



Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Weekly update

6 messages

April Mahovlic <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 11:07 AM

To: Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>, "Wolkovich, Elizabeth" <e.wolkovich@ubc.ca>

Hi Mira and Lizzie,

I hope you are both enjoying the week so far. We've had weather in the high 30's here since last week, so needless to say it's definitely summer!

I hope I haven't been lacking in communicating over these past few weeks. I've been doing my weekly vineyard walk throughs at all sites, and doing my best to carefully monitor for the start of veraison. Each week I go in, I expect I may observe some changes in the berries softness or colour (expecting white varieties to be earlier), but I just don't think it's happening yet. In the protocol, it mentions that veraison was approximated to start around July 15th. I'm wondering if that was just an estimation? Since I'm not fully confident that veraison has started, I just want to make sure I'm not missing anything.

I spoke to Scott from McIntyre last week, and he mentioned the earliest variety for them last year was the Sauvignon Blanc in Block C with 50% veraison on August 9, though they are tracking a bit behind for this year. He said usually it's about 5 days to a week before 50% that veraison starts, so I'm hoping next week I'll start recording data. I reached out to a Nelson and Mike with similar questions in hopes I could see if I'm on the right track, but never heard back from them.

I'm finding myself challenged though, as I am not entirely sure what I will be looking for when veraison starts. Though red grapes seem straightforward, I've been looking online at photos of white grape veraison, and I think I have a decent idea of what I'm looking for, though the colour change isn't always clear from the photos. I've also been careful to feel the grapes. Though they aren't all rock hard, they're not what I would call "soft" and most feel consistently the same and are still all the same bright green colour. I'm wondering how soft the berries become, or if this change is subtle? Perhaps they are softening and it's just not as noticeable as I would expect.

Lastly, I took the Mesa 2 out in the field today, and though I didn't need to record any data, I did type in a few things and it saved to the device, then loaded onto the google drive when I arrived home. I'll do one more test run tomorrow but seems like it should work perfectly. The attachable keyboard is also a very nice addition.

I apologize for the long email, and hope that my questions are clear. As always, I want to ensure I'm doing the best work as possible while keeping you both informed through all of it. Let me know if there is anything I'm missing, or if you have any questions for me.

Thanks so much!

Best,

April

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April Mahovlic

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Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:01 PM

To: April Mahovlic <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>

Cc: "Wolkovich, Elizabeth" <e.wolkovich@ubc.ca>

Hi April,

Thanks for the update!

Yes, since this is our first year gathering data in the Okanagan, we aren't sure exactly when veraison will start so mid-July to mid-August was our best guess. We'll be updating it after this season.

Lizzie, you can give a better answer for her question about veraison in white varieties (3rd paragraph). My understanding is that any softening indicates veraison but I've never monitored for veraison.

Cheers,
Mira
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April Mahovlic <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>
To: Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>
Cc: "Wolkovich, Elizabeth" <e.wolkovich@ubc.ca>

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:27 PM

Thanks Mira,

Good to know, I was pretty sure it was an estimate but just wanted to confirm.

I'm fairly confident in my observations but it's tough to know exactly since this is all so new!

Enjoy your afternoon :)

Cheers,
April
[Quoted text hidden]

Elizabeth M Wolkovich <wolkovic@mail.ubc.ca>
Reply-To: e.wolkovich@ubc.ca
To: April Mahovlic <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>, Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 7:29 PM

Hi April (and Mira),

Thanks for the update (and, no, I don't think you have been lacking in communication). Great on the tablet and thanks for doing the extra work with that. Once you have been in the field more with the Mesa, I'd be interested to hear the pros/cons of each.

Veraison is tricky when you have not done it before! Usually it starts 4-5 weeks after bloom finishes (maybe 3 if very hot and for certain varieties) so our July 15th guess was just a total guess. We will update it towards August next year now that we know.

As for what to look for -- you'll get a good sense of the softening once you see and can feel the red varieties, but most of the whites may change first so I appreciate your attention to this. Here's my few hints:

- The berries (generally) will be close to full size before veraison starts. As they get bigger they get a little softer just because of the change in size; that's not veraison.
- The white and green berries will turn slightly lighter (translucent is the best description I have though it's a small change and best seen if you pull a berry and hold it up to the sun).
- And they will soften! When veraison is done they are almost as soft as a harvestable berry so they won't go completely squishy at once but it's noticeable (they should be at least as squishy as a table grape you buy in the store). You're looking for a berry that is staying about the same size but getting squishy. I think you'll probably notice it once it starts.
- Not sure this helps, but if you take a berry at 0% veraison and try to smush it (say in a ziploc bag) it feels pretty hard and often just splits in half. One that is undergoing veraison will usually smush a little and have at least some juice that comes out.

Hope that helps, feel free to send photos or ask more questions.

All the best,
Lizzie

On 7/29/20 2:27 PM, April Mahovlic wrote:

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Enjoy your afternoon :)

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Cheers,
Mira

On Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 11:07 AM April Mahovlic

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Reply-To: e.wolkovich@ubc.ca
To: Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 7:30 PM

On 7/29/20 11:07 AM, April Mahovlic wrote:

I spoke to Scott from McIntyre last week, and he mentioned the earliest variety for them last year was the Sauvignon Blanc in Block C with 50% veraison on August 9, though they are tracking a bit behind for this year.

Hi Mira,

This is helpful info! We should file it.

I saw your other emails but am a little behind on a few deadline things so it may be next week before I can get back to you.

All the best,

Lizzie

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April Mahovlic <aprilmahovlic@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 8:34 PM

To: e.wolkovich@ubc.ca

Cc: Mira Garner <mira.garner@gmail.com>

Thanks Lizzie!

Its been great getting to try out both tablets. I'll be glad to give you a summary of each once I get more acquainted with the Mesa.

As for veraison, thank you for all the information and tips. I was fairly certain the grapes hadn't entered veraison yet, as I expected some more noticeable changes. I am glad to know that they soften a little bit as they enlarge, which I'm pretty sure is what I'm observing now. The trick with squishing them is super helpful! I've broken a few open and they've just split right in half.

I'll keep you both posted on how things go next week and whether or not I have more questions. Thanks again for being so helpful and patient while I navigate new challenges!

Enjoy your long weekend!

Warmest Regards,

April

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