



The Grapeleaf

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June 7, 2006
11:00 a.m.

GEORGE LEAVITT RETIREMENT

POWDERY MILDEW FIELD MEETING
July 11, 2006

LET'S TALK POWDERY MILDEW

2006 COST STUDIES FOR RAISINS NOW AVAILABLE

MADERA GRAPE GROWER/PCA MONTHLY MEETING

The Grape Grower/PCA meeting for June will be held on **Wednesday, June 7, 2006**. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not you are a Madera County resident.

WHERE: *The Old School House*
23505 Avenue 14
Madera, CA (northeast corner of Avenue 14 and Road 23½)

DATE: *Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

TIME: *11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

Two hours of PCA and CCA credit will be available. Petrucci's lunch will be available at noon at a cost of \$8.50. If you don't want the lunch you are still invited to come and participate in the meeting. Please call 675-7879 Ext. 201 if you are planning to attend so we can get a preliminary lunch count.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Employer/Employee Pesticide Use Requirements
Jose Bueno, Madera County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Powdery Mildew and Phomopsis Control
Dr. George Leavitt, UC Cooperative Extension, Madera County

Sincerely,

George Leavitt
Farm Advisor

George Leavitt, Ph.D.
Farm Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension
328 Madera Avenue
Madera CA 93637-5465
559-675-7879 Ext. 206
559-675-0639 FAX
gmlavitt@ucdavis.edu
<http://cemadera.ucdavis.edu>



For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

Retirement

It is with many mixed emotions that I write this, my last newsletter. Just a little less than 31 years ago (1 June 1975) I came to Madera as the Farm Advisor for trees and vines and started writing this newsletter known as "The Grapeleaf." About three years later another advisor was assigned tree crops leaving me with just the grape assignment.



To say that the time has gone by quickly would be an understatement. In pondering this I recall the poem by Robert Baird. He wrote "Time flies on wings of lightning we cannot call it back. It comes then passes forward along its onward track. And if we are not mindful the chance will fade away. For life is quick in passing, tis as a single day." How could 34+ years of working for the University have gone by so fast.

I am sure that we all know the phrase - "Time flies when you are having fun." Truly I can say that I have had fun in visiting with, working with and being with the wonderful growers of not only Madera County but also a large number of you from other counties as well. I have also had the opportunity to visit with farmers from other countries while at scientific meetings and have found them to be the same kind of people that I know so well here. There is something different, a quality about those persons who work in agriculture.

Perhaps that quality can best be explained by a needlepoint my mother fashioned many years ago which hangs in my office. It is a quote of Charles Dudley Warner -

"To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch the renewal of life - this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfying thing a man can do"

Truly I have had a satisfying career - working with the best of people this earth has to offer. To name each and every one of you who have been so important in my career would be impossible. Suffice it to say that each time I made a farm call, I learned something that was of benefit to me and eventually to others.

Thank you for all your help - for letting me use your vineyards for the many different experiments performed - Thank you for your friendships - Thank you for the guidance and the use of your knowledge of grape growing - Thank you for all the untold numerous things you helped me with - Thank you for the past 31 years. To say a simple 'Thank You' does not seem sufficient for all the satisfying years of great associations that I have had. Yet it seems that it must suffice to express my gratitude and appreciation for all you who have done so much to enrich my life.

Thank you!



Let's Talk Powdery Mildew 2006 Experimental Plot

WHAT: Field Meeting
WHERE: Avenue 13 at Cottonwood Creek
WHEN: Tuesday, July 11, 2006

