

Update on grapevine cold hardiness and deacclimation - sent April 19, 2013 2:30 p.m.

The warmer temperatures experienced over the past week have resulted in further cold deacclimation in grapevines across Ontario. The latest bud hardiness measurements indicate that all cultivars have LTE10 values (the temperature at which 10% of buds can be injured) below -7°C.

There are some below freezing temperatures in the forecast this upcoming weekend. Start-up temperatures for wind machines should be adjusted to account for what we are seeing in vine cold hardiness. For optimal use of wind machines, it is suggested that the start-up temperatures be set at 2 to 3 degrees warmer than LTE10 values at which injury might occur. Based on the latest data for most cultivars wind machine start up temperatures should be around -5°C.

As we get consistently warmer weather and move closer towards bud break, grapevines will continue to lose cold tolerance. Therefore, at this time it is extremely important to continue to monitor cold hardiness levels regardless of location. We will follow up with further updates as we approach bud break.

The MOST RECENT COLD HARDINESS DATA can be viewed at <http://www.ccovi.ca/vine-alert/recent>

Please note: Cold hardiness ratings are estimates only and the information provided are for general guidance. Cold hardiness ratings are site specific and may vary based on vine health, viticulture practices and site conditions, among other factors. Any decisions for protection strategies should be based on your own information and site conditions.

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