

NEWS & UPDATES

BC Grapegrowers' Association

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**BCGA Pruning
Workshop, 2**

**Southern Interior
Hort Show, 5**

SWBC Fees Waived, 8

WALI Updates, 9

**AgSafe Emergency
Preparedness
Resources, 10**

**Brock U's New Online
Viticulture Course, 12**

Events

Buy & Sell

Resources

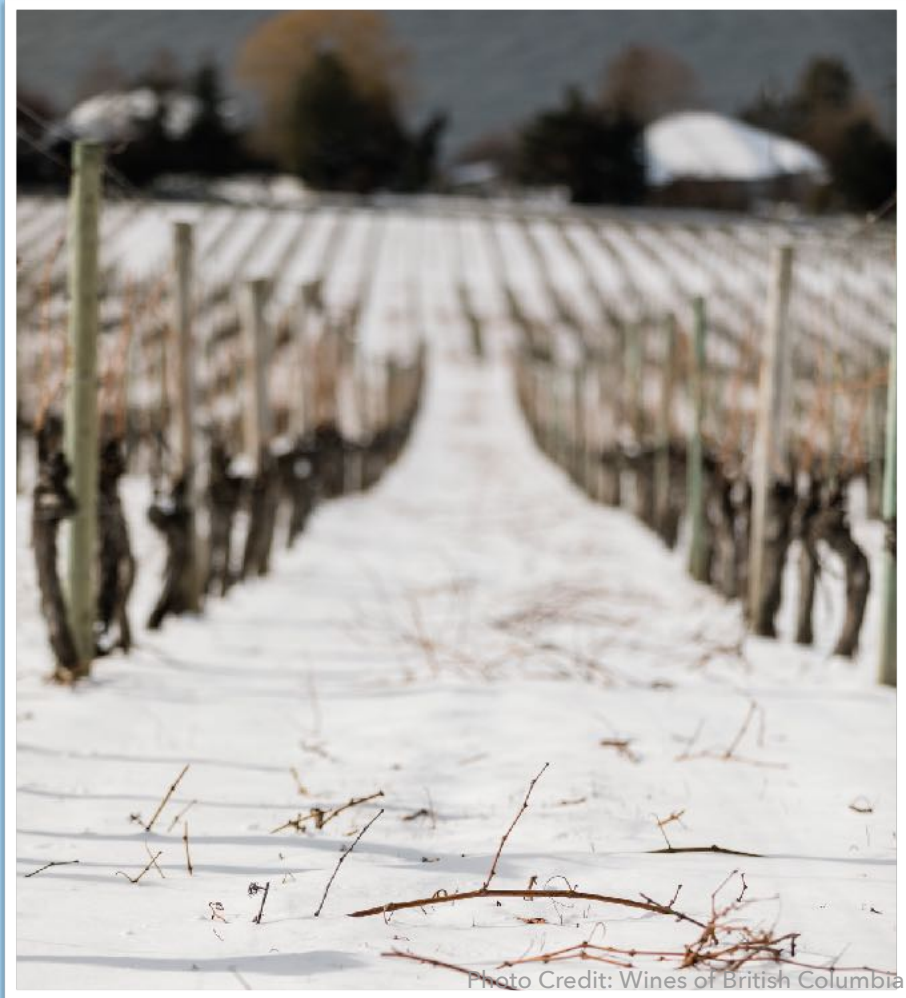


Photo Credit: Wines of British Columbia

**Wishing you moments of
peace, joy, and reflection
this holiday season.**



BCGA PRUNING WORKSHOP

**Tuesday January 16,
2024**

9:30 - 2:00

12617 87th St, Osoyoos
Just off 134th Ave, in the former BC Tree
Fruits Packing House

Register Now:

<http://tinyurl.com/BCGAworkshop>

\$25 members

\$40 non-members

Includes lunch. Please register individually
so we can accommodate dietary
considerations. Both indoor and outdoor
hands-on components: dress accordingly.

