PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

update

Autumn 2010 Newsletter

Healthy phylloxera free vineyards for South Australia

Rootstock trials: The first harvest

Vintage 2010 was the first year of data collection for the rootstock trials planted as part of the Board's rootstock program. The Board established these trials, which are funded under the rootstocks program, to examine the growth and compatibility of this rootstock grafted to various scions under Australian conditions.

L-R: Sandy Hathaway (PGIBSA), David Coleman (AHVI), Alan Nankivell (PGIBSA), Janine Coleman (AHVI) and Catherine Cox (PGIBSA) in the Adelaide Hills.

Three trials have so far been harvested: two in the Adelaide Hills and one in the Clare Valley.

The Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris rootstock /clonal trial was planted in 2006 in conjunction with the Adelaide Hills Wine Region and the Adelaide Hills Vine Improvement Society, and this year data collection commenced, with harvest weights (kg/vine), pH, TA and Brix (sugar) levels collected for each of the rootstock-clone combinations.

Rootstocks included in the Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris trial are: 1103 Paulsen, 5C Teleki, Schwarzmann, 110 Richter, 5BB Kober and 140 Ruggeri on two Pinot Gris clones: D1V10 and D1V7.

Boerner rootstock trials - PGIBSA in conjunction with the Adelaide Hills and Clare Valley Vine Improvement Societies and Adelaide Hills Wine Region Inc. is currently trialing the performance of the Boerner rootstock.

The Boerner rootstock confers a hypersensitive and fast wound reaction on its roots to phylloxera, preventing the formation of galls on the roots or leaves of the vine (Becker 1988).

The significance of this rootstock lies in its apparent ability to be completely resistant to a range of phylloxera populations found in Germany, Italy, France and USA (Becker 1988). Current research in Australia with known phylloxera genotypes has been identified with varying levels of virulence and this work is continuing.

L-R: Catherine Cox, Brendan Tully and Rachel Inness in Clare.

If successful, this rootstock will have the ability to increase the degree of control in both existing phylloxera-infested vineyards and in new outbreaks.

Both the Clare Valley Riesling rootstock trial and the Adelaide Hills Chardonnay trials were planted in 2006. Rootstocks included at Clare are Boerner, 110 Richter and SO4 grafted to three Riesling clones: SA156, GM198 and GM239. In the Adelaide Hills rootstocks are Boerner, 110 Richter and 5C Teleki and on three Chardonnay clones: B95, 277 and I10V1. Own roots of each clone at both sites are referenced against each of the rootstocks.

As results are collated and analysed, they will be available for download from the Board's website www.phylloxera.com.au/viticulture/rootstocks/

2010 Tour Down Under outcome

The latest Tour Down Under was the best ever in terms of promoting South Australia to the world, and in particular its wine regions. The routes in total travelled past some 584 vineyards from Clare to Langhorne Creek.

The Board contacted all growers who had a vineyard within 100 metres of the route and advised them of the potential biosecurity risks that could come as a result of spectators taking up vantage points along the different stage routes. The Board received many calls from growers who wanted additional information to ensure they protected their vineyards.

When new routes for next year's race are declared in mid 2010, the Board will inform growers of strategies to mitigate potential biosecurity risks.

Mansfield phylloxera detection

On 20 January 2010 the Department of Primary Industries –Victoria (DPI-Vic) detected phylloxera on a single vineyard in Mansfield, Victoria.

This site is located in a Phylloxera Restricted Zone (PRZ) approximately 6.5kms SW of the NE Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ). DPI-Vic are currently determining whether to create a new PIZ or incorporate the Mansfield site into the NE PIZ.

This detection was found by the same survey team that had completed the surveying for the rezoned Grampian-Pyhreness and Heathcote-Bendigo Phylloxera Exclusion Zones (PEZs) in recent years.

New system for Grapevine importation

A new system for the importation of grapevine planting material applies to all consignments brought into SA from now on, as a result of the introduction of the new *Plant Health Act (2009)*.

