



April 2014

## Upcoming Events

### Vineyard Pest Management Class



#### Chemeketa Community College

Mondays 6pm - 9pm starting 3/31

**ODA Pesticide Credits Available**

[Download flier](#)

[jessica.cortell@chemeketa.edu](mailto:jessica.cortell@chemeketa.edu)

### Vineyard Spray Workshop



#### Chemeketa Community College

Friday, April 18th, 9am - 4pm

**ODA Pesticide Credits Available**

[Download flier](#)

[jessica.cortell@chemeketa.edu](mailto:jessica.cortell@chemeketa.edu)

## Receiving your OVS statements by email yet?

Thank you to our many customers who took advantage of the opportunity to have OVS statements emailed rather than mailed every month. We appreciate the response as this option not only saves time, but trees!

If you haven't signed up yet, just contact our accounting team and we will set up your account accordingly.

[accounting@ovs.com](mailto:accounting@ovs.com)

**Early Opening Hours returned to OVS McMinnville on 3/10**

**Monday - Friday 7am-5pm  
Saturday 8am-Noon**

## Watch for Frost

We're entering that period of the growing year when many growers experience little sleep. Most crops have broken bud and are now exposed to frost risk. Perhaps by the time you read this article, grapes will have broken bud as well. Our greatest risk is clear, cold nights. The 60 day forecast is for below average temperatures and average rainfall. For most western Oregon locations, Mother's Day is considered the end of the frost potential. This year that's May 11th and risk could extend for a week to ten days beyond that date. Thus we've probably got at least six more weeks of frost risk to live through.

Of course, the best way to avoid frost is to plant on a south-facing slope because south (as well as east slopes) warm up fastest. But, more importantly, frost flows like water which means it pools at the bottom of slopes or in areas where air can be dammed. On a slope, frost is rarely deep enough to cause damage to buds up on a fruiting wire. But on valley bottoms frost can pool deeply and cause extensive damage. Yet there are practices you can engage to reduce risks on frost prone sites. Tightly mowing the rows allows the air to move downward without delay; whereas tall cover crops can dam air and cause frost to pool more deeply.

In areas where frost risk is present, many growers have already installed sprinkler irrigation, fans or smudge pots to protect their plants. However, sites without these tools sometimes need to take certain protection measures. Copper sprays can be used to kill "ice-nucleating" bacteria on plant tissue. This can help because ice needs to form on something and bacteria can be that something. But this approach doesn't buy you much protection. There are also polymer materials called anti-transpirants, and if applied ahead of the frost event, can protect a plant for 2-4 degrees below freezing. Also, if you have even a couple inches of green tissue, foliar potassium fertilizer sprays can buy similar protection by reducing the freezing point of the intracellular fluid. All the spray approaches must be applied prior to the frost event and must often be repeated. Call an OVS agronomist for specific products and protocols. Hopefully we won't need it, but be prepared.



*Nate Chambers, OVS Ag Supplies*

## Vida Max for Vitality

One of the oldest laws of plant nutrition is Liebig's Law of the Minimum. In essence, the law states that plant growth is not limited by the total amount of nutrition available, but by the least available nutrient. A plant might have an abundance of available nitrogen, but if it's missing a few atoms of boron, the plant will not be able to reach its genetic potential. In severe cases, if a few atoms of an essential nutrient are missing, the plant may fail to grow, fail to reproduce or even die.

The limiting nutrient could be any of the 17 or 18 essential elements, but the most likely suspects are the micros: aluminum (not listed by some), boron, chlorine, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel and zinc (vanadium is on some lists). These elements



## Vida Max for Vitality con't

are simply not found in some soils or are locked in place and not available to the plant. Many grape and berry growers have seen evidence of lack of zinc or boron in western Oregon. The plant grows very weakly in the spring and begins to grow in a zig-zag pattern. One must be very careful with micro-nutrients because the plants need a little, but a lot is often toxic.

Over the years, we offered many different micro-nutrient packages for application in the spring: ZBK, Tree & Vine mix, RxSupra, various Biomin products and more. Last year, we used our knowledge of nutrient availability in western Oregon soils and produced our own mix that we call Vida Max. We strongly recommend examining plant tissues in the late season for a baseline, but we find that most plants can use a little boost in the spring. Fall, post-harvest, is a good time to make adjustments as well. We recommend foliar application of Vida Max at 1-4 quarts with early season sprays, generally speaking one or two applications is all that should be necessary.