OUR GENEROUS
SPONSORS:

**CORSICA
EQUIPMENT**

**MUNCKHOF
MANUFACTURING**

ZELLER AND SONS

Photo Credit: Wines of British Columbia

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 Pruning 101 - Jon Furkalo, Earlco
- 11:30 AgSafe - Ron Macc
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Retraining Your Vines -
Troy Osborne, Arterra
- 2:00 Door Prize Draws

Many thanks to our
event host,
Frind Winery.

To find out more:

1-877-762-4652

BCGA@GRAPEGROWERS.BC.CA

Warm Wishes from the BCGA



Looking back over 2023, we recognize the vast number of people it takes to make our community strong. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to offer support, education, and value to the BCGA. We have so much to be thankful for this year; not least you and everyone who curates success in the vineyard and out.

* **Thank you** to our dedicated and valuable board of directors who share their time, expertise, and leadership to help growers find resources and share valuable industry experience.

* **Thank you** to all of the generous donors who invest in the Starling Control Program. Investing in decreasing the starling population creates a positive impact on countless lives in agriculture.

* **Thank you** to all of our tailgate hosts, whose generous donation of time, space, and expertise help to facilitate

informative gatherings that can benefit both researchers and growers.

* **Thank you** to our valued members who have supported us for years; thanks to you, we have a unique community that fosters education, advocacy and communication for and amongst grapegrowers all across the province.

* **Thank you** to our committee members who help us create strong programs that support our growers.

* **Thank you** to our volunteers who dedicated time and energy to help put on events. We rely on your support!

Tyrion and Endrené have enjoyed working with you this year and we want to share our sincere appreciation. Have a fantastic holiday season; we look forward to another year of sharing the joys and sorrows of viticulture with you.





**BRITISH COLUMBIA
WINE GRAPE
COUNCIL**

Monthly R&D Series

Every Third Thursday

Get involved with the BCWGC R&D Committee, meet the researchers and bring your questions to the table. Participate in an informal virtual discussion on research priorities that support BC enology and viticulture.

Join us via Zoom from 12:00 - 1:00pm:

December 21, 2023 - Dr. Simone Castellarin, UBC-Wine Research Centre - Influence of temperature and heat-stress mitigation strategies on grape quality in British Columbia vineyards.

As evidenced by the 2021 growing season in British Columbia, heat stress events (heatwaves) are a new reality facing wine grape production. However, compared to other abiotic stresses, the negative effects of heat stress on grape production are largely unexplored. In the past three years, the Castellarin Lab began researching the influence of temperature and heatwave events on grapevine physiology and grape quality. Their continued research in this area aims to predict the susceptibility to heatwaves of cultivars grown in BC, and to elucidate whether varying irrigation levels and using bio-stimulants and anti-transpirants can mitigate heat stresses in BC vineyards.

[Click Here to Register](#) | [Download the Outlook Calendar Link](#)

Access the BCWGC archive and view past speakers here:
<https://bcwgc.org/index.php/videos>



Vintality

Now a trusted partner of SCDC™ and Magon Empresas™.

Providing high-quality, European-made trellising and posts to our local industry.

Contact us to learn more about these solutions and our competitive pricing.

chris@vintality.com



www.vintality.com

INVITATION

December 2023

The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food together with the tree fruit and grape industries are pleased to invite you to the:

Southern Interior Horticultural Show

February 16-17, 2024 | Penticton Trade and Convention Centre

The Southern Interior Horticultural Show is a newly delivered project that combines a two-day conference featuring a variety of horticultural topics and a trade show showcasing products and services that support the tree fruit and grape industries in B.C.