All importers must be registered with PIRSA *before* bringing in any horticultural produce, including grapevine material. You will no longer need to fill in an import declaration form with the PGIBSA.

Grapevine cuttings and rootlings may only be imported into South Australia from declared Phylloxera Exclusion Zones in Victoria and NSW and from WA and Tasmania and the material must usually be hot water treated.

On arrival, the consignment must be inspected by a PIRSA inspector before it is unpacked, or the importer must be accredited under the new Import Verification Compliance arrangement (IVCA) to inspect and certify their own consignments.

For more information contact PIRSA Plant Health Operations on 1300 666 010 or visit their website www.pir.sa.gov/biosecurity/planthealth/legislation

Ground truthing program

Ground truthing was conducted in the Riverland in Jan/Feb 2010.

A total of 28 low vigour sites were inspected, with no Phylloxera found.

The causes for the sites of low vigour were - lack of water, salinity, nematodes, poor soils, chemical contamination currently under rehabilitation and competition from large trees.

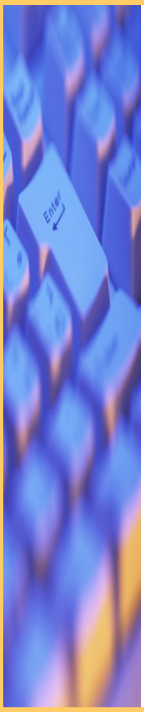
Phylloxera Workshop - December 2009

17 people attended the 2009 Phylloxera Workshop run by the Board in conjunction with DPI Victoria. There were representatives from the Barossa, Clare, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek, Limestone Coast and two from interstate.

The two-day workshop was held in the Yarra Valley, where participants visited Coombe Farm, an infested vineyard, and Yering Station – a winery in the heart of the PIZ, that estimates the cost of their new phylloxera regulations and protocols as 20% of their grapegrowing costs.

The phylloxera at Coombe Farm is spreading very rapidly, with the vines going from showing no symptoms to being virtually unproductive in one season.

As an extra precaution, the participants wore disposable overalls when they were digging for phylloxera in the vineyard (see picture) – as well as being required to bag and hot wash their clothes before wearing them again and disinfest their boots in a chlorine footbath.



Vineyard Database upgrade

Work has commenced on a revised website and vineyard data management system for PGIBSA, also known as the Vineyard Register.

The website and upgraded Vineyard Register will, among other things, enable growers to access their records directly.

The Board will also give each grower the opportunity to build a history of their individual vineyards over time, noting changes in varieties and rootstocks. It is anticipated that as people become comfortable with our new website and its capabilities, then new opportunities will emerge.

WINE INDUSTRY SECTOR AGREEMENT PROJECT: Climate change & greenhouse emissions reduction

Would you like to participate?

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be involved and make a contribution to reducing greenhouse gases from the SA wine industry!

The project aims to inform the wine industry of issues surrounding climate change, while encouraging and assisting industry to measure and report their carbon footprint.

Participants are measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions based on the 2009/2010 year, using the Australian Wine Carbon Calculator.

Data will then be aggregated at an industry level for reporting back to participants and to the State Government. The data will also help set reduction targets for participants for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.

For information, or to sign up to this exciting initiative, contact Mark Grishen, Project Manager on 8222 9278 or email mark@winesa.asn.au

1,183 ha (1.5%)

is the reduction in total vineyard area recorded on the Board's database in the past 11 months. The Wine Restructuring Action Agenda maintains that 20% of Australia's vineyard area is surplus to requirements

New GIS officer

Brendan Tully
Spatial Information Services Administrator

Brendan was appointed to the position of Spatial Information Services Administrator in February 2010. He brings to the Board skills in both Environmental Management and Geographical Information Systems, with past experience working as a technician for ForestrySA in the Resource Unit based at Kuipto Forest.

