

HARD ROW TO HOE WINERY

MANSON, WA
CLINTON HEPPER
SUMMER 2013



Introduction

My internship was located in Manson, WA at a winery called Hard Row to Hoe. It was purchased by winery owners, Don and Judy Phelps, in 2004 still operating as an apple orchard, and in 2005 the first planting of grapes took place. Don works his magic in the vineyard, while Judy is in charge of the wine making. The winery continues to grow and produces award winning wines.

Responsibilities

Tasks that I was responsible for included; leaf removal (lots of that), cluster thinning, irrigation application and maintenance, and vine training.

It was my responsibility to show up daily and complete the tasks I had been assigned. I worked independently and it was up to me to maintain professionalism in doing a good job in a timely fashion.

Summary

From my internship experience, I learned that I have a ton to learn! Only so much can be taught through a text book and there are many variables to what one is taught, as well. My neighbor, a vineyard owner says, "It all starts in the vineyard" in reference to making a fine glass of wine. I truly believe that and after experiencing it first hand, I can say that I am that much closer to reaching my goal as a wine maker.



Training younger vines



Tucking older vines

Vine Training

- Vine training was important because it plays a pretty big role in getting ready for harvest.
- Older vines that grew vigorously needed to be tucked into the catch wire and cut back in order to put the nets on. Unfortunately, I didn't get to see the process of seeing the nets actually being put on as it wasn't quite the time of year to set the nets.
- Younger vines that were planted a few years earlier were cut to single shoots so that all of the energy was focused solely on that shoot for maximum growth. After that had been completed, they were tied and vigorously needed to be tucked into the catch wire and cut back in order to put the nets on. trained to grow in an upward position.



Leafhoppers (leaf on the left)

- Leafhoppers are tiny insects that drill down into the leaves and effect the process of photosynthesis. Once this has occurred, the leaves are pointless



Veraison

- This is an example of a good cluster that is in the process of going through veraison. Veraison is the onset of ripening and occurs before harvest.



Irrigation and Application

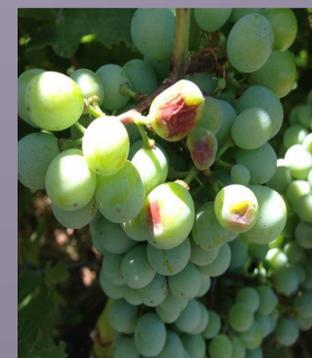
- Irrigation application and maintenance was key to providing the vines with good water, especially the young vines.
- It was essential to give the young vines plenty of water in order for them to survive and remain healthy.

Cluster Thinning

- Cluster thinning was also important because not all clusters are the same.
- There were some clusters that needed to be removed because for one, they weren't going to produce quality fruit and secondly, they zapped energy from the other clusters that were going to produce quality fruit
- Weak clusters are useless and will produce poor quality fruit. This an example of a weak cluster. It zaps energy from the stronger clusters.



Weak cluster



Sunburnt grapes

- Sunburnt grapes due to it being so hot out and being exposed to the sun too much. Too much leaf removal could have been a cause of this because the clusters didn't get enough shade.