Friday, February 16, 2024 Opening	Opening Remarks: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Keynote Speaker, Mo Dhaliwal, on Cultivating Strength: Growing Resilience through Community and Culture		
Friday, February 16, 2024 Morning	Soil Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Tech Weed Control (<i>Sarah Stewart, Organic B.C.</i>) • Soil Health Indicators & Living Lab Project in B.C. (<i>Dr. Kirsten Hannam, AAFC</i>) • Prepping the Soil for Replanting & Fumigation Alternatives (<i>Tianna Dupont, WSU</i>) 		
Friday, February 16, 2024 Afternoon: Commodity Sessions	Grapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sap Flow Pruning (<i>Jacopo Miolo, Simonit & Sirch</i>) • Managing Invasive Pests (<i>Lisa Scott, OASISS, & Dr. Susanna Achaempong, AF</i>) • Powdery Mildew (<i>Dr. Jay Pscheidt, OSU</i>) 	Apples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rootstocks (<i>Dale Goldy, Gold Crown Nursery</i>) • Crop Load Management: Part 2 (<i>Dr. Terrence Robinson, MSU</i>) • More speakers TBD 	Cherries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powdery Mildew (<i>Dr. Jay Pscheidt, OSU</i>) • Canopy Management for Healthy Buds (<i>Dr. Clive Kaiser, NZ</i>) • Crop Load Management (<i>Dr. Lynn Long, OSU</i>) • Connecting Lessons of the Day (<i>Grower Panel</i>)
Friday, February 16, 2024 Evening Social Event	Tradeshow area open for social and networking event!		
Saturday, February 17, 2024 Morning: Commodity Sessions	Grapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Borne Pathogen Management (<i>Dr. José Ramón Urbez Torres, AAFC</i>) • Rootstocks and Climate Adaptation (<i>Bernadette Gagnier, WSU</i>) • Variety and Climate Research Update from Abroad (<i>Elizabeth Wolkovich, UBC</i>) • Economic Considerations with Replant (<i>Grower Panel</i>) 	Apples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Stress Resilience Tools in Ambrosia (<i>Sebastian Damin, UBC Graduate Student</i>) • Apple IPM (<i>TBD</i>) • Weather Network Upgrades (<i>Lindsay King</i>) • Managing Invasive Pests (<i>Lisa Scott, OASISS, & Dr. Susanna Achaempong, AF</i>) • Multi-leader Training Systems (<i>Dr. Stefano Musacchi, WSU</i>) • NC-140 Rootstock Trials for Peaches (<i>Dr. Hao Xu, AAFC</i>) 	Cherries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Climate Extremes in Cherry Production (<i>Dr. Hao Xu, AAFC</i>) • Western X/LCD (<i>Dr. Tobin Northfield, WSU</i>) • GA Overview (<i>Dr. Matt Whiting, WSU</i>) • Managing Invasive Pests (<i>Lisa Scott, OASISS, & Dr. Susanna Achaempong, AF</i>) • Cherry Variety Update from Summerland Breeding Program (<i>Dr. Amritpal Singh, AAFC</i>)
Saturday, February 17, 2024 Afternoon	Water Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Water and Water Basin Systems in a Changing Climate (<i>Dr. John Pomeroy, USask</i>) • Agricultural Adaptation to Drought and Climate: Lessons from California (<i>Dr. Tapan Pathak, UC Merced</i>) • Irrigation Innovations and Technology (<i>Bruce Naka and Grower Panel</i>) 		

TICKETS: \$25

+ Tax and Service Fees

Includes participation in the trade show and all conference sessions.

Attendance is offered in person only. Full program details to be posted soon.

Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact us at sihs@pacegroup.com or visit our website at:

gov.bc.ca/agriconferences





VITIS

— I M P O R T

Grapevines to Wine Sales & Services

Vitis-import's diversified and innovative range of products & services at competitive prices makes us a perfect one-stop-shop.

❖ Grapevines

❖ GPS planting

❖ Trellising

❖ Geotextile

❖ Vineyard equipment

❖ Wine making equipment

ENGLISH

Tina Wall

289-990-4770

sales@vitis-import.ca

FRENCH

Guillaume Merle

438- 884-5477

commandes@vitis-import.ca

<https://vitis-import.ca/>

Proud to support Canada's wine producers. ♥



Ag Plastics Management Survey

Fraser Valley Growers: Your feedback is required - Earn \$40 to complete an online survey about agricultural plastics management

An important ag plastics management survey is underway in British Columbia which includes a survey of farmers in the Fraser Valley Regional District. The survey will help the industry understand current behaviours and attitudes

farmers have toward agricultural plastic and measure participation in pilots and potential projects. The survey is being conducted on behalf of Cleanfarms - a non-profit industry stewardship organisation that manages programs that collect non-organic farm waste, mainly ag plastics, for recycling and safe disposal.

