

update

Autumn 2012 Newsletter

Plant Biosecurity CRC bid successful!

The Board is pleased to announce that the Plant Biosecurity Collaborative Research Centre (CRC), which the Board is a participant member, has successfully won 6 years funding of \$29.5 million from the Federal Government.

The 4 program areas are -

1. Early Warning,
2. Effective Detection and surveillance,
3. Safeguarding Trade,
4. Secure Future.

Details about the CRC programs is available at www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au.

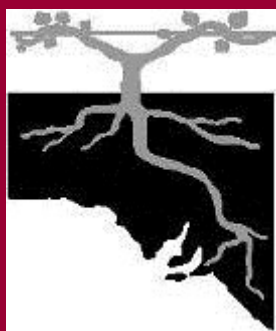
The Board, through its Research, Development and Extension Committee (R,D&E) will be undertaking several research projects to improve prevention, detection and surveillance of Phylloxera over the next 6 years. The CRC offers the opportunity for the Board to partner with other CRC participants to explore hygiene practices and incursion management plans with the purpose of creating new approaches to Phylloxera management.

The RD&E committee welcomes ideas that growers would like the Board to consider, by contacting the Office on 08 8362 0488 or email to admin@phylloxera.com.au.



R,D&E Committee members: Robin Nettelbeck, Alan Nankivell, Raegan Noon and Cassandra Collins

The R,D&E Committee was formed 18 months ago to review current research, maintain and monitor the 4 rootstock trial sites that the Board is collaborating in and consider new approaches for vineyard hygiene and biosecurity. Underpinning the work of the Committee is to ensure that South Australia remains phylloxera free and the Board delivers value for money to the grape growers of South Australia.



2012 Coonawarra Ground Truthing

Field Inspections have been undertaken in the Coonawarra during early January this year by PGIBSA staff.

Sites of specific interest were identified from analysis of aerial imagery flown early in late January 2011; with a total of 8 sites warranting further investigation.

Imagery for this region was last flown in 2008. This historic data has been invaluable in the analysis whereby now sites are able to be determined at a much higher level of sensitiveness to change. The overall benefits of this are huge, including not only greater efficiency in planning which sites to visit but also in overall management practises.

Inspection techniques consisted of using emergence traps where warranted. This is a simple but effective method, whereby a bucket is pegged upside down near a diseased vine.

Over the course of 2 weeks, the phylloxera has been detected to move up inside of the bucket and stick to the bucket wall, as it's attracted to the warm, moist conditions.

Although no phylloxera was found, it was very evident that the Coonawarra is suffering from Eutypa, particularly on older vines. It was noted that there may be an opportunity for further research into the impact of Eutypa.



Brendan Tully - Spatial Information Services Administrator, PGIBSA

Coonawarra Outbreak Manual

The development of a Regional Outbreak Manual for the Coonawarra GI is making solid progress with the final elements being completed and an expectation that the Manual will be released in Spring 2012.

After the Outbreak Simulation was run in February 2011, the next steps included the formulation of scenarios and an agreement by the GI to be reached.

As the Coonawarra have a contiguous layout of vineyards, it was unanimously agreed by both the Coonawarra Grapegrowers Association (CGA) to recommend to the region that if Phylloxera was detected in the region, then the region as a whole would be declared a PIZ. This recommendation was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the CGA.

Once this agreement was in place, the PGIBSA could start to form the outbreak manual with the CGA. This process is nearing completion and is on track to be in place for Vintage 2013.

Phylloxera Workshop - December 2011

14 people attended the 2011 December Phylloxera Workshop. There were representatives from the Barossa, Riverland, Limestone Coast and two from interstate.

The two-day workshop was held in the Yarra Valley, where participants visited -

- Helen's Hill Vineyard - prevention protocols and national phylloxera management,
- Giant Steps - tour of winery and shared experiences of the winery in a PIZ zone,
- St Huberts heatshed,
- A site visit to Racecourse Vineyard - phylloxera identification in the vineyard, and
- Yering Station - sign in and footbath procedures, protocols and tour a rootstock trial.



Inspecting phylloxera at Racecourse Vineyard

Presentations were given by Dr Greg King of DPI Victoria - issues surrounding PIZ management; and Dr Kevin Powell - phylloxera management which included detection, quarantine, rootstocks and awareness.

As an extra precaution, the participants wore disposable overalls when they were digging for phylloxera in the vineyard (see above 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.



St Huberts heatshed - Alan Nankivell, David Ammerlaan (TWE) and Victoria Leeke



Footbath procedures at Racecourse Vineyard



Participants from L to R: Brendan Tully (PGIBSA), Kym Wurst, James Schmidli, Andrew Downs PGIBSA, Chenhui Mu, David Coombes, Bryan Randhawa, Chris Dent, Sean Ellery, Brooke Howell, Todd Roesler, Mick Sewell, Neil Pech, Glynn Muster. Seated: Andrew Clarke (Yering Station), Noel Black and Alan Nankivell (PGIBSA). Victoria Leeke absent. Rachel Inness (PGIBSA - photographer)

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COMING SOON! Vineyard Returns ONLINE 2012

As part of the Boards' database upgrade, growers will be able to update their Vineyard Returns online. Testing will occur in November, ready to go live in December.

Instructions and hardcopies of the Annual Return will be sent to all growers, but they have the option to login and update their details online.

2012 Vineyard Register statistics

102 ha is the total number of vines increased since 1 April 2011.
345 ha of vines have been planted, top-worked or grafted in 2011.
3535 is the total number of growers listed in the Board's database.
21% is the total number of vines that are planted to rootstocks.

Vintage 2012 - Trial Sites

Three of the rootstock trial sites, Clare and 2 sites in Adelaide Hills (Lenswood Chardonnay trial pictured), were picked this year with data being generated at the moment.

This was a pleasant change from last year where the fruit was lost to disease. It was exciting to harvest the Sauvignon Blanc trial in the Adelaide Hills for the first time. This is a very big trial with 30 clone/rootstock combinations planted and good to see all of the hard work since planting in 2008 come to fruition.



Early Detection - Research to Practice

One of the current Board's objectives is to deliver an early detection sampling technique of Phylloxera for the grower. Research into early detection techniques have been developed in using EM38 scans, soil core sampling and bucket traps (3R's, K.Powell2011).



Andrew Downs (Project Officer) conducting core sampling in the vineyard

The process favoured by the Board is to develop the soil core sampling into a user friendly process for the grower. We are currently taking our first steps in the process whereby we have formulated a methodology and starting to trial this process.

The R,D&E Committee have, in conjunction with a biometrician and SARDI, set out a sampling procedure to test and then have the soil core samples analysed by the DNA testing facility SARDI have at the Waite campus.

We have now completed the first round of sampling in the Yarra Valley and are in the process of reviewing the results and determining our next steps.

Stay tuned for further updates in future newsletters.



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