PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

update

Autumn 2011 Newsletter

Healthy phylloxera free vineyards for South Australia

Biosecurity does not need to be a casualty of current industry challenges!

As the most difficult vintage on record draws to a close, there will be many stories told of how growers managed the disease pressure; and the cool and wet summer weather.

The Board is mindful of the difficulties of the past vintage and the financial constraints that growers are experiencing, however, the Board encourages growers to ensure that cost effective ways of reducing risk from pests and disease in the vineyards are maintained.

Here are some simple steps to consider implementing:

1) Control visitor access by having all visitors report to the site office on arrival and sign the visitors' register. Always know where all visitors are, it good OH&S practice as well!
2) Control vehicle access, provide parking and do not allow unauthorized vehicles into the vineyard;
3) Provide footbaths for cleaning, especially for visitors to your vineyard such as GLO's, winemakers and other growers;
4) Always check with machinery and contractors if they have cleaned their machinery since the last job and where they have been before they start work in the vineyard;
5) Ensure all labor is aware of Biosecurity practices eg clean boots and clothes;
6) Ensure that you only purchase certified planting material; and
7) Remember it is your vineyard and if you are unsure about anything, it is free to ask questions. It is better to be safe than sorry!

Phylloxera prevention protocols are located at www.phylloxera.com.au/regulation/protocols/

The Board over the next 12 months will focus on:

1) Investigating the application of new technologies for the eradication of Phylloxera;
2) Research cost effective strategies to maintain area freedom for PEZ's;
3) Review the Boards' marketing and communication strategies; and
4) Explore an accreditation system for machinery contractors similar to the current TruckCare system used in the livestock trade.

As always, the Board welcomes comments and feedback from growers on issues of concern. The Board, in collaboration with its stakeholders, will look to address these issues. To contact the Board, please phone 08 8362 0488 or by email at admin@phylloxera.com.au

New GI Wine Region declared -

Mount Gambier

In December 2010, the Geographic Indications Committee of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation announced that Mount Gambier will now join other Limestone Coast Regions to become Region specific.

The PGIBSA Vineyard Register has a current listing of 20 grape growers, with a total of 242.84 hectares planted to grapevines in the Mount Gambier (GI) Region.

2011 Vineyard Register statistics

919 ha is the total number of vines removed since 30 April 2010.

370 ha of vines have been planted, top-worked or grafted in 2010.

3556 is the total number of growers listed in the Board's database.

21% is the total number of vines that are planted to rootstocks.

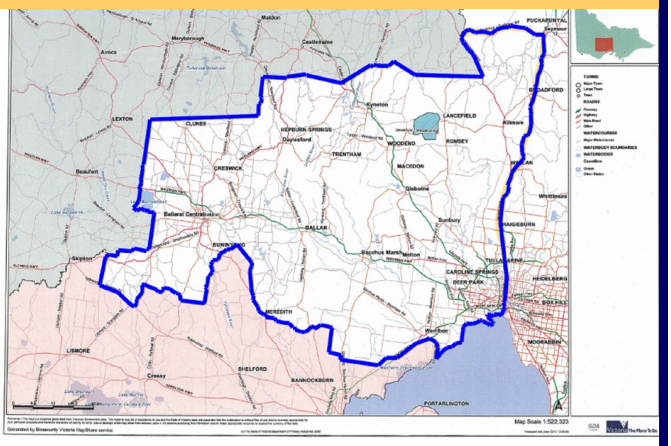
KEEP IT CLEAN—HEAT IT!

On the 23 February, 18 people attended a successful Heat Shed training and induction program. Out of this, 7 new registered users are able to operate the Heat Shed. This now makes a total of 44 registered operators.

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

If you would like to become a registered user, please contact Alan Nankivell, CEO on 08 8362 0488 or by email at alann@phylloxera.com.au

Expansion of PEZ's in Victoria



As part of the Victorian Government's Future Farming Strategy, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is continuing to upgrade the phylloxera management zones of vineyards in Victoria's west to protect the viticulture industry from the grapevine pest phylloxera.

Vineyard inspections will be conducted in and around Ballarat, Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges that are inside the current Phylloxera Risk Zone (PRZ). Inspections in the rezoning areas commenced in January 2011 and will run for 3 years before the area can be approved as a PEZ.

The vineyard surveying is carried out in accordance to the National Phylloxera Management Protocols, which can be found at www.gwrdc.com.au

Coonawarra gets prepared!!!

On the 22 February, a Phylloxera Outbreak Simulation Exercise was conducted in Coonawarra. The event was attended by 55 people, which resulted in a lively discussion about the issues raised.

The Coonawarra Grapegrowers Association in collaboration with the PGIBSA, are now working on the next steps – which include the scope of a quarantine zone, the impact on the movement of grapes through the quarantine zone, and how best to engage all grapegrowers in the planning process. This will be a task that will evolve over the next 12 months.

If your Region would like to conduct a Phylloxera Outbreak Simulation Exercise, please contact Alan Nankivell, CEO on 08 8362 0488 or by email at alann@phylloxera.com.au

A history of grapevine use in South Australia - Part 2

This is the final article in a two-part series that looks at the history of grapevine rootstocks in South Australia and how they came to be part of a pivotal insurance plan against phylloxera.

