

**WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION**

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

<http://pawinegrape.com>

Meetings Galore!

Even in a time of tight budgets and layoffs, it amazes me how robust the winter meeting schedule is around the region. Look at the [February and March calendar](#), it is packed with great events for grape growers and wine makers! For example, this week is the [Ontario Fruit and Vegetable](#) meeting (I'm a speaker here—"Garagistes in America") in Niagara Falls (Canadian side - for those of you looking for some romance to accompany your equipment purchases), followed on the weekend by the [Maryland Wine Industry annual meeting](#) (I'm a speaker here, too – vine density and building a wine industry), and [Grape Expectations](#) in New Jersey (easily accessible to SE PA wine growers), where author George Taber of *Judgment in Paris* fame is a speaker! The following week from March 1-3 is the joint [Finger Lakes Grape Growers Convention AND New York Wine Industry Workshop](#), where Cornell viticulture and enology extension and research gets to shine. The next week is super busy in Lancaster, PA with the [Pennsylvania Winery Associations annual meeting](#) on Tuesday, 6 March, followed by the new [Eastern Winery Exposition](#) from March 6-8, and the [New Grape Grower workshop](#) that I will present with Dr. Joe Fiola (Univ of Md) on Friday, 9 March. If you can catch your breath, there are pruning workshops scattered around the region, and then the biggie in the East, [Wineries Unlimited](#), in Richmond Virginia is March 27-29.

I will call out the annual [Wine Grape Integrated Pest Management Workshop](#) on Wednesday, 21 March, being held this year at the Penn State Berks Campus in Reading. We have a terrific program that includes Dr. Wendy McFadden-Smith from Ontario addressing the problem of sour rot in grapes (I heard this talk at Ag Forum on Long Island and you won't want to miss it!), Tim Weigle, NY state grape IPM specialist at Cornell in W NY will discuss [organic grape growing](#) practices developed in the Erie region, and Tremain Hatch, extension viticulture associate from Virginia Tech will provide valuable background information on the chronic trunk disease called [Grapevine Yellows](#), a problem that has been identified in Pennsylvania vineyards. The Penn State grape pathology team includes Bryan Hed, Dr. Noemi Halbrendt and Dr. John Halbrendt will cover the BIG 5 grape diseases and viruses of grape. The meeting will be delivered by video to extension offices in Westmoreland (SW PA), Erie, and Susquehanna (NE PA) counties. Click [HERE](#) for program, registration and information.

You could kill yourself trying to attend all of these excellent meetings. Pick the ones that best serve your interests and needs. Growers and wine makers in Pennsylvania should attend the PWA meeting to show solidarity for the organization that represents your industry and needs.

See the regional viticulture and enology events calendar on the [PWGN website](#) for a full schedule and information about specific events. Also look for photos from the recent pruning workshops at Blair Vineyards and Naylor Wine Cellars (you'll want to see Rich's Burgundian brush burn barrel), and check

out featured articles (Long Island and Finger Lakes) and websites (Virginia Vineyards Association), and lots more!

You may have noticed that it has been oddly warm outside. Pruning always goes faster when the weather is nice. Bud hardiness data from [Ohio](#) indicates that vines are deacclimating in this unseasonably warm weather. If you are north of the Mason-Dixon line you may wish to take this into consideration as pruning progresses, perhaps leaving an extra cane or renewal spurs, just in case we get hit with a winter injury event. I always recommend pruning in ascending order of varietal value.

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