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Washington Wine allocates record $1.2M for research

Industry-funded research benefits entire Washington state wine industry

SEATTLE (May 4, 2020) – The Washington State wine industry has allocated nearly $1.2 Million for viticulture and enology research in the coming fiscal year (July 2020-June 2021), a record amount for research that aims to improve overall wine quality by addressing vineyard and winery challenges.

The Washington State Wine Board of Directors approved over 26 research projects totaling more than $1,186,000 for this year, up almost 15 percent from last year. The increase represents significantly more support from the Auction of Washington Wines for viticulture and enology research at Washington State University, and new research grant programs funded by Washington State Wine.

Vineyard projects will focus on soil health, alternative pre-plant strategies for nematode management, action thresholds for a new leaffolder moth, more efficient water use in a changing climate, grapevine pests and diseases, and more. Winery research includes controlling wine spoilage, tannin management and phenolic analysis, and potential impacts on grapes and wine from smoke and frost exposure.

Examples of new projects include developing management strategies for phylloxera, root-feeding insects detected last fall in several Washington wine-producing areas; developing new tools for vineyard nutrient management; and investigating the impact of yeast on the release of bound flavor compounds in winemaking. Also, investigating new irrigation techniques to enhance the growth of replacement vines in an established vineyard.

A pilot study will explore if dogs can sniff phylloxera and grapevine leafroll virus in the vineyard to help identify infestations and infections before symptoms are visible. The Northwest cherry industry is currently exploring canine detection of viruses that impact trees, and dogs have been trained for similar use in citrus.

Wine research in Washington State is funded through several competitive grant programs. A statewide program administered by WSU combines public, private and industry monies to support viticulture and enology research at WSU. Four entities fund the statewide program: The Washington State Wine Commission; Auction of Washington Wines; WSU's Agriculture Research Center; and state wine liter taxes (1/4 cent per liter of all wine sold). Additionally, the Wine Commission launched two new competitive grant programs this year to support short-term, demonstration research at Washington community colleges and research beyond state borders.

The Wine Commission dedicates about 25 percent of its annual $5 million budget to fund and support research. Washington's wine research is industry driven and guided, and the results are accessible to all involved in the industry. Past research projects have benefited the entire industry, from reducing pesticide applications to conserving irrigation water and controlling wine spoilage.

Learn more about the Washington wine industry's research program and view the list of the upcoming research projects on the Washington State Wine Commission website.

About the Washington State Wine Commission:
The Washington State Wine Commission (WSWC) represents every licensed winery and wine grape grower in Washington State. Guided by an appointed board, WSWC provides a marketing platform to raise positive awareness about the Washington wine industry and generate greater demand for its wines. Funded almost entirely by the industry through assessments based on grape and wine sales, WSWC is a state government agency, established by the legislature in 1987. To learn more, visit www.washingtonwine.org.

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Washington State Grape and Wine Research Program
2020-21 Projects

WSU Principal Investigator	Project Title	New/Continuing (Duration-yrs.)
Cheeke, Tanya	Effect of Mycorrhizal Inoculants on Grapevine Growth and Nutrient	C (2 of 2 yrs.)
Collins, Tom	Assessment of Smoke Taint Risk and Mitigation of Smoke Affected Wines	C (2 of 3) yrs.
Collins, Tom	Smoke Exposure Effects on Grape Berry Development and Metabolism	N (2 yrs.)
Edwards, Charles	Microbiology and Chemistry of WA Wines	C (3 of 3 yrs.)
Harbertson, Jim	Evaluation of Freeze Taint in Cabernet Sauvignon	C (2 of 3 yrs.)
Harbertson, Jim	Management of Phenolic Compounds in Vineyard and Winery: Investigation of Mechanical Pruning, Grape Maturity, Raman Spectroscopy	C (3 of 3 yrs.)
Harbertson, Jim	Research Winemaking	C (2 of 3 yrs.)
Jacoby, Pete	Use of DRZ Subsurface Irrigation to Enhance Establishment of Replacement Vines	N (3 yrs.)
James, David	Grape Leaffolders: Determining Economic Impact Levels and Action Thresholds	N (3 yrs.)
Keller, Markus	Dissecting the Relative Importance of Grape Variety vs. Environment for Irrigation Management	C (2 of 3 yrs.)
Keller, Markus	Grape Ripening Under a Double Whammy of Heat Stress and Water Deficit	C (2 of 3 yrs.)
Keller, Markus	Influence of Cultivar, Environment and Management on Grape Yield Components and Quality	C (3 of 3 yrs.)
Keller, Markus	Optimizing Sampling Protocols for Efficient Vineyard Nutrient Management	N (3 yrs.)
Keller, Markus	Support for Vineyard Maintenance for Wine Grape Research	C (2 of 3 yrs.)
Moyer, Michelle	Alternative Preplant Strategies for Nematode Management in Washington Wine Grape Vineyards	N (3 yrs.)
Moyer, Michelle	Fungicide Resistance Monitoring and Alternative Management Strategies for Grape Powdery Mildew	N (3 yrs.)

Piao, Hailan	Impact of Yeast and Malolactic Bacteria on Wine Flavor Precursors	N (3 yrs.)
Rayapati, Naidu	Innovative Strategies for Management of Grapevine Leafroll Disease	N (3 yrs.)
Walsh, Doug	Monitoring Mealybugs for Potential Imidacloprid Resistance, Buffalo Treehoppers for Imidacloprid	C (2 of 2 yrs.)
Walsh, Doug	Monitoring and Managing Grape Phylloxera in Washington State Vineyards	N (3 yrs.)
	Research Funding Total	**$1,122,496**

Washington State Wine Commission Research Grant Projects 2020-2021

Principal Investigator	Project Title	Duration
Ball, Trent (Yakima Valley College)	**Vessel Impact on Fermentation and Extended Maceration**	**1 yr.**
Donahue, Tim (Walla Walla Community College)	**Effects of Nitrogen vs Oxygen during White Juice Flotation compared to Cold Settling on Washington Riesling**	**1 yr.**
Rogue Detection	**Pilot Study: Canine Detection of Grape Leafroll Virus**	**1 yr.**
Rogue Detection	**Pilot Study: Canine Detection of Grape Phylloxera**	**1 yr.**
Larbi, Peter (UC-Davis)	**Spray Drift Study in Grapes to Support Orchard and Vineyard Air-blast Drift Modeling Effort**	**1 yr.**
Beightol, Will (Collab Wine Co.)	**Crop Estimation through Remote Sensing**	**1 yr.**
	Total Wine Commission Research Grant Program Awards	**$64,070**

Revised 7/20/20

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