

Smoke effect in grapes and wine

FSV Horticulture – Leading Practice Change & Industry Development
Grape News

March 2009



The ongoing presence of atmospheric smoke from bushfires through Victoria has caused concern in a number of different wine grape growing regions throughout south-eastern Australia, in particular Victoria.

This information has been produced for those grapegrowers and wineries considering sampling grapes, wine or leaves to assess the likelihood of negative impacts of the smoke.

Please note: This document is an abbreviated version of an electronic newsletter on this topic (already received by many grapegrowers and wineries). Please contact the people listed at the foot of the document for more details.

Sending samples for analysis in Victoria:

DPI Victoria's Farm Services Victoria - Horticulture, has established a single permit for Plant Health Certificates to assist growers or wineries wanting to send fruit to the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI), Vintessential or Chemical Analysis for testing.

The most effective time to test the grapes is as close to harvest date as possible. A sub-sample of 1 kg of loose berries from a 30 bunch grape sample should be used.

Growers or wineries who wish to sample their fruit for testing levels of smoke taint 'indicator' compounds guaiacol and 4-methylguaiacol, and who might need assistance with the preparation, processing and transport of these samples should contact either Ricky James or Kieran Murphy from DPI Victoria for instructions and further assistance (contact details below).

As the AWRI is located in Adelaide, South Australia, all grape samples that are sent are bound by phylloxera protocols and must be accompanied by a Plant Health Certificate as issued by the Plant Standards Branch of DPI Victoria. A Plant Health Certificate can only be issued if the samples have been frozen at -18°C for a period of 24 hours in an approved facility.

There are three facilities where growers or wineries can leave samples: Punt Road Wines in the Yarra Valley, Mitchelton Wines at Nagambie and the DPI Victoria office at Rutherglen. Growers and wineries must complete the paperwork provided detailing name, address, variety, block, fax, email, etc.

At this stage, shipments to the AWRI/Vintessential/Chemical Analysis will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Be mindful that fruit needs to be frozen for 24 hours prior to shipping, so samples due for shipment on Tuesday or Thursday for example, will need to be in the freezer by 12.00 pm (midday) on the previous day at the latest. The delivery of chilled or already frozen samples will ensure the samples are dispatched ASAP.

Sample delivery procedure

Yarra Valley- Punt Road Wines

Delivery of samples is **strictly from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Samples are to be taken directly to the freezer and signed in with all information recorded. **Samples left in the laboratory will not be accepted.** For further details contact Kieran Murphy on 0408 591 858.

Nagambie- Mitchelton Wines

Delivery of samples is **strictly by appointment only**. Please contact Ricky James on 0447 341 373 to arrange a time to deliver samples.

North East- DPI Rutherglen

Delivery of samples is **strictly between 9:00 am and 12:00 midday** on Mondays and Wednesdays. For further details contact Ricky James on 0447 341 373.

Samples from Phylloxera Exclusion Zones and Phylloxera Restricted Zones areas can be delivered into these areas for collection.

Please ensure that each sample to be tested is double bagged in the appropriately sized clip-lock bags. Both the inner and outer bag will need to be labelled with adhesive labels stating the grower's name, address, variety and block details. The contact details and address for each sample submitted is required to facilitate invoicing from the AWRI/Vintessential/Chemical Analysis for the service.

Payment details

DPI Victoria and GWRDC will cover the costs of the Plant Health Certificate and transport to the appropriate laboratory. Laboratories will directly invoice growers or wineries for any testing done.

Key contacts for further technical information

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This fact sheet has been produced in partnership with a number of key research agencies (Australian Wine Research Institute, DPI Victoria, Department of Food and Agriculture WA, The University of Adelaide and the National Wine Grape Industry Centre), in association with the GWRDC and the Victorian Wine Industry Association.

Published by the Department of Primary Industries, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia
March 2009

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

ISBN 978-1-74217-419-8 (print)

ISBN 978-1-74217-420-4 (online)

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