

Wolkovich Phenology Monitoring Protocol

Dark Horse Site

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1 Objectives

We aim to characterize the phenology of a large number of winegrape varieties planted in vineyards around the Okanagan Valley area in BC. Our primary goal is to improve grower models of phenological timing with relation to climate. To this end, we aim to sample a diversity of varieties that capture differences in phenology. Due to the limitations on travel and fieldwork during Corvid-19, we are not able to monitor the plants throughout the summer this year. Mike Watson has kindly agreed to some surveying through Arterra employees at the Dark Horse vineyard.

2 Sampling population at Dark Horse

We are monitoring vines in the following locations:

Block G - rows 4-5 south end, 10-11 middle Block J - rows 7-8 south end and middle Block E - 5-6 north end, 2-3 middle Block 1 - 26-27 west end and middle

Dark Horse Vineyard

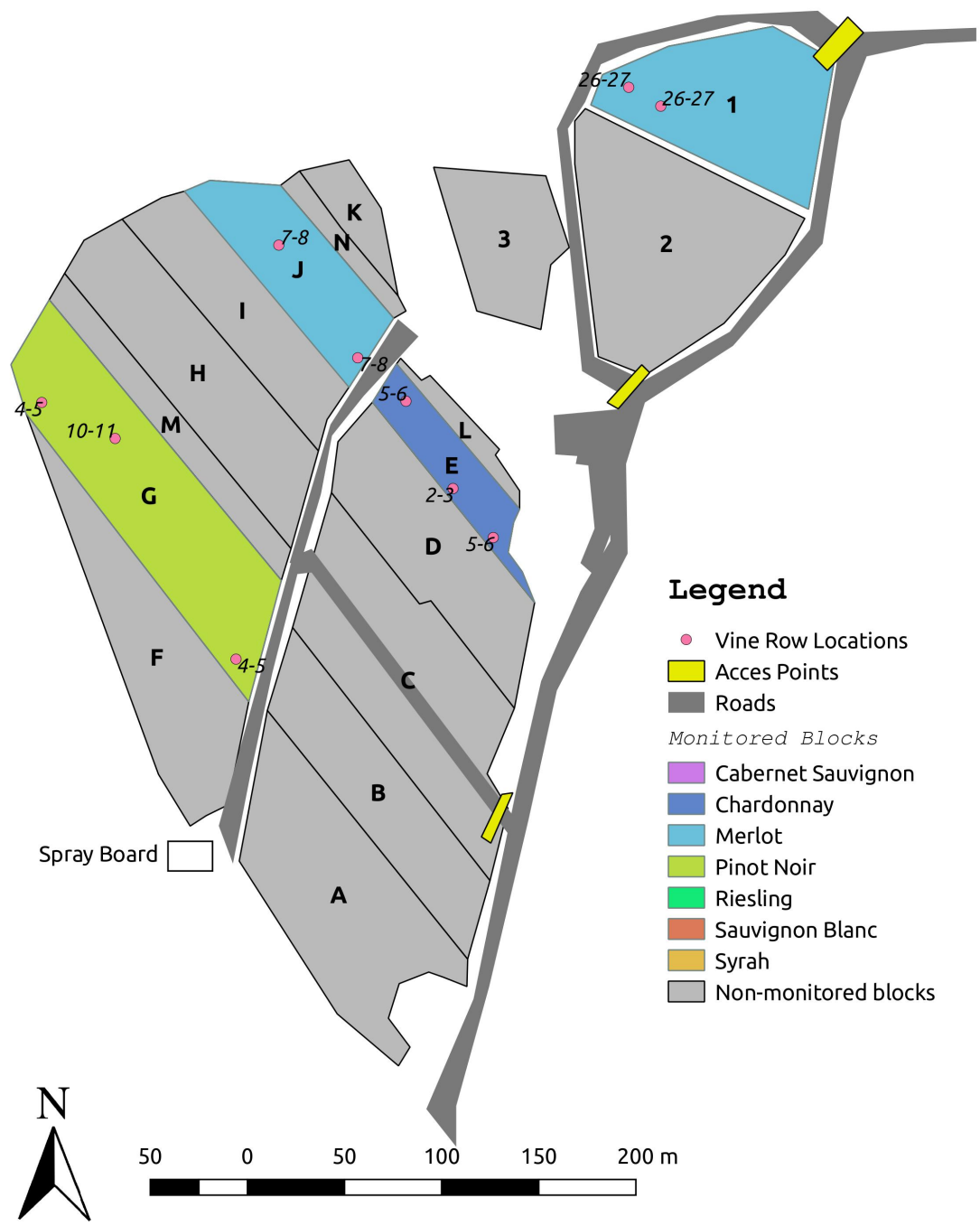


Figure 1: A map of the location of the vines we are sampling. Each point is a collection of 12 vines labeled with the row numbers of the vine.

