



Botrytis: Will Another Fungicide Spray Help at this Point?

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Two to three inches of rain fell yesterday (September 30). Leaves are still wet – ideal conditions for *botrytis* development. Is spraying a *botrytis* fungicide advisable at this point in the season? Will it do anything? Here are some considerations:

- **Preharvest Interval.** You can't spray any material inside the legally-binding preharvest interval (PHI). Most botryticides have a 7 to 14 d PHI.
- **Harvest in the next 7 days.** Even if you are within the allowable PHI, anything harvested within the next 7 days probably wouldn't benefit much from an application now – there's likely to be a week (+ or -) incubation between new infections and development of any symptoms. The cooler temperatures forecast for the next few days will have the effect of increasing the incubation period, that is, delaying the onset of symptoms (rot).
- **Harvest in 7 to 14 days.** More of a toss-up in terms of decision making. Factor in the level of *botrytis* control up to a couple of days ago (is there something already present with the potential for significant spread?), experience with/reputation of that cultivar, and anticipated harvest date (8 days from now or 14?).
- **Harvest > 14 days off.** These blocks might merit treatment, unless it's a block where you're already clean and typically don't have *Botrytis* problems (variety, loose clusters, etc.).
- **Post-infection treatment.** Anything sprayed in response to the just-concluded rains will obviously be applied in a post-infection mode. Vanguard (7 day PHI) has been our most consistently effective postinfection *botrytis* fungicide over a number of different tests. Scala (7 days) and Elevate (0 days) have also shown good activity in some tests. Boscalid (Pristine, Endura; 14 days) has been less effective post-infection. Rovral (7 days) is risky if there's a history of use in the vineyard. **REMEMBER THAT POST-INFECTION ACTIVITY IS HEAVILY RATE DEPENDENT, YOU'RE WASTING TIME AND MONEY IF FRUIT AREN'T CURRENTLY**



Botrytis in a Riesling cluster on September 29. To date, botrytis has been at low to moderate levels - but definitely on the increase, with recent rainfall over the past week.

Photo by Tim Martinson

WELL EXPOSED AND LIKELY TO RECEIVE EXCELLENT SPRAY COVERAGE.

- **Leave an untreated 'check'.** Anybody who does decide to treat should leave two or three rows (or partial rows, whatever works to allow an honest assessment) untreated in order judge for themselves whether or not it was worth the time and money. This is bound to happen again sometime, it's always nice to have some experience to draw on.

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