## Grapevine Nutrition & Vineyard Nutrient Management

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- Vine nutrient demand
- Vine nutrient supply
  - Nutrient reserves
  - Soil nutrient availability
- Vine nutrient status

#### Seasonal patterns of vine N demand (Concord, based on Hanson, 1995)





## Vine N demand

- Two periods of high demand
  - -2 wks before bloom to end of shoot growth;
  - Veraison to harvest.
- Cropload
  - 2.5 ~ 3 lb. N/ton fruit;
  - 5 lb. N in shoots and leaves/ton fruit.
- Variety difference

– Labrusca (70lb) > hybrids (50) > vinifera (35)

## N supply from reserves

- Reserve N provides 15 to 30% of the total vine N demand.
- Reserve N is a main source for vine growth from budbreak to bloom.

# Soil N supply

- Soil texture
  - Sandy or gravel soils have low N supply
- Organic matter: 1% = 10 to 20lb. N/A
- Soil pH.
- Soil moisture
  - Mineralization is limited in dry years.
- Weed competition.

## Vine N status

- Near veraison petiole samples
  - -0.8 to 1.2%
- Bloom petiole samples
  - -1.5 to 2%
- Vine shoot growth, vine size, and trellis fill.

#### Seasonal patterns of petiole N of Concord (Shaulis, 1956)





## N fertilization for labrusca

- Rate: 30 to 80 lb/acre
- Timing
  - 1/2 applied to soil between budbreak and bloom
  - 1/2 applied shortly after bloom

## N fertilization for vinifera

- Rate: 0 to 50 lb./acre
- Timing and method
  - 2/3 applied to soil between budbreak to bloom;
  - 1/3 applied to foliage just before and during veraison.
- For sandy soils: split applications.

## Yeast available nitrogen in NY musts (Henick-Kling et al., 1997)

## A total 120 samples were analyzed: Average: 181 mg/L Lowest: 51 mg/L Highest: 346mg/L

#### Leaf N and Juice YAN without any N application



#### Juice YAN in response to soil N application



#### Juice YAN in response to foliar N application



## Summary on YAN

- Background juice YAN was lower in a dry year than in a wet year.
- Foliar N application was more effective in a dry year than in a wet year.
- It appears that 25 lb soil N plus 3 foliar urea sprays was a good combination.

## **Phosphorous deficiency**



Pinot noir on Long Island grown on low pH soil with low petiole P. From: Bob Pool, NYAES.



Concord petiole AI and P concentration In relation to soil pH. From Terry Bates

### K concentration in 'Concord' berries



#### Seasonal patterns of vine K demand (From Larry William)





## Vine K demand

- Fruit is a major sink of K.
- Cropload
  - 5 lb. K/ton fruit;
  - 2.5 lb. K in stems and leaves/ton fruit.
- Variety difference

– Labrusca (75lb) > hybrids (50) > vinifera (35)

# Soil K supply

- Soil parent materials
  - NY soils generally have low K level (<200lb).
- Soil texture
  - Sandy or gravel soils have low K supply power
- Organic matter
  - Low organic matter leads to low K supply
- Soil moisture

- Drought or weed sharply reduces K supply.

• Mg/K competition:High Mg often leads to low K.



 Potassium deficiency is most likely to occur in a dry year in a vineyard with heavy cropload, poor weed management, and after application of dolomitic limestone.





## Soil and petiole K standards

- Soil: 300 to 400 lbs/A.
- Fall petiole samples: 1.3 to 2.0%
- To support a high cropload in a dry year, petiole K needs to be maintained at the upper end of this range.

## Soil K fertilization

- Maintenance Rate: 50 to 120 lb K<sub>2</sub>O/A
- Correcting deficiency: 150 to 300 lb/A
- Timing: fall/spring application

## Ca and Mg

- Soil: Ca Mg
   Labrusca 1500 ~ 2500 lb 150 ~ 300lb

  Vinifera 2500 ~ 4000 lb 300 ~ 400 lb
- Fall petiole: Ca: 1.2 to 2%; Mg: 0.35 to 0.5%
- Low Ca and Mg availability typically associated with low soil pH.

#### **Soil calcium and magnesium in relation to pH** (A survey of the vineyards in the Finger Lakes)



# pH and Liming

- Optimum pH
  - Labrusca: 5.5
  - hybrids: 6.0
  - vinifera: 6.5
- Maintenance rate
  - -1 ~ 2 tons dolomitic lime per year.









## **Correcting Mg deficiency**

- In addition to liming, Mg can also be provided by Sulpomag (22% K<sub>2</sub>O and 11% Mg) and Epsom salts (10% Mg).
- Foliar application of Epsom salts at 15 lb/100 gal at 1 to 2 wk intervals.
- Monitor petiole K/Mg ratio (4:1).

## Boron

- Important for fruit set and fruit growth.
- A narrow range between deficiency and toxicity (25 to 50ppm).
- Soil moisture affects B availability.
- Soil application at 1 to 2lb B/acre at budbreak.
- Foliar spray at 1 lb Solubor/100 gal at 6 to 10 inch shoot growth and 14 days later.

# Poor Fruit Set

# Boron Foxicity

## Zn

- Important for shoot and fruit growth
- Optimum range 30 to 60 ppm
- Foliar spray of Zn-chelate or other Zn products at 1 lb Zn/ acre 2 wk before bloom.

## Soil aluminum in relation to pH

(From Terry Bates)



## References

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