See Figure 1 for a map of the locations.

There are 6 plants on each row at each location so with the adjacent row, there will be groups of 12 flagged plants. More information about location and individual Plant ID numbers is in the spreadsheet called darkhorsePlantID.csv

3 Sampling frequency and timing

1. Lizzie's team (Mira and Faith) flagged vines and started surveying phenology in early May. We were not out early enough for budburst.
2. We will aimed to monitor four phenological stages, but missed budburst:
 - (a) Budburst (approximately mid April/early May). Until EL stage 9, record the EL stage of buds on three spurs. Once EL stage is at 9 you can stop recording until flowering starts (note that you may need to record higher than stage 9 at times in order to record whatever stage you see after 8, even if it is 12 or such if you have not yet recorded stage 9, more on this below).
 - (b) Bloom (approximately May/early June)
 - (c) Veraison (approximately mid July-mid August)
 - (d) Ripening (Brix - approximately mid August-end September)
3. We hope to bring someone back at least for Brix sampling, so we mostly need help with flowering and veraison monitoring.
4. We aim to sample at least once a week. If you have more time, especially if it has been a warm week, then twice a week would be even better.

4 Finding the right buds to monitor

We flagged three buds/shoots on each of the vines in our monitoring program. We randomly chose one of the canes or cordons on each plant, and flagged three arms or spurs on the chosen cordon (Figure 2) or three buds/shoots on the chosen cane (Figure 3). We flagged as close to the bud as we could when we initially placed the flagging tape, and later flagged some of the shoots once they were big enough. For the cordon pruned vines, we monitor the lowest bud/shoot of the highest spur of the arm (Figure 4).

5 Establishing clusters

1. Once the shoot we are monitoring becomes well developed (E-L stage 17 or later) you can move the flagging to a specific bloom. This is probably best done as you move to monitoring % bloom.
2. We will sample one cluster per shoot. (I don't know how they should chose the clusters)

CORDON PRUNED VINE

A hand-drawn diagram illustrating a cordon pruned vine system. The diagram shows a vertical post on the left, with a horizontal line representing the ground. A vine is trained along a horizontal support structure. The vine is divided into sections. The section on the left is labeled "MONITORED SPURS" and contains three numbered spurs (1, 2, 3). The section on the right is labeled "CORDON" and contains several spurs. A "LOW BASAL SPUR" is indicated near the base of the vine. A "SPUR" is labeled with an arrow pointing to a spur on the cordon. An "ARM" is labeled with an arrow pointing to the main horizontal part of the vine. The distance between the monitored spurs and the cordon is marked as "75cm". Arrows at the top indicate "← EAST" and "WEST →".