at 8:30 and 9:30

Sessions will begin

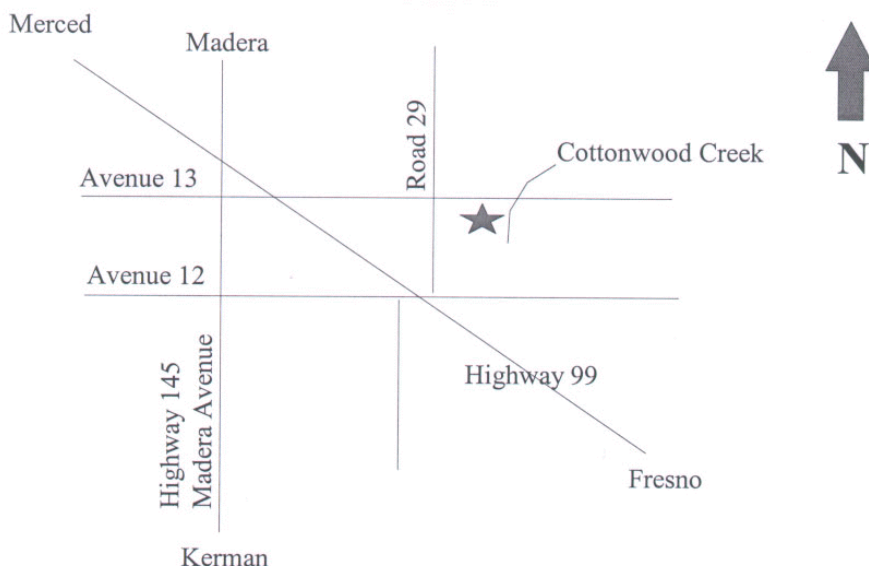
I will be retired, but come by the plot (see map and directions) for about one hour of talking about and looking at the results of the 2006 powdery mildew plot. The pressure at this location has always been heavy and differences will be observable. We have 1 hour of PCA/PA/QAL credit available for this meeting. This year we have tested new modes of action, softer chemistry and, of course, continued looking at resistance management.

Directions: North of Madera - 99 south - take Firebaugh/Kerman Hwy. 145 exit. At freeway exit go left 40 yards and turn right on Madera Avenue. Go south one mile to Avenue 13. Turn left (East) 2 3/4 miles to plot. Look for University of California signs along the road.

South of Madera (a) take 99 North to Avenue 12. Turn right (East) approximately 40 yards to Road 29 (it is the 1st possible left on top of the overpass without going back onto the freeway). Turn left (North) go one mile to Avenue 13. Turn right, go approximately 3/4 mile to plot.

(b) Kerman/Biola area - 145 North toward Madera to Avenue 13. Turn right (East) 2 3/4 miles. If you get to Cottonwood Creek you just missed the plot.

Map to Powdery Mildew Field Meeting:



LET'S TALK POWDERY MILDEW

The model for powdery mildew officially kicked on either 29 April or 6 May depending on where the station was located. However, in conversations with several PCA's who have several stations in many different locations, some areas actually began the mildew model on 21 April.

This shows the importance of going to the field and checking exactly what is going on despite what the model says. In many locations the model only lacked 15 minutes of obtaining the needed six hours and hence did not officially start for another week. In those instances I would have gone with the earlier date as the actual kickoff point. It also shows what a crazy weather pattern we have had this spring in attempting to determine what mildew is actually doing.

Currently however, highly favorable weather conditions forecast for this week and next guarantee that powdery mildew will be going through its life cycle every five days. This is not a good time to be late on applications. It is a good time to be applying systemic materials for lengthy periods of protection (14-21 days) rather than sulfur which has a relatively short re-application interval (5-7 days). This is essential especially if you are thinking of applying your first irrigation and will not be able to re-enter the vineyard within 5-7 days for sulfur applications.

Come to the meeting (Old School House - June 7, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm) and we will discuss what is going on.

NOW AVAILABLE

2006 SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH A VINEYARD AND PRODUCE GRAPES FOR TRAY DRIED RAISINS - SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Costs sheets are available in the UCCE Madera County Office at 328 Madera Avenue or you can access them online at www.agecon.ucdavis.edu [Click on outreach - cost and return studies.](#)

THE GRAPELEAF



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