

Tank Cleaning

Phosphorous acids (commonly referred to as phosphite) are effective systemic fungicides to fight root rot diseases and downy mildew, as well as provide nutrition, on many crops. This is a good time to consider application of such materials. Helena's Ele-Max products are among the most affordable options on the market today. One blueberry grower took our advice but mentioned that his calibration was off considerably when he put out his subsequent worm spray. Why would his sprayer output change between a phosphorous acid application and his worm spray when the sprayer set-up was left untouched? Phosphorous acids act as aggressive detergents in the spray tank. Pesticide residues, tank scale, pinole residue from the Nu-Film products and other sticky materials all are liberated by the phosphorous acids. An inspection of this grower's sprayer revealed a shiny, new-looking tank interior and a heavily clogged filter screen. OVS carries several tank cleaning products that will also protect against corrosion. No piece of equipment on the farm can save or lose you more money than your sprayer. Take care of it with a regular tank cleaning; now would be a great time to do that.



Nut Growers Early Warning

Please plan ahead as Weiss McNair is moving to a new, larger site. During the physical move, June 24-July 5, they will not be able to ship parts. Order early or be patient.

Consider this New Respirator

The Sundström **SR-500** system is a belt mounted Powered Air-purifying respirator (PAPR), designed to protect against particulates, vapors or a combination. It is NIOSH approved to be used in oxygen sufficient environments, such as agricultural use.

Features:

- Offers audible, visual, vibration alarm for obstruction of air flow, filter clogging, or low battery.
- The fan unit is lightweight, balanced and ergonomic.
- Fully automatic air flow speed settings.
- Enclosed canisters to prevent direct contact with contaminants.
- On board Lithium-ion battery, easy to remove and replace.
- Full charging time takes less than 3 hrs.



It has a scratch resistant face shield with an excellent 180° field of vision. Plus the visor can easily be flipped up to a good balanced "over the head" position. The SR-500 PAPR filters are dimensioned to handle high air-flow, but they can also be used with all others Sundström Air Purifying Respirators.

The SR-500 PAPR is a customer driven product; designed for work that is hard, warm or of long duration. The incorporation of the latest technologies makes it a superior PAPR respirator.

Ricardo Santiago

Another Explanation for Grape Inflorescence Necrosis

The incidence of inflorescence necrosis (dead flowers) in Oregon vineyards seems to have increased the past few years. Of course, many of those springs (unlike the one we're now experiencing) were cool and damp. Australian research cites *Pseudomonas syringae* (a bacterial infection) as a causal agent there. Certainly, the photos posted in that research do look exactly like some of the symptoms we've seen here. Those yellow, oily-looking spots or translucent lesions with necrotic tissue in the center that often appear in the early season that many observers have attributed to early signs of Powdery mildew infections are more likely *Pseudomonas syringae* (hereafter PS) infections according to this Australian research.

Of course, there are other causes of inflorescence necrosis, another common one for us is rust mites and sometimes boron deficiency. But Dr. Walt Mahaffee (USDA Small Fruits Center Plant Pathologist based in Corvallis) speculates that PS is another causal agent. PS does affect many other crops in the Willamette Valley, most notably blueberries and lilacs. Most of our early spray materials (sulfur, oil or systemic mildicides) do little or nothing to control PS. So it might be worthy to consider early (at 6" of growth) sprays of Oxycom, SerenadeMax, Regalia or others. These materials are being used or proposed for use against PS in other crops.

Dr. Mahaffee and others will be examining grape tissues this season to confirm this speculation. To read the research go to http://www.ovs.com/pdf/plant-pathol%20_60_325_337.pdf.

Spray Adjuvants have Specific Purposes

Spray adjuvants are not just expensive, unnecessary products that dealers add on to inflate the bill. At OVS, we only recommend a spray adjuvant if we feel it improves the efficacy of the spray. However, each adjuvant has a specific role or roles and is not intended to be randomly exchanged with other adjuvants. I often hear a grower say, "I've got some stuff lying around the barn, I'll just use that." That attitude can get you in trouble. For example, most oil-based adjuvants should never be used with sulfur because they can cause phytotoxicity (leaf burn). Pinolenes (Nu-Film P or 17, Sustane or Surfex, among others) should not be used with a botryticide, because the botryticide needs to spread over the entire surface area. Pinolenes are 'sticker-stayers,' they hold the spray materials right where they land on the plant. That's great to hold sulfur on a plant through a rain event, but not the right choice to use with Elevate or Vanguard. Adjuvants like Hel-Fire really improve the performance of glyphosate, but would be a bad choice to spray with sulfur. Be sure you're using the right adjuvant for the job.

OVS opens new Umatilla facility to better serve our eastern Oregon and Washington customers.



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Excessive Nitrogen Fertilization Depletes Soil Carbon

Today you can read a great deal about greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) and growing corn for ethanol production. These issues are linked. Since 1955, farmers have used ever-increasing levels of nitrogen fertilizer to keep corn yields up. It was purported for decades that nitrogen fertilization actually helped build soil carbon levels, but a new University of Illinois study led by soil scientist Dr. Saeed Khan reveals a very different reality. For the complete report see: <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/news/internal/preview.cfm?NID=4185&CFID=1627523>.

Dr. Khan writes, "What we learned is that after five decades of massive inputs of residue carbon ranging from 90-124 tons/acre, all the residue carbon had disappeared, and there had been a net decrease in soil organic carbon that averaged 4.9 tons per acre. Regardless of crop rotation, the decline became much greater with the higher nitrogen rate." Co-investigator Tim Ellsworth writes, "We don't question the importance of nitrogen fertilizers for crop production. But, excessive application rates cut profits and are bad for soil and the environment. The loss of soil carbon has many adverse implications for air and water quality, since carbon dioxide will be released into the air, while excessive nitrogen contributes to the nitrate pollution problem." **This knowledge is one of the reasons we built our liquid fertilizer plant to demonstrate the value of adding carbon to traditional fertilizers to improve efficacy and reduce pollution. Call an OVS agronomist today!**