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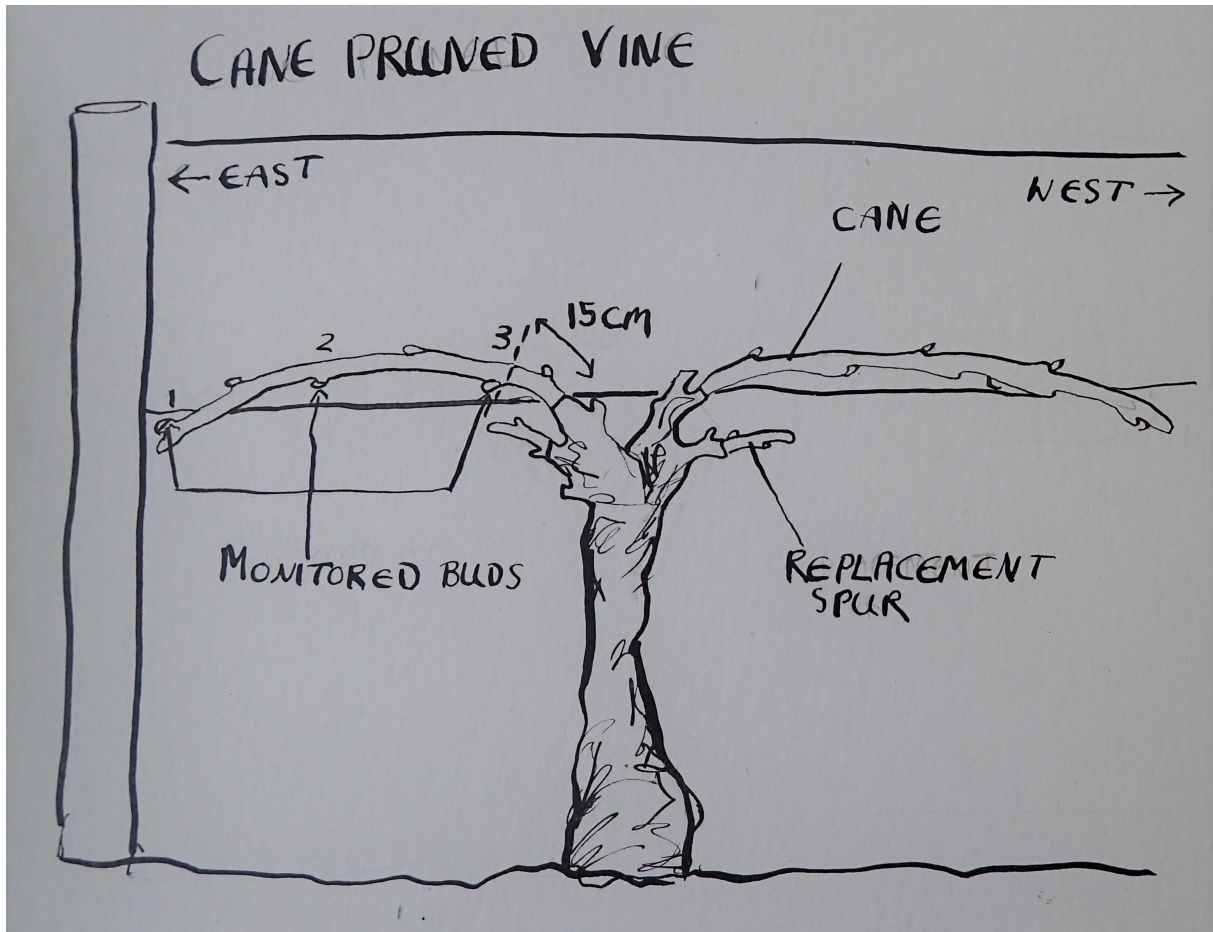


Figure 3: A diagram of a cane pruned vine, with the buds we would monitor and their numbering shown. Note that we do not sample buds too close to the head of the vine.

