

Subject: Re: update on grapes
From: Elizabeth Wolkovich <lizzie@oeb.harvard.edu>
Date: 1/10/17, 5:24 PM
To: "Woodruff, Kea J" <kwoodruff@fas.harvard.edu>

Hi Kea,

Thanks so much for the update and all your efforts to keep the plants alive and as healthy as possible. Predatory mites are fine by me (go trophic cascade!). And, yes, sounds good to start the dormancy process. Dropping the temps next week and shortening photoperiod sounds good to me. We should also cut back on water so we have a drought treatment alongside the cooler temps and less light to help dormancy along.

I was planning to come into the office next Monday, but I just found out that is MLK day so I am not sure when next I will be in (I have to be on campus Tuesday-Wednesday and am traveling starting Wednesday night). Sorry about that! I thought I planned that so well, but in the end I did not, at all.

All the best,
Lizzie

On 1/10/17 7:33 AM, Woodruff, Kea J wrote:

Hi Lizzie,

I just wanted to give you an update on what's happening with the grapes. They are growing pretty fast in the chambers, with the new growth getting chlorotic, and also have some lesions on the leaves due to both powdery mildew and spider mites. Last Tuesday, I treated them with an organic oil product (Suffoil-X), which is both an insecticide and a fungicide. I also fertilized them with the regular strength fertilizer we have been using all season. Yesterday, I treated them with a different biological fungicide (Companion), which is also a weak foliar fertilizer. There are predatory mites arriving tomorrow that I hope will take care of any remaining spider mites. However, the plants are still chlorotic, and are starting to grow into the lights. I wonder whether we should go ahead and start inducing dormancy. A few of the pots do have roots showing at the bottom. Because the predatory mites are more active at warm temperatures, I was thinking we can go ahead and maintain the current settings through the end of this week. I will also give them another application of weak fertilizer, so that hopefully they will store some nutrients in stem tissue. Next week, we can drop the temperature to 10 C and shorten the photoperiod. We can talk about all this if you get a chance to come in the office next week – or I can send pics if you want to get a better look at them. Let me know if you DON'T want me to use the predatory mites in there. I won't change any settings without your go-ahead.

Kea

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