SPRING VINE HEALTH

Anne Mooney
Orange Region
The Orange region

- There are approximately 60-70 growers in the region
- The area is dominated by family owned businesses
- There are 1500 ha of wine grapes planted (2005 survey)
- There are about 163600 tons of grapes produced for wine making in the Central ranges
Botrytis survey

Can you identify botrytis?
Yes

- Most respondents were confident they could recognise botrytis
How do you rate the your canopy vigour?
• All respondents had vigorous canopies
How do you rate the overall health of your vineyard?
Did you have an issue with botrytis last season?

Only one respondent answered no
What was the severity of the infection?

1 = no botrytis
5 = crop rejected

Average 3.1

Dependent on block and variety
What varieties were affected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Affected (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reisling**</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay****</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viognier</td>
<td>40%, not harvested</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiraz***</td>
<td>selectively picked, poor ventilation in block</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinot gris</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinot noir*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabernet franc</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semillon*</td>
<td>severely one respondent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savignion blanc***</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Merlot*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muscat</td>
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</table>
What is the average age of vines affected?

3-10 years
6-7 years
Over 11 years 5 respondents
What control strategies did you use?

- Range of botrytis sprays from 80% capfall to harvest
- Bravo early flowering, Scala after flowering, Rovral
- Bravo at flowering, Captan at bunch closure, Rovral late
- No flowering spray
- Flowering spray, pre bunch closure spray, shoot thinning, bunch thinning
- Full botrytis program, canopy management including cane pruning, leaf plucking, hedging
Other comments

- Worst incidence since 2000*
- Rain in February at high altitudes can be a problem
- Infection spread quickly
- Caused by poor airflow, rain at harvest, long grass
- Infection in Reisling because of berry splitting
- Infection in Chardonnay because of tight bunches
Take home messages for next season
Reach the target

- Calibrate your sprayer
- Check your machinery
• Keep good records e.g. temperature, rainfall, flowering dates, harvest dates, levels of infection

• Plan your management strategies

• Look at factors such as airflow, humidity, drainage
My sincere thanks to the individuals who gave up their time to complete the survey.
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