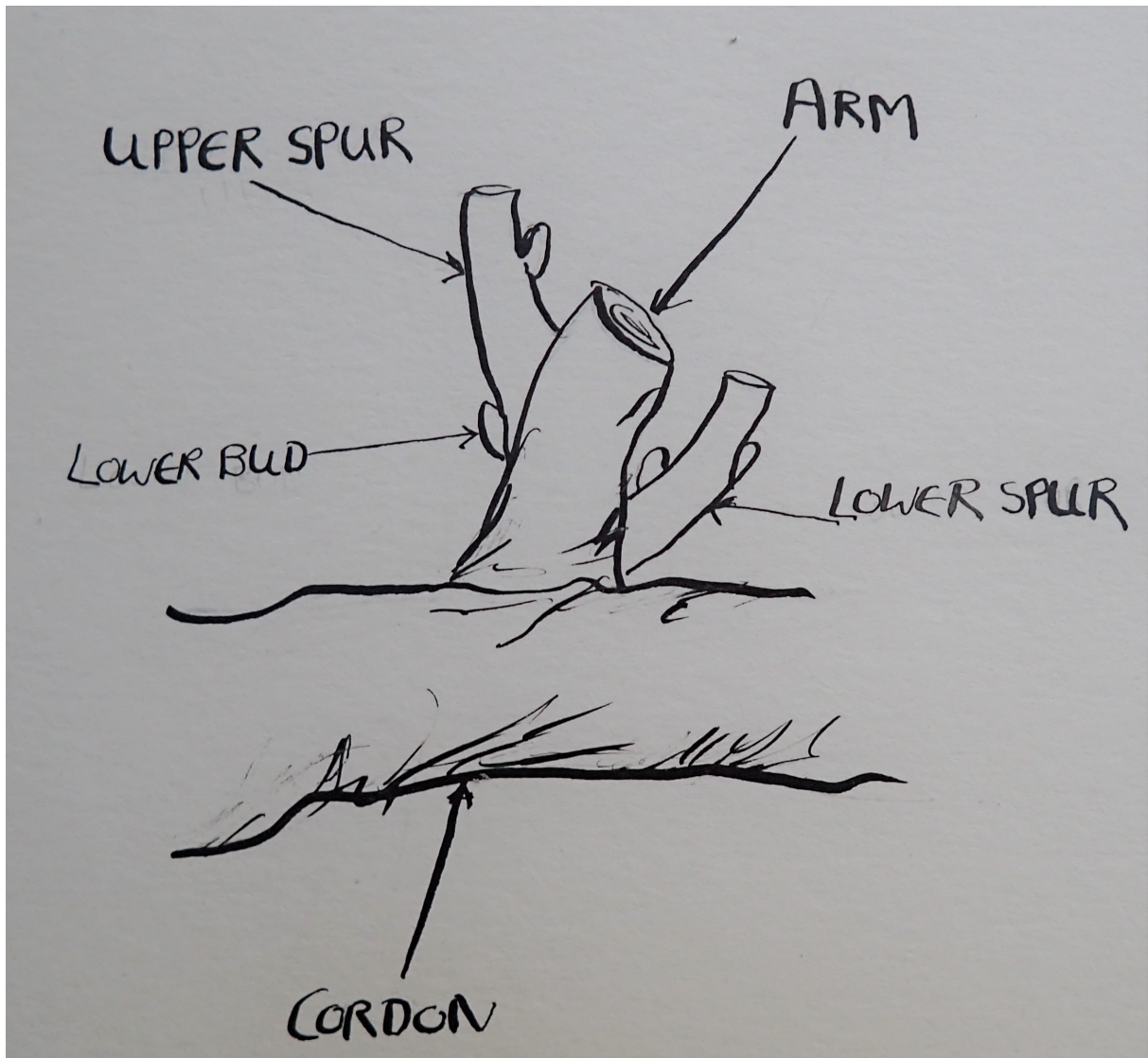


Figure 4: A diagram of an arm of a cordon that had two spurs on it. In this case we chose to focus on the lower bud of the higher of the two spurs for monitoring.

6 Observing Phenology

We are using the Eichorn-Lorenz system for monitoring phenology described in this PDF:

Our goal is to have standardized observations of phenological stages for analysis. There are four main widely observed stages for grapevine: (1) budburst, (2) flowering or bloom, (3) veraison, and (4) ripening and harvest. For the first stage, budburst, we will use the stage numbers from the Modified Eichorn Lorenz system (a stage number between 1-17, with 4 meaning budburst; see Figure 5 below). For stages 2 and 3, we will estimate the percent occurrence of the stage (proportion of berries on a selected cluster have gone through the stage of bloom or color change, respectively). We will measure ripening quantitatively, using a refractometer to measure Brix (sugar) accumulation.

For each vine:

1. Stand facing the vine. Double-check Plant ID (labeled with a sharpie on one of the flags), block row number and bud number before recording in correct place on data sheet that we will provide. We don't keep information on the varieties within each block on the field data recording sheets.
2. For pre-bloom, record the appropriate E-L stage of the shoot that was flagged, or the shoot closest to the flagging that matches our selection criteria laid out in the section above. Record its EL stage (number from 1: still dormant, to 17: twelve leaves separated- see 5).
3. If the monitored shoot is removed reflag a lower shoot and monitor that one from now on. Record this change on the data sheet.
4. For bloom (EL 23) and veraison (EL 35), look at each cluster (#1, #2, #3) and estimate the percent (from 0-100%) of berries on the sample cluster that have achieved that stage.
5. Take photos of representative illustrations for different varieties of target % at stage (e.g., clusters at 5%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 95% bloom) for different varieties. aim for 3-5 photos of each percentage taken across a diversity of varieties and across a couple different sampling dates, and make sure vine number and date are visible in photo for identification.
6. For ripening, our current plan is to send one of our team to collect berries so we can analyze Brix. We will aim to collect samples starting around 18 Brix until commercial harvest level.

