



Mira Garner &lt;mira.garner@gmail.com&gt;

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**Veraison!**3 messages

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**April Mahovlic** <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 1:15 PM

To: Mira Garner &lt;mira.garner@gmail.com&gt;, "Wolkovich, Elizabeth" &lt;e.wolkovich@ubc.ca&gt;

Hey Mira and Lizzie,

I hope you both enjoyed the long weekend, and are doing well. I wanted to email as soon as possible to let you know that I'm starting to see veraison down south at Nk'mip (Block F Syrah) and Dark Horse! (Block E Chardonnay, Block G Pinot Noir).

Now that I know what I am looking (and feeling) for, I've got a few more questions.

1. Some flagged clusters have damaged berries, perhaps from birds and other pests, that has caused berries on the cluster to dry up. I'm wondering if I should continue to monitor these clusters, or move the flag to one that has either no damage, or less damage. See photo below for clarification.



AUG 4  
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2. I'm hoping to clarify something from the protocol. It mentions that some red varieties will have grapes begin to soften before a colour change, though it is rare. Does this mean that grapes will begin to soften on a cluster before veraison has begun on any grape of that cluster? Or is this also relevant once colour change has been observed on other grapes of the same cluster? I'm noticing that the odd grape on red variety clusters are softening before colour change, but only once veraison has been observed in that cluster. I've got notes in the data sheets for blocks and vineyards to which this applies.

3. Not a question as much as outlining a challenge with veraison in white grapes. I've only observed it in the Chardonnay so far at Dark Horse, however I'm finding it very challenging to visually distinguish grapes that are in veraison, from those that are not. The grapes are becoming more translucent when held up to the light and compared to other grapes, but it's a subtle difference and not easy to distinguish when looking at the cluster head on. I had assumed the grapes must be in veraison as they are very soft and squish easily. The strategy I used today was to roughly count the amount of berries that felt soft (veraison) and then estimate the percentage of the cluster that those berries would encompass. I understand it may not be ideal, and was more time consuming. I've posted some photos in the drive that I took today, and have titled them as "White \_\_\_% veraison" so that they group differently in the folder. Hopefully as I gain more experience with veraison I will be able to overcome this challenge!

I'll now be returning to my regular monitoring schedules for all the southern sites, and will give another update after the weekend if anything changes, or I have any more questions.

I've added new folders in the google drive for Veraison photos, so that they are separate from bloom, and as stated above, have titled photos of white varieties differently so they group together. I hope that is helpful.

Lastly, Lizzie I do have some dates at the end of August that will not work for me to do Brix sampling. I will be away the weekend of August 28th for a celebration of life in the Kootenays. Thanks in advance for understanding.

Sorry for another long email. I hope all my questions and comments are clear. If it is easier for either of you, I'm always happy to video chat over Skype, FaceTime or any other platform.

Thanks so much for all the help!

Warm Regards,

April

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**April Mahovlic**

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**Elizabeth M Wolkovich** <[wolkovic@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:wolkovic@mail.ubc.ca)>

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 3:14 PM

Reply-To: [e.wolkovich@ubc.ca](mailto:e.wolkovich@ubc.ca)

To: April Mahovlic <[aprilmahovlic@gmail.com](mailto:aprilmahovlic@gmail.com)>

Cc: Mira Garner <[mira.garner@gmail.com](mailto:mira.garner@gmail.com)>

Hi April,

Great that veraison has started! Some quick replies.

1) Yes, this happens. If there's a count cluster (see protocol for definition) that looks much better then switch the flagging. (For some plants all clusters may look a little sad, in which case stick with the flagged cluster.)

2) Good question! Softening \*is\* veraison so if you find a soft berry that has not undergone color change (or not much) you should count it. I am not sure if that is your question though ... If you mean, will you only generally see this when there's already been color, then my answer is yes. You almost always see some color change, it's just worth squeezing the green berries too then to see if they are undergoing veraison without color change.

3) I understand this struggle! My only advice is to be kind to yourself and not obsess over your exact numbers. I definitely give the full cluster a gentle squeeze up and down as I am assessing veraison, so as you do more clusters I suggest doing that as well and you might get to a point where you can estimate from that. I guess my overall advice is -- counting berries (more estimating a count!) quickly is fine to start, but work towards quicker methods as you can. And know it's hard and you don't need to get it perfect.

4) Thanks for the heads up on sampling dates. We had been looking at visiting to do the first sampling 25-27 August. Does that work for you? I know it's a little close to the 28th but it works for us and colleagues so hoping we can swing it. I think we'd probably sample a couple of those days, maybe not all three.

Let me know if I missed anything and, Mira, please chime in if I got anything wrong of you can add detail/clarification!

All the best,  
Lizzie

On 8/5/20 1:15 PM, April Mahovlic wrote:

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April

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**April Mahovlic** <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>  
To: e.wolkovich@ubc.ca  
Cc: Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 4:14 PM

Hi Lizzie,

Thanks for the answers and clarification! I'm sure my technique will improve as I get more experience with veraison, just want to make sure I'm not missing anything early on and that I'm sticking to the protocol.

I'll move any clusters that I think need it, and will be sure to familiarize myself with count cluster.  
As for the softening/colour change of red grapes I'll be sure to keep good notes on everything in the spreadsheet.

The 25-27 shouldn't be a problem as far as I know! I would only be traveling on the 28th, so no worries about the proximity of the dates.

Looking forward to finally meeting with you guys in person! Until then, I'll keep up with my update emails. Also, with the Mesa being set up to the google sheet in the all sites data file on the shared drive, it's updated each day I return from the field so there's always current data.

Thanks again for all the help!

Cheers,  
April

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