The Fraser Valley Regional District encourages you to participate to ensure our region's voices are represented.

The survey will take about 20 to 25 minutes to complete. To qualify for this survey, you must be one of the main decision-makers regarding

what to do with ag plastics, once used. For those who qualify (based on a few short questions at the start) and complete the survey, an honorarium of \$40 will be provided. Please note that once the targeted sample size has been reached, the survey will be closed and no further responses will be accepted. Your responses will be held in complete confidence by Stratus Ag Research and used only for research purposes. Results will be grouped for analysis, and no identifying information will be attached to any responses. We would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

If you think that you have already participated in this survey (you may have been already been contacted directly by Stratus Ag Research), please do not complete the survey a second time.

Please click on the survey link, or copy it into your browser to start the survey now.

<https://survey.us.confirmit.com/wix/p429931727815.aspx>

Thank you for your consideration.



Bud Hardiness Reports

Brad Estergaard
Viticulture Research Technician
Summerland Research and Development Centre (SuRDC)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada /
Government of Canada

This season, the Summerland Research Centre has added bud hardiness testing of varieties from Kelowna and the Similkameen Valley. This supplement should typically be bi-weekly on alternate weeks to the primary bud hardiness testing.

The Grape Bud Hardiness Reports are available on the BCGA website.

<https://grapegrowers.bc.ca/bud-hardiness>

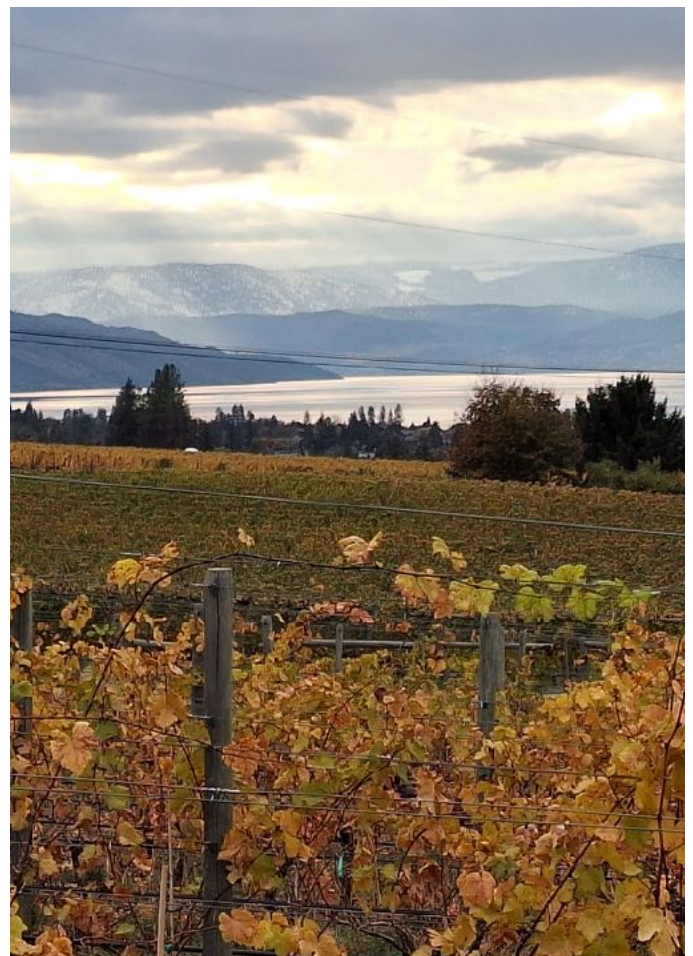


Photo Credit: Endrené Shepherd



CERTIFY  TODAY

SUSTAINABLE
WINEGROWING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

fees waived until April 30, 2025!

We have 28 member organizations!

With each additional member, our capacity to secure funding and government support for our industry, grows.
Our ability to educate and learn together, grows.
Our reach and ability to engage with consumers, grows.