7 Establishing clusters

8 What to do with the data

9 Contact details

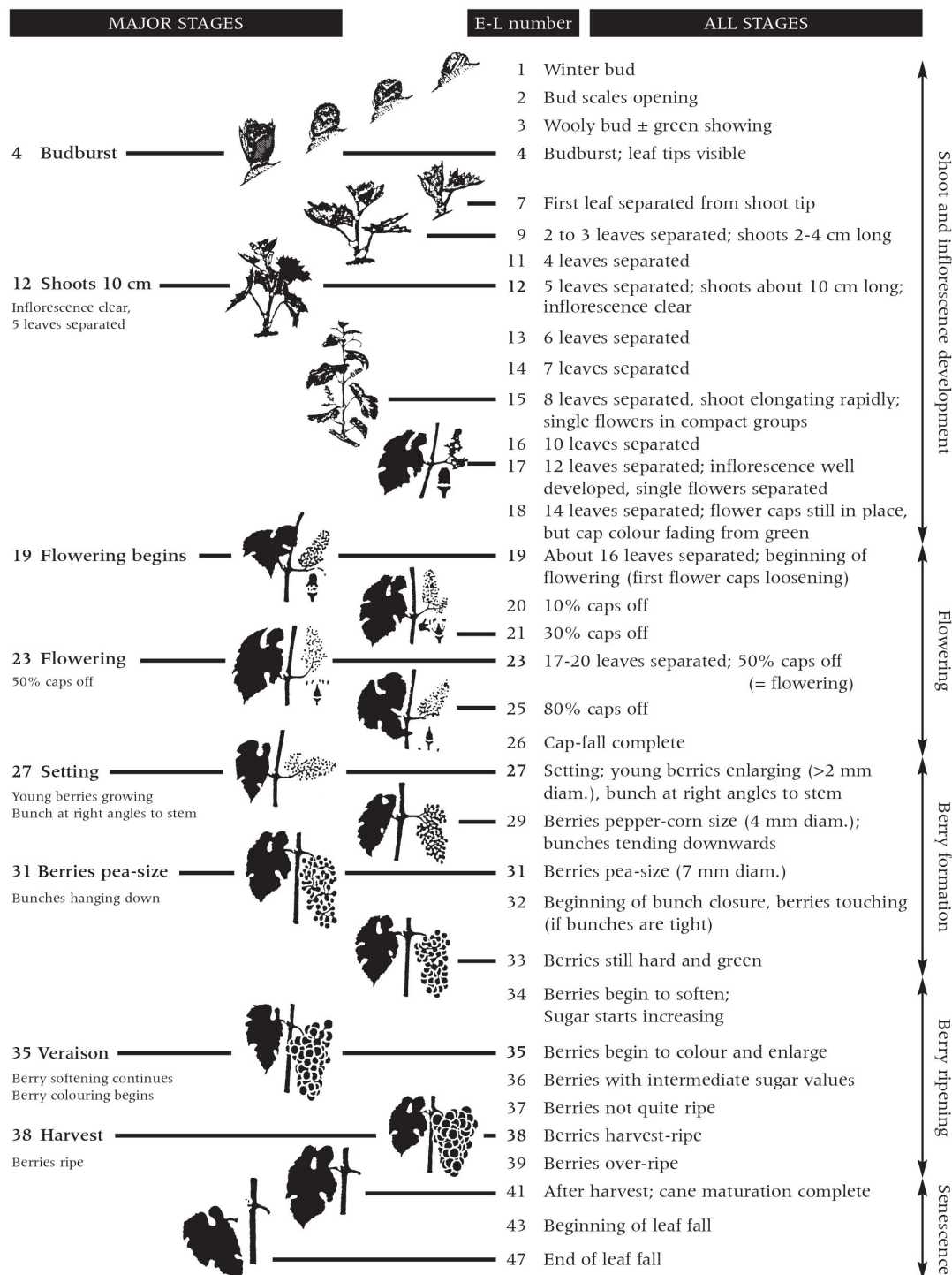


Figure 7.3 Modified E-L system for identifying major and intermediate grapevine growth stages (revised from Coombe 1995). Note that not all varieties show a woolly bud or a green tip stage (May 2000) hence the five budburst stages in the modified original 1995 system have been changed slightly by removing stage 4 and allocating the definition of budburst to what was formerly stage 5. Revised version of "Grapevine growth stages – The modified E-L system" Viticulture 1 – Resources. 2nd edition 2004. Eds. Dry, P. and Coombe, B. (Winetitles)

Figure 5: A diagram of an arm of a cordon that had two spurs on it. In this case we chose to focus on the lower bud of the higher of the two spurs for monitoring.