

PROGRESS REPORT YEAR ONE

Project Title: Converting 4 varieties of mature winegrapes to mechanical pruning
Year 2 of a 3 year proposal

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During the first funded year, the project went as outlined in the grant proposal time line. The pruning treatments were imposed as described at all five sites. At harvest time gross and net yields were taken. Bunch counts and berry counts were recorded. Samples were pulled and sent via courier to Canandaigua Wine Company where they were analyzed for sugar, acid and color. The winery did not report any problems with any of the loads sent in. One thing we noticed without taking data was the virtual elimination of bunch rot in the Chenin blanc, Zinfandel, and Chardonnay in both mechanical pruning treatments.

The data is now being organized and evaluated. The next progress report will contain a summary of the data with some preliminary observations about it.

During the spring all of the varieties had to be trimmed to eliminate canes and fruit that were hanging below the cordon and low enough to not be easily harvested mechanically. Chenin blanc on both mechanical pruning systems required the most fruit to be removed. This is due to its low growth habit.