We included iron and sulfur (not a micro, but a secondary nutrient) in Vida Max in part because we postulate that some plants do not have adequate iron and sulfur; despite our soils generally having plenty of iron. Iron and sulfur are the elements plants use to make iron-sulfur proteins called ferredoxins. One or more ferredoxins are responsible for breaking down ammonium that may accumulate in plant tissues. Ammonium is known to be one causal agent of inflorescence necrosis (dead flowers), which has been a significant problem in several recent vintages. We can't guarantee that Vida Max will reduce inflorescence necrosis, but we think it may help.

Vida Max also has one pound of *Ascophyllum nodosum* kelp powder in each gallon. Kelp provides nearly the entire periodic table of elements in a plant available form. We keep adding plant "essential" nutritional elements to the list, and I think we'll discover more and more over time. But even if these small doses of elements are not "essential" to plant health, many, including Dr. Scott Burns, Professor of Geology at Portland State University (and serious wine enthusiast), believe that heavier elements contribute to the structure of complex aroma, taste and texture molecules in wines and foods.

Vida Max comes in 2.5 gallon containers, providing enough micro-nutrition for one application on up to 10 acres. The all-in-one solution mixes easily with most tank mix partners, but we haven't tried them all. Vida Max makes plant nutrition easier. Despite being made with many organically-approved ingredients, Vida Max is not organically-listed, but would be LIVE acceptable if micro-nutrition is deemed necessary.

*Kevin Chambers , OVS Agronomics*



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## From the Oregon Wine Board...

Dear Friends,

It is that time of year again when Oregon vineyards are especially susceptible to the potential effects of pesticide and herbicide spray drift. Over the next several weeks we can expect spray activity to increase again. The Oregon Winegrowers Association has been active in discussions with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on this critical issue.

It cannot be emphasized enough that our strongest position as a wine community will be cemented with timely data on verifiable spray drift incidents and potential damages.

Please do not delay in reporting information if you suspect chemical damage. As a first step, the Oregon Winegrowers Association has set up a [spray drift specific reporting questionnaire](#) for Oregon wine industry members to use when reporting suspected spray drift incidents. This questionnaire is only used internally by the OWA to help build the industry's case for action to prevent spray drift.

Secondly, the ODA continues to be helpful protecting your right to report crop loss due to spray drift. However, any report must be made within 60 days of discovering the loss and must be filed before 50% of the crop is harvested. The ODA has created a [document](#) to learn how to report a loss. For more information contact the Oregon Wine Board - 503-228- 8336





## OVS Annual Sprayer Inspection Meets L.I.V.E. Criteria

A properly maintained sprayer can save you costly repairs and downtime during the middle of spray season. Over time, many internal sprayer components can show signs of wear which, if left unaddressed, can cause sprayer malfunction.



Our skilled technicians will clean and test your sprayer and advise you of any repair recommendations needed to bring your equipment in compliance with L.I.V.E. approved criteria.



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- Testing sprayer operation
- Pump inspection
- Cleaning of nozzles & strainers
- Complete sprayer check-over
- Detailed list of needed repairs

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Avoid costly downtime by insuring your sprayer is properly maintained and calibrated. Our skilled technicians will clean and test your sprayer, to meet L.I.V.E. compliance criteria, and advise you of any repair recommendations.

**\$375 Inspection**

includes the following:

- Testing sprayer operation
- Pump inspection
- Cleaning of nozzles and strainers
- Complete sprayer check-over
- A detailed list of needed repairs

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# Equipment Corner



### 2012 Kubota BX25 Tractor/Loader/Backhoe

23HP, 1HR, 47" loader bucket and hydrostatic transmission SN65908

**Sale Price \$18,400**  
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### 2010 Kubota L3240 DT-3 Tractor

34HP, shuttle shift, gear transmission, tier 3 engine, 7HRS SN70353

**Sale Price \$14,999**  
After \$1,500 rebate



### 2014 Kubota GR2120 Lawn Tractor

21HP, diesel, 4WD, 54" deck SN13846

**Sale Price \$9,300**  
0% / 36 mo. available



### 2014 Air-O-Fan 300 Gallon Sprayer

Stainless steel tank, 32" fan, trellis tower SNGBSJB385632

**Sale Price \$21,995**



### 2013 Domries Model SN3322-C 5' Disk

22" blades, scrapers, middle breaker SN13384

**Sale Price \$5,400**