



Vignoles Harvest: Shoot Thinning, Training System and *Botrytis*

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Vignoles is known to be extremely prone to *Botrytis* bunch rot. The impact of training system (top-wire cordon vs mid-wire VSP) and shoot thinning on *botrytis* was evident in a demonstration block we harvested this last Wednesday. This block is grafted to 3309, and exhibits more vigor (and higher yields) than is typical of ungrafted vignoles.

1. The mid-wire (left) was spur-pruned, catch wires on top, and downward oriented shoots, to open up the cluster zone. Top wire cordon (right) was not shootpositioned



2. The mid-wire, shoot thinned treatment had some cluster exposure. This shows the canopy as it appeared (left) and with leaves in the cluster zone stripped (right).



3. Top wire, unthinned treatment had dense leaves shading the cluster zone (left) and with leaves removed (right).



4. Training system and shoot thinning both affected the severity of *Botrytis*. Here are 5 clusters selected at random from each treatment.

Mid-wire cordon: Unthinned (left) showed more severe *botrytis* than the shoot-thinned vines.



Top-Wire Cordon: Both unthinned (left) and thinned (right) top-wire treatments had more severe *botrytis* than the corresponding mid-wire (above) treatments. Unthinned, top-wire fruit had the most severe *botrytis*.



Brix, pH, and TA from these blocks is reported on p.7 in the 9/21/2010 fruit maturity table.

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