him the extensive listing of clones identified with French CTPS numbers (unique numbers assigned to French clones by the Comité Technique Permanent de la Sélection) at FPMS and explained the number of cuttings and mist propagated plants that are distributed annually. Boidron said they would like FPMS to stop distributing all of the French materials that are in the collection now, or at least stop using CTPS numbers to identify materials that did not originate directly from ENTAV (none of the FPMS French materials have come from ENTAV to date). They feel that there will be too much competition for the new ENTAV-INRA trademark materials with so much unauthorized material available. They also asked that FPMS help them to control the shipment of French propagation materials to the USA by refusing quarantine services to anyone importing French materials without permission from ENTAV. They suggested that they will be asking nurseries to stop selling all French clones not authorized by ENTAV before they become licensed to propagate ENTAV-INRA trademark materials.

FPMS director Deborah Golino explained to Boidron that decisions regarding the future disposition of materials currently in the FPMS collection would be made jointly with FPMS industry advisors and the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board (IAB) who funded importation, treatment and testing of much of the FPMS French clonal materials. She also explained that FPMS cannot help monitor unauthorized materials leaving France because FPMS must continue to offer quarantine services to customers who chose to import proprietary materials without identifying the materials or the source.

Golino said that new ENTAV materials (of the old clones) would need to be available to all nurseries before FPMS advisors would be likely to approve a program to phase out old French clonal materials. Under

those conditions, it might be possible to phase in new material sent directly from ENTAV and designate old materials as "unauthorized by ENTAV" and/or possibly discard them at some point. Unfortunately, Boidron was reluctant to consider licensing more than a few nurseries, even for the old clones already available in California.

Golino asked that the legal documents describing the ENTAV-INRA trademark be sent to FPMS so that the University attorneys can review Boidron's requests for handling existing French clones at FPMS and advise us about how to comply with the law.

New French clonal materials could expand the breadth of materials available for planting California vineyards significantly. It makes sense that the more accurately the old and new French clones are identified and documented, the more useful existing French research data regarding these materials will be. Building a good relationship by doing what is reasonable to help foster the ENTAV-INRA trademark in California is therefore a high priority for FPMS, but negotiations to arrive at a reasonable way to accommodate ENTAV are going to be complicated.

CERTIFIED



Future California certification program changes

Kathleen Harvey, CDFA Nursery Seed and Cotton Program Supervisor, has taken the lead in revising the regulations that govern the California Grapevine Registration and Certification program. She heads a committee of nurserymen, growers and University personnel called the California Grapevine Working Group. They are working to develop new grape program regulations. The goals of the group fall into four categories:

1. Improve the quality of California Certified grapestock

-- The current regulations are based on the assumption that most grape virus diseases, with the exception of soil-borne diseases like fanleaf, are transmitted only by grafting, and once a vine is cleaned up it will stay healthy if grafting and minor isolation precautions were taken to prevent reinfection. Therefore, the regulations do not require any routine testing of the foundation vineyard or registered increase blocks. Assuming almost no disease spread also implies that the disease status of daughter vines in private increase blocks is the same as the mother vine at FPMS because new disease infection is unlikely to occur at FPMS or the nursery. It also implies that

disease(s) detected in mother vines are not new infections, but instead were just undetected by earlier tests, and so will be present in all the daughters. Current regulations therefore prescribe canceling registration for increase block daughters propagated from FPMS mother vines found to be diseased.

Recent information, however, contradicts the “no spread” assumptions. Several leafroll-associated viruses appear to be spreading vine to vine in the old FPMS foundation block, and probably also in private increase blocks. Ongoing routine testing of the Foundation block and private increase blocks has been discussed as a way to monitor the health of mother vines in the future. The foundation block is already being tested routinely using ELISA tests for leafroll-associated viruses, grapevine fanleaf virus and grapevine yellow vein virus.

Some of the regulations linking registration of mother and daughter vines may be changed because we realize that in some cases mother vines may become infected after daughters were propagated from them. This change is aimed at improving the quality of California certified grape stock without removing healthy increase block materials from the program.

Other program parameters under review to improve quality include: trueness to variety inspections of all vines in private registered increase blocks; incorporating better testing methods as they become available; reevaluating isolation requirements for private increase blocks; limiting top-working; and improving records to better track foundation block origins for private increase block vines.

Increased program costs that may result from changing the regulations is an issue of increasing importance that will be discussed in future committee meetings.

2. Increase the amount of California certified grape stock available for new plantings - Most agree that if all other factors are equal, certified grape planting stock is preferable. No one can guarantee 100% virus free but the procedures of CDFA/FPMS/Nurseries assure a high standard and less likelihood of disease. Excluding viruses is important because they cause many adverse effects that range from delayed ripening, reduced sugar, color and yield to permanently infecting the vineyard site with fanleaf virus.