Book your vineyard or winery site visit by April 30, 2024 and have your first year's **base fees waived!**

**the swbc
toolkit**

- SAVE MONEY**
- INCREASE EFFICIENCY**
- SUPPORT OUR INDUSTRY IN SUSTAINABILITY**
- REACH THE RIGHT CONSUMERS**

SUSTAINABLEWINEGROWINGBC.CA
info@sustainablewinegrowingbc.ca



May the holidays and new year bring health, happiness and growth.

Merry Christmas from AgSafe.

AgSafe Safety Consultants and Advisors are available throughout the province to help your business when and where you need them.



1 (877) 533-1789 | AgSafeBC.ca

Foodsafe Courses



COST:

\$90 (incl.gst) – includes workbook, learning materials & Interior Health official certificate

HOW TO REGISTER:

Text/Call/Email:
info@interiortrainingservices.com
250-878-1036

***GROUP BOOKINGS AVAILABLE!**

VERNON

Thursday Dec. 14th
Monday Jan. 8th
Thursday Feb. 1st

KELOWNA

Friday Dec. 15th
Saturday Jan. 6th
Tuesday Jan. 16th

PENTICTON

Saturday Dec. 16th
Monday Jan. 15th



walicanada.ca
 P: 604-854-4454
 T: 866-522-3447
 F: 604-854-4485

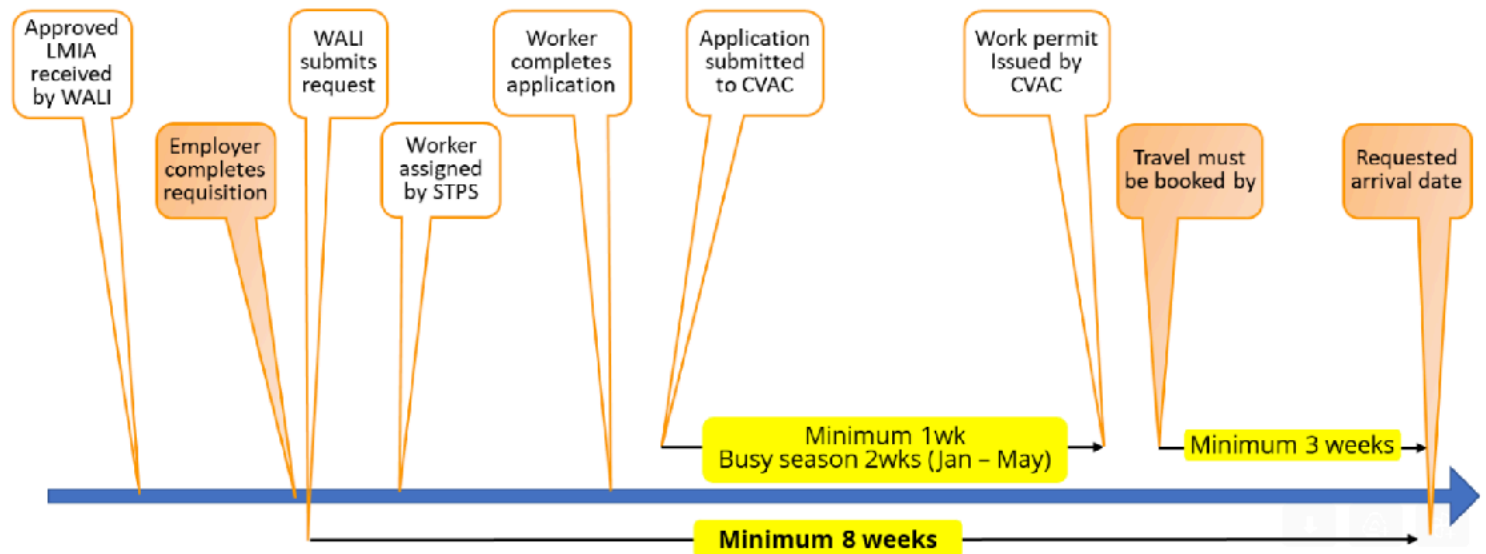
Unit 1 - 2650 Progressive Way
 Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6H9

WALI Update: SAWP Mexico Processing Times November 23, 2023

Submitting worker requests to Mexico

The Ministry of Labour in Mexico (STPS) has increased the processing time for workers from six (6) weeks to eight (8) weeks. When employers are adding worker names in the WALI Portal, the requested arrival date must be at least eight (8) weeks out.