His role is in providing a variety of geospatial services to support the early detection program and provide maps for growers and other stakeholders

Brendan can be contacted on 8362 0488 or by email gis@phylloxera.com.au

HEAT SHED under new management

With the activities of Vintage increasing, so has the use of the Naracoorte Heat Shed.

The Board has the pleasure in announcing a new heat shed manager, Mark Dinham, who has taken over responsibilities of managing the heat shed, due to the retirement of Adrian and Elaine Zerk.

For all bookings, please contact Mark during business hours on 08 8762 0666 or gyrobuilt@tpg.com.au

The Board wishes to thank Elaine and Adrian for their thoroughness and willingness to accommodate customers using the heat shed, and wishes them the very best in their travels around Australia.

Alan Nankivell thanking Elaine Zerk for her contribution to the heat shed

Board members' contact details

Richard Hamilton (Chairman) - Adelaide Hills
0419 861 359

Robin Nettelbeck (Deputy Chair) - Barossa
0412 821 756

Geoff Raven - Chief Inspector
8207 7871

Peter Dry - Minister's nomination
8313 6600

Peter Balnaves - Limestone Coast
0428 838 702

Jim Caddy - Riverland
0417 844 029

Mark Gilbert - Langhorne Creek
0429 823 597

Alison Phillips - Clare

Kirsty Waller - Barossa/Riverland
0417 080 042

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Disclaimer: While the board has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, it accepts no liability for the use of the information and any consequences arising from doing so.

New minister appointed - Hon. Michael O'Brien

Following the State election in March 2010, Hon. Michael O'Brien was appointed the new Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. He is also Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Northern Suburbs.

Before entering Parliament, Michael was a small/medium business operator. He has also worked as a national manager for major Australian corporation Elders IXL and has held senior executive positions in major South Australian organizations, such as RAA and Adelaide University.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Adelaide.

Michael and his wife Jane have two teenage children.

New Board - selection process

Applications for new Board members closed on 30 April 2010. Currently the Selection Panel are considering the candidates and will be making their recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture in late June 2010. The new Board members will take up their 3 year terms in November 2010.

Abandoned vineyards

With low prices and fruit left un-harvested, there is increased pressure for vineyards to be abandoned.

During last vintage, growers approached the Board seeking support and assistance to help manage a local situation.

Under the current Act, the Board has no power to manage or remove abandoned vineyards, however, it re-affirms the advice provided to SAWIA in 2005, that growers need to maintain a regular preventative spray program on their own vines to manage the potential impact of downy and powdery outbreaks.

In respect to the removal of vineyards, PIRSA, under the *Plant Health Act 2009*, has the power to remove horticultural crops where it has been identified that the crop is host to a declared pest or disease. PIRSA has advised that powdery and downy mildew are not declared pests.

The provision in the *Plant Health Act (2009)* in SA is consistent with similar legislation in WA, NSW and Victoria.

Upcoming events

The 14th Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference
3-8 July 2010
Adelaide Conference Centre
North Tce, Adelaide

Contact - Kate Beames, Conference Manager on 8313 6821 or
kate.beames@awitc.com.au

Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference

VINPAC INTERNATIONAL

Board Retirement - David Cartwright

After 13 years serving the Board as Chief Inspector, David Cartwright has announced his retirement from the Board.

The Chief Inspector of Primary Industries South Australia is a required position under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, and the person in that role is an automatic inclusion on the Board. David has been with Primary Industries in quarantine roles for over 25 years culminating as Chief Quarantine Officer for South Australia.

In his time serving the Board, David has provided a well considered supporting role, always coming up with logical and practical solutions with the many issues the Board faces in relation to Biosecurity. David will be replaced by Geoff Raven who will be taking up David's position as Chief Inspector.

All past Board members and staff wish David well in his future and look forward to keeping in touch as I am sure he will continue to have an interest in Board affairs.