Department of Primary Industries

NEW SOUTH WALES wine

The Australian Wine Research Institute

14 January 2015

Botrytis

The recent rains and associated humidity will encourage *Botrytis* sporulation, so a very high risk rating has been given. Potential to spread will be dependent on the degree of berry damage (split berries, hail damage, sunburn) and how effective preventative spray programs have been.

Powdery Mildew

Humidity and mild conditions have been favourable for disease spread, triggering a very high risk warning. Monitor known hot-spot areas of vineyard. Powdery mildew lives on green tissue, so although berries may not have active disease growth, unprotected tissue on the bunch rachis and leaves may be susceptible.

Downy Mildew

As primary infections were reported in the previous bulletin and rain has continued to fall in Mudgee, there is potential for a secondary infection, so the risk level remains very high. The more recent rains in Griffith may pose a risk of a primary infection. Downy mildew will not infect ripening berries but unprotected leaves are still susceptible.

Light brown apple moth and vine moth

There have been no reports of problems associated with Light brown apple moth (LBAM) in either Mudgee or the Riverina. Vine moth is evident in Mudgee, in early larval stages. As this pest can quickly defoliate canopy it is recommended to act fast to control caterpillars while they are still small.

Forecast: Mild to warm temperatures with storms

Pest / Disease	Risk
Powdery mildew	
Downy mildew	
Botrytis	
LBAM	
Vine moth caterpillars (Mudgee only)	

Shoot growth controlled, potential for reactivation due to rain

Interpretation guide

- Very high risk
- High risk
- Moderate risk
- Low risk
- Minimal risk

Phenology

Variable weather patterns, which have included significant rainfall events over the past week (Figures 1 and 2), have slowed phenological development. For most varieties phenology is between E-L 35 and E-L 36 (see below). For more detailed weather data from Mudgee and the Riverina visit http://www.awri.com.au/industry_support/weather-nsw/

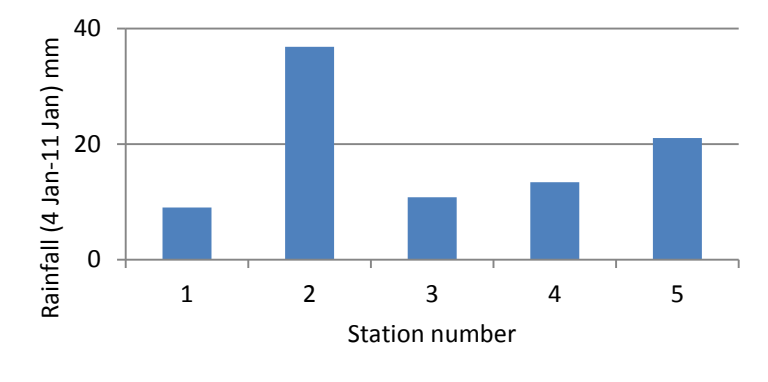

Figure 1. Rainfall variability for Mudgee 4-11 January, 2015

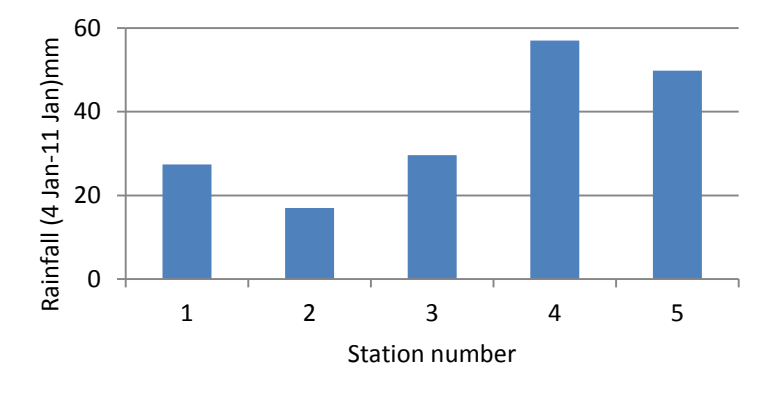

Figure 2. Rainfall variability for Riverina 4-11 January, 2015

Mudgee

Veraison has been rapid, with almost full colour achieved in the red varieties.

Current estimates are for harvest of fruit for white wines to commence in the week beginning 26 January, followed by reds in mid-February

Riverina

Harvest of fruit for sparkling base has commenced. Sugar levels are currently ranging from 7 to 9 degrees Baume.

E-L 35 Berries begin to colour and enlarge

E-L 36 Berries with intermediate sugar values

Botrytis management

Botrytis germination is dependent on rainfall and humidity. The risk of *Botrytis* and secondary bunch rots will increase with additional rain and warm conditions. *Botrytis* infections have been reported in NSW this week (Figure 3). The current forecast for the Riverina is for conditions becoming fine over the next week and in Mudgee there is a chance of showers.

When *Botrytis* is found at this late stage in the growing season, options for control are limited. Where canopies are dense, it is desirable to open up the canopy to enable airflow to facilitate drying. Where bunches are clumped together, bunch thinning may be an option to reduce hotspots.

Chemical control options are limited. If considering spraying, consult the AWRI Dog Book, available here, and with the winery that is purchasing the fruit.

More information on pre-harvest control of *Botrytis* is available in a fact sheet here.

Figure 3. *Botrytis* infection observed in NSW this week.

Smoke Taint

With the bushfire season upon us, it is a timely reminder of the risks posed when a fire threatens your vineyard. Smoke taint of grapes is an indirect result of bushfire damage. The risk of smoke uptake by grapes is dependent on vine growth stage, with the most recent research indicating seven days post-veraison to harvest is the most sensitive time. More information about smoke taint and also vineyard recovery after fires can be accessed here.

Fungicide resistance

If you suspect chemical failure to control downy mildew, powdery mildew or *Botrytis*, contact Barbara Hall at SARDI for information about how to collect and submit samples for testing.

Phone: 08 8303 9562

Email: barbara.hall@sa.gov.au

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.