Unfortunately, nurserymen say that over the last few years they have been unable to provide much of the planting materials growers want as certified stock. As a consequence, the percentage of grape planting stock sold

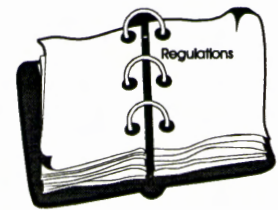
in California as certified has declined in recent years. One of the main reasons for this decline is the preference for new clonal materials not yet incorporated into the certification program in the quantities needed. Several ideas have been proposed for increasing the amount of certified materials in demand at a faster rate than before.

One controversial option is to allow a new generation of increase blocks in the private nurseries that are propagated from established increase blocks. Introducing another generation of increase blocks into the program raises concerns about preserving the trueness to type and health of certified materials. Increased monitoring using visual inspections and lab tests (referred to above) are being discussed to address these concerns.

Other options for increasing certified stock available include increasing the amount of foundation materials available from FPMS or creating a mother block.

3. Make documentation for the California Grapevine Registration and Certification Program more understandable

-- The draft regulations being considered have been rewritten in an attempt to make them more understandable to program participants. Definitions for most of the terms used have been reviewed and rewritten. As much of the language as possible has been restated in plain English. The goal is to produce regulations that new participants can use as a handbook for producing certified grape stock in California.



4. Make provisions for incorporating new disease testing methods into the certification program when appropriate-- Since its inception, the California grapevine certification program has been based principally on two-year field tests that involve producing symptoms in grapevines that are super sensitive to particular diseases. Although the field tests are reliable indicators of disease, they are not practical for more intensive testing regimes under consideration to improve the program. Many new faster and less expensive disease detection technologies are emerging. ELISA testing is under discussion as the routine testing method for the increase and foundation blocks. Some nurseries are concerned that ELISA tests are not reliable enough and may result in healthy increase block vines being suspended. Protocols that require multiple tests to confirm positive results may alleviate this concern, but more input and discussion is needed to resolve these issues.

Nurserymen and growers are encouraged to participate in the regulatory process by attending the meetings where the regulations are being discussed. When the new regulations are completed, they will be published for a 45-day public comment period. This gives all interested parties another chance to have input. A public hearing may be held, if requested, during this 45-day period. For more information about the California Grapevine Working Group, contact Kathleen Harvey at CDFA.

FPMS grower agreement and user fees

User fees have been an important part of the FPMS grape program income for over 30 years. Every customer who buys grape materials from FPMS signs a Grower Agreement before taking delivery of their materials promising to pay user fees. User fees are due for every propagation unit, regardless of the certification status, from FPMS grape materials which is sold, exchanged or retained by the grower. In other words, user fees are due for certified and noncertified grapevines produced from FPMS materials.

This fall the Grower Agreement was modified in anticipation of changes to the grape certification program (see article above) and because biotech companies are now using FPMS grape materials. The new contract says that user fees will be due for all generations propagated from FPMS grape materials. It also expands the definition of propagative units to address materials that may be used by biotechnology companies. These changes will help sustain FPMS user fee income in the future. Outdated order forms received by FPMS after October 7 will be returned to customers along with a new form for signature.



FPMS has been encouraged by many of our industry advisors to step up enforcement of user fee collection, because the income is critical to an ongoing high quality grape program at FPMS. Users who do not pay should not have the same program benefits as those who do. Consequently, penalties for nonpayment of user fees have been instituted. Starting this season, customers who have not either paid their calendar 1995 user fees or submitted a

report showing no user fees were due will not be allocated any materials that are in limited supply. Customers who have not done so already should send payments or justification for nonpayment, before November 15, to Cheryl Covert, FPMS Business Office Manager, to ensure their priority in this year's allocation.

Pricing Changes

Starting this season, the price per unit billed will be based on the number of grape cuttings per selection ordered instead of the number received by the customer. In other words, customers who order 100 cuttings of a selection, but just receive 5, because of allocation limitations, will be charged \$3 per cutting (the 100 and over cutting rate).

Pricing for mist propagated plants has been simplified. The minimum order quantity has been reduced from 40 to 16 mist propagated plants per selection. The price for 16 to 50 mist propagated plants per selection will be \$7.50 each and over 50 plants per selection will cost \$4.50 each. The in-between, \$6 per plant category has been eliminated. Please see the enclosed updated price list for all the details.

New FPMS Cold Storage Facility

A new 1000 square foot cold storage building is projected for completion this winter at FPMS. It will be located within the compound that holds the FPMS greenhouses, screenhouses and headhouse. This facility will be used to store dormant grape cuttings before they are shipped out to customers in future dormant seasons.