The use of rootstocks in South Australia

The use of grapevine rootstocks in South Australia (SA) can be traced back to the 1960s via PGIBSA's vineyard register. Total plantings for the decade 1960-1969 to grapevine rootstocks was 0.8% of total vine plantings. Progressively, the total amount of vine plantings to rootstocks has increased with current figures showing 34% of all new plantings to grapevine rootstocks (see table 1). The Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and the Riverland were the only regions to have rootstock plantings during the 1960s. During the 1970s, this expanded to include the Eden Valley, whilst the decades 1980-2000 saw the majority of regions within South Australia adopt rootstocks and include them in future plantings. Today, rootstocks account for 20% of 78,000 hectares of vineyard plantings in SA (PGIBSA 2009), with the Riverland region being the highest user of grapevine rootstocks, followed by Barossa.

Table 1. An historical look at grapevine rootstock use in South Australia (2009 PGIBSA).

Decade	Total hectares planted	Hectares planted to rootstock	% on rootstock
1960-1969	1,944.28	15.96	0.82%
1970-1979	4,552.59	46.18	1.01%
1980-1989	5,366.61	724.15	13.5%
1990-1999	40,059.18	6964.86	17.4%
2000-2009	23,541.25	7989.16	33.9%

Rootstock trends in SA

The early selections of rootstocks in Australia were largely based on information provided by the European countries using grapevine rootstocks (May 2001). In addition, the establishment of rootstock trials were initially very expensive due to costs associated with importation and quarantine and as a result, this may have impacted on rootstocks chosen to be tested in the initial rootstock trials (May 2001).

The most popular rootstocks used in South Australia have changed with each decade. For example, during the 1970s, rootstocks Ramsey, 101-14 and Schwarzmann were the most popular rootstocks, whilst the planting boom of the 1990s also had Ramsey as most popular rootstock followed by Schwarzmann and K51-40. May (2001) found that both Ramsey and Schwarzmann were the rootstocks trialled most frequently and this is reflected in rootstock plantings, particularly during the 1970s and 1980s. Up until the 2000s, Ramsey was the most popular rootstock. Current records have 1103 Paulsen, followed by Ramsey and 101-14 as the most popular rootstocks planted in modern Australian viticulture (PGIBSA 2009).

Rootstock research

In the mid 1970s, research commenced in SA on the growth characteristics of grapevine rootstocks (Nicholas 2006). This was predominately to cope with the recent nematode infestations in the Riverland and Barossa. The main data components collected throughout the trials included yield and yield components (bunch weights, berry weights, berries per bunch, Brix, pH and TA). These general analyses were performed across 7 regions on a collection of 8 white and 6 red varieties from 1974 up until 2001 (Nicholas 2006). In 2004, PGIBSA commenced a series of rootstock plantings to capture data on growth and wine quality adding to the data collected by SARDI and incorporating new rootstocks available to Australia including Boerner (V. *cinerea* x V. *riparia*) and Merbein rootstocks (V. *berlandieri* x V. *cinerea*). This work is continuing today and is an important charter of the board.

Future directions

A major literature review was undertaken in 2010 by the Rootstock Project Manager for PGIBSA; to examine the reasoning behind past rootstock research in Australia, but more specifically - SA, in order to determine future research.

In Australia, many of the initial trials have little more than 10 years worth of data collected. The conclusions of previous studies indicate that experiments of longevity above and beyond the 20-30 year mark are required.

The possibility to provide grape growers and wine makers in SA with detailed knowledge on the performance of different rootstocks grafted to various scions of varying ages will enable an opportunity to revisit the aims of each trial, the reasons for rootstock choice and opportunities to update the results and conclusions from each trial, including if required, reasons for discontinuation of data collection. In addition, it will identify which trials still exist in South Australia, conclusions (if any) from these trials and the data that is likely to be accessed from these trials.

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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.

Notice board

SEMINAR

28th – 29th July 2011, Settlers Tavern, Mildura

Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) and the
Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA (PGIBSA)
are proud to announce the

Below Ground Management for Quality and Productivity Seminar

This seminar combines –

- the Annual ASVO Winter Seminar, and
- the 3rd National Grapevine Rootstock Forum.

Through international and national speakers, information and best practice approaches will be present on:

- The Australian vineyard soil environment;
- Matching rootstocks to manage different soil environments;
- Comparative survey of soil types converted from commercial to organic and biodynamic systems;
- Management of organic soil systems;
- Soil challenges and rootstock development to meet the challenges; and
- Soil root zone management for quality and productivity.

This is a ***must*** event for winegrape, table grape, dried grape growers, winemakers, researchers, technical staff and students.

For program details and registration, visit www.phylloxera.com.au or contact 08 8362 0488.

ASVO

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

The Board farewells Catherine Cox-Kidman

Catherine Cox-Kidman commenced as Rootstocks Project Manager in September 2007. During her watch, she has completed the trial site plantings in the Adelaide Hills and Coonawarra; and was a champion for the use of rootstocks in new plantings.

Her passion for the industries wellbeing will not be lost as she looks to build her career as the Regional Technical Officer with Treasury Wines Estates in the Coonawarra and completing of her PhD.
The Board and staff wish her well for the future.