

Start Here!

Connecticut Integrated Pest Management Program for Grapes

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Goal

The goal of the Connecticut IPM program for grapes is to develop sustainable approaches to manage pests, and to assist grape growers in utilizing methods that minimize environmental, health, and economic risks.

What to Expect

I am still organizing the IPM information specific to Connecticut and offer this brief outline as a start so growers will know what to expect. Listed are the IPM activities I will be engaged in and the type of information that will be provided at this website:

1. Pest alerts.
2. Weekly weather information and disease forecast from multiple sites in Connecticut.
3. Scouting reports of pest problems.
4. Disease diagnosis.
5. Grower training.
6. Website links to information especially relevant to Connecticut.

Integrated Crop & Pest Management

There is a tendency to only think of the pest control aspect of IPM, but we all realize the most effective IPM program involves careful consideration of crop management, cultivars and rootstocks, environmental and safety concerns, and long-term sustainability. I recommend that growers learn all they can about every aspect of grape and wine production in order to develop an integrated crop and pest management program for their farm. Pay attention to environments that favor pest development and host plant resistance as important means of controlling pests. Listed are a few suggestions for keeping up-to-date:

- (1) Connecticut vineyard and winery meetings announced at this website.
- (2) [Regional vineyard and winery meetings and workshops.](#)

- (3) [Information on the Internet.](#)
- (4) Several universities offer short courses:
 - a. [University of California, Davis](#)
 - b. [Michigan State University](#)
- (5) [Certificate in Winemaking Program, UC, Davis](#)

I have attended a few of the UC, Davis short courses and have one grower presently in the distance-learning Certificate in Winemaking program. The short courses are highly informative especially if they combine some time in the field or lab with the lectures. In the UC Davis distance learning certificate program one must be prepared to study and pay more than \$8,000. It is a serious educational program highly recommended to those intimately involved with a vineyard and winery, but have little formal training or years of apprenticeship.

Before You Use Any Pesticide in Connecticut

It is the goal of the Connecticut Grape IPM program to reduce pesticide use and identify alternative strategies for minimizing economic loss to the grower. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection must approve any pesticide used in Connecticut. One can do this online at [Kelly Registration Systems](#).