



26 February 2015

Botrytis

The risk of *Botrytis* is relatively low considering the forecast warm conditions. If rainfall occurs, monitor known 'hot spots'. For information about late season *Botrytis* control view the recent AWRI webinar [here](#).

Powdery Mildew

The growth of fresh leaves combined with the relatively high humidity during the past two weeks (Figures 2 and 3) provides new potential sites for powdery mildew infection. The risk of powdery mildew is currently considered low given that the most vulnerable varieties have been harvested in both the Riverina and Mudgee. However, in blocks which have had powdery mildew this season, consider a post-harvest spray to prevent premature leaf loss and to minimise disease carry-over into next season.

Downy Mildew

Due to the dry and hot weather forecast the risk of downy mildew is considered minimal. In vineyards where primary and secondary events occurred earlier in the season, be mindful that rain may trigger further infection and potentially cause early leaf fall.

Light brown apple moth (LBAM)/vine moth

Reports of high numbers of vine moth caterpillars from Mudgee continue, predominantly in Cabernet Sauvignon (Figure 1). It is important to monitor these caterpillars as they can defoliate vines rapidly. If spraying with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), remember that it is most effective when the instars are small, and that more product is required if targeting larger caterpillars. The overall risk of vine moth is considered moderate in Mudgee.

Forecast: Warm to hot, dry conditions.	
Pest/Disease	Risk
Powdery mildew	
Downy mildew	
Botrytis	
LBAM	
Vine moth caterpillars (Mudgee only)	
Shoot growth minimal.	

Interpretation guide

	Very high risk
	High risk
	Moderate risk
	Low risk
	Minimal risk



Figure 1. Vine moth caterpillars causing damage to grapevine leaves in Mudgee 2015.



VINEWATCH

Phenology

Hot humid weather has continued to accelerate ripening in both the Riverina and Mudgee.

Mudgee

Harvest of white varieties is complete and harvest of red varieties commenced last week. Cabernet Sauvignon is 'sugar-ripe' with harvest expected to commence once green flavours recede. It is expected that this will be towards the end of next week.

Riverina

Most white varieties have been harvested except for Colombard and Gordo. Red varieties including Shiraz and Merlot are currently being harvested and the harvest of Cabernet Sauvignon is expected to commence later next week.



E-L 38 Berries harvest ripe

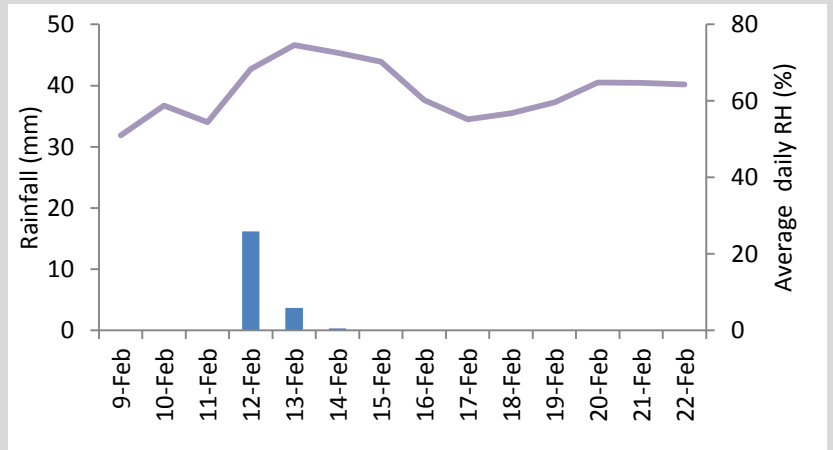


Figure 2. Average daily rainfall (mm) (columns) and relative humidity (%) (purple line) across the five Mudgee weather stations 9-22 February 2015.

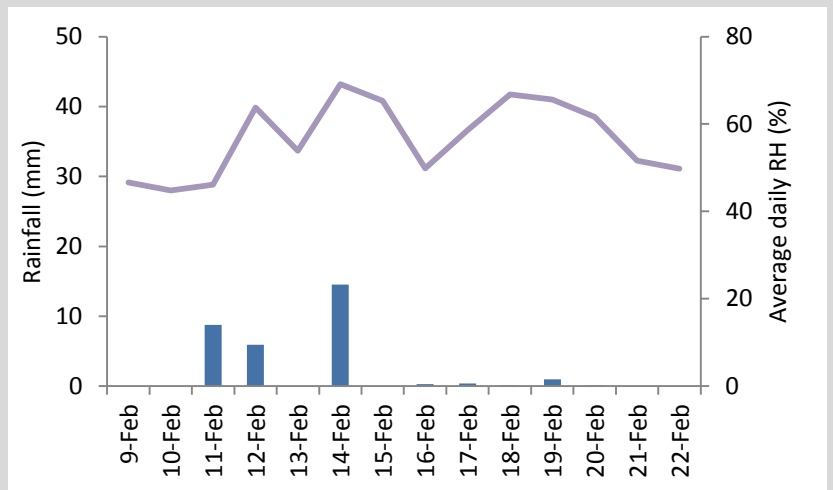


Figure 3. Average daily rainfall (mm) (columns) and relative humidity (%) (purple line) across the five Riverina weather stations 9-22 February 2015.



Post-harvest vineyard management

As vintage begins to wind down for some growers it is time to think about post-harvest care and preparing vineyards for next season. In many regions the earlier harvest means that leaves will remain on the vines for a lot longer than normal. Management practices to optimise leaf condition and root growth during this period include irrigation, preventative fungicide application to protect leaves from disease spread, curative sprays (if available) to eliminate existing disease and fertiliser application. A comprehensive summary of post-harvest nutrition and irrigation can be accessed [here](#).

A factsheet that is more specific to the Riverina can be accessed [here](#).

Mudgee and Riverina weather stations

Remember there are two networks of weather stations in NSW, located in the Riverina and Mudgee. Access the stations online [here](#) for real-time weather data

A webinar that provides assistance with navigating the weather station webpages can be accessed [here](#).

Enter your name and email address to view the webinar.

Chemical withholding periods

With harvest now in progress it is crucial to monitor chemical withholding periods, particularly if any sprays were applied within the last four weeks. Liaise with your purchasing winery when scheduling harvest to ensure that they are informed of any late spray applications.

Pest and disease survey

Thank you to all those who completed the pest and disease survey in late 2014. A copy of the abridged report can be accessed [here](#).



NSW DPI Viticulture Skills Development Program

If you would like to be kept up to date with the activities provided through the NSW DPI Viticulture Skills Development Program, please add your contact details here.

[Register here](#)

For further information about the program, please contact Darren Fahey darren.fahey@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Contact the AWRI for support

The Australian Wine Research Institute provides technical support for Australia's grapegrowers and winemakers. This service is free and confidential. If you require additional assistance on grapegrowing, including the identification and management of vineyard pests and diseases or agrochemical advice, please contact Mardi Longbottom or Marcel Essling on 08 8313 6600 or viticulture@awri.com.au.

Disclaimer: The VineWatch bulletin is provided by The Australian Wine Research Institute to support grapegrowers in New South Wales, specifically the Riverina and Central Ranges. This information is intended to be generic in nature. Always seek professional advice specific to your vineyard.