See flow chart below for a simple overview of the process:



WALI will be proactively following up with STPS to ensure that workers are assigned to employers on time. We hope this will reduce the number of workers arriving late.

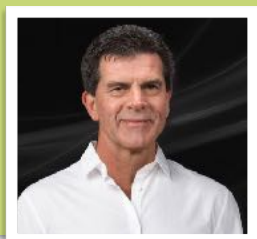
Workers with a Work Permit must be booked on time.

Workers with a Work Permit must be booked for travel at least three (3) weeks before their requested arrival dates. If they are not booked, they may be reassigned to another employer. If you need to delay a worker’s arrival, **you must submit a date change request.**

This does not apply if the worker is still waiting for a Work Permit.

Cancelling Workers

If you are not going to need all the workers that you have requested, please send a cancellation request as soon as possible. This allows workers to be reassigned to another employer and not miss the income they were counting on.



Emergency Preparedness Planning and Disaster Recovery

Ron Macc, NCSO

AgSafe



Over the past few years British Columbians have experienced extreme weather events more frequently – floods, wildfires and drought. As a result, growers around the province are finding the need to be more diligent in their emergency preparedness, management and recovery.

Plan Now:

There are steps you can– and if you are an employer registered with WorkSafeBC, **must–** take to mitigate the effects. Become familiar with options and use the resources available to you. If you have questions, contact AgSafe.

- Emergency planning tools and templates
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation tools and templates

RESOURCE #1: AgSafe

AgSafe’s tools and resources help agricultural producers develop and implement Emergency Preparedness plans and protocols. These can be found on the Tools & Resources page on AgSafeBC.ca under the heading **Emergency Planning**. You will find:

- Emergency Planning for **Flooding** and **Wildfire**
- Emergency Planning Packages and Checklists

- Assessment Response Plan
- Signage and Emergency Drill Log
- Emergency Info Tube templates
- WorkSafeBC – “Emergency Evacuation Planning for Your Workplace”
- B.C. Government – “Prepare BC” Information Package



Evacuation Plan

- Designate a meeting location outside of the hazard area
- Have a family communication plan in place
- Plan for your pets & livestock
- Know several escape routes

AgSafe



**RESOURCE #2: BC Agri-Business
Planning Program****

**AgSafe does not engage in, provide services related to or advise for or about this program.

While we do not participate in this program or the related resource application process, we are happy to share this valuable information.

- ABPP Funding Support for Stream 2
- Business Emergency Preparation Planning
- Business Disaster Recovery Planning
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation

To request Program Application Form:

BC AGRIBUSINESS PLANNING PROGRAM

Phone: 1-888-221-7141

Email: AgriBusiness@gov.bc.ca

Apply now as 2023 funding will expire.

Ron Macc, NCSO

AgSafe Regional Safety Consultant, Kootenay-Boundary/South Okanagan Region

Email: ron@agsafebc.ca

Phone: 250-342-5704

YouTube: Meet Ron Macc

JOKE

Did you hear Mac is going into the wine business?

Their vineyard will produce every varietal of wine... except ports.



Photo Credit: Wines of British Columbia



Foundation in Viticulture (Online)



WHEN? February 26 to April 12 (7 weeks)

WHO? Winery and vineyard owners; winemakers and production staff; seasonal or full time vineyard employees; winery non production staff; or wine enthusiasts who are seeking a formal foundation in grape growing.

Just 25 spots available to ensure the best possible learning experience.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR– Ryan Brewster, owner of Brewster Consulting, with over 20 years of experience consulting for the grape growing industry.



WHAT? CCOVI's Foundation in Viticulture provides:

- An overview of viticulture and its practical application in the vineyard.
- Study the intersecting elements of site, grapevine and grower, and how it impacts grape quality.
- Asynchronous delivery; work at your own pace.
- Weekly live (online) sessions with your instructor to review content, address questions and the opportunity to network with peers in the program from across Canada!

CONTACT for more info: ccovi@brocku.ca



We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year!
See you in 2024

