College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

New Mexico Viticulture and Enology Newsletter

Viticulture and Enology | **https://viticulture.nmsu.edu/**

Cooperative Extension Service

October 28, 2026

Field Guide for the ID of Common Diseases in NM Vineyards

No this is not a repeat of the previous email. Groundhog day is in February. Instead, this is an announcement of the second release in a series of three. We're proud to announce the release of a field guide for the identification of common diseases in New Mexico Vineyards. The guide is available for free as a webpage or a PDF. In the future we plan on offering a printed version at low cost. The strucutre of this guide, as with the last, is how to first identify an overall pattern (see right)then how to identify a specific diseases (see the next two pages). This guide focuses on the most prevalent problematic fungi, disease complexes, and viruses we've encountered in New Mexico. The last field identification guide, hoping to be released by spring, will tackle weeds.

Geraldine did about 90% of the work on this field guide so give her a pat on the back when you see her. Phillip Lujan, the NMSU extension plant pathologist, was instrumental in verifying our observations through the plant diagnostic clinic. I contributed a few photos. We hope this field guide proves useful and would welcome any comments or suggestions.

Table 1. **Quick Start Guide**

Symptoms	Things to look out for	Implications and likely causes
Symptom pattern	Are symptoms uniform, scattered, or localized?	• **Uniform:** likely abiotic stress (water or nutrient limitations, adverse weather, etc.) • **Scattered or random:** often disease related. • **Localized to a specific canopy side or position:** sunburn, hail damage (only exposed side of clusters), or pest and disease related (only leaves, only fruit, etc.).
Symptom location	Where do symptoms appear first on the affected vine?	• **Buds or young shoots:** early-season pest, frost, or cold injury. • **Leaves:** most pests, diseases, nutrient issues, or herbicide damage. • **Clusters and berries:** diseases or sunburn. • **Shoot growth and shape:** trunk diseases, herbicide damage. • **Whole vine:** root or trunk diseases, severe stress issues (nutrient, water), frost or cold.
Timing and phenology	When did symptoms appear? Consider growth stage and recent events	• **Sudden (days):** frost, heat, or herbicide injury. • **Gradual (weeks):** water or nutrient issues. • **Late season (veraison and after):** viruses, diseases. Always consider recent events as well: irrigation changes, spraying, canopy management, etc.

Compare your symptoms with the photographs in the guide. Match your observations with guide sections. Use Field symptoms and Key identification features to confirm diagnosis and/or rule out look-alikes. Confirm with the NMSU plant diagnostic clinic if needed. Is the diagnosis uncertain?

Some problems, especially diseases and viruses, require laboratory testing for accurate identification. Collect samples and submit them to the NMSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic if confirmation is required for adequate management.



My collection of gross grape maladies from NY state came in handy in this guide (see left). As much as we could the photos are from New Mexico and any that I brought with me cross country will be replaced as we encounter these diseases in the desert. For what it's worth, our colleague Matt Halldorson in Arizona says he encounters sour rot every season after the monsoons.

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Figure 1. Powdery mildew infection on grapevine showing the characteristic white-gray powdery fungal growth on the upper side of leaves.



Figure 2. Advanced stage of powdery mildew on grapevine leaves.

Field Guide for the ID of Common Diseases in NM Vineyards



Figure 11. Earlier visual symptoms of Phymatotrichopsis root rot showing stunted growth, general decline and scorching of the leaves.



Figure 12. Late season symptoms showing scorched, brittle leaves that remain attached to the vine



Figure 13. Patch of affected vines showing the typical clustered distribution of root rot in the vineyard. Infections require root-to-root contact to spread.

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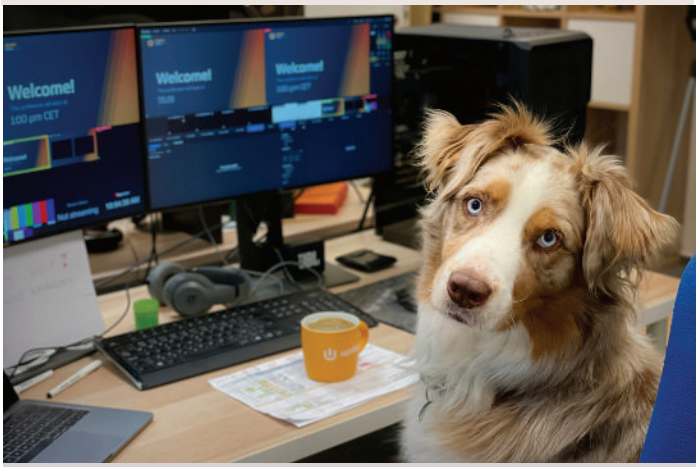
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At some wineries hard press fractions are determined with lab equipment like nephelometers (turbidity) or spectrophotometers (phenolic content). At other wineries the only equipment used is in your mouth.





Virtual Office Hours

Unless otherwise noted,
every Monday, 2-3pm.

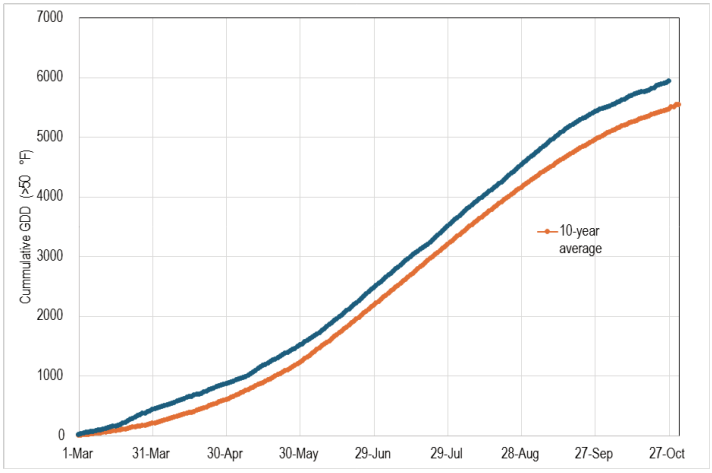
https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/82042824719
Or dial in, 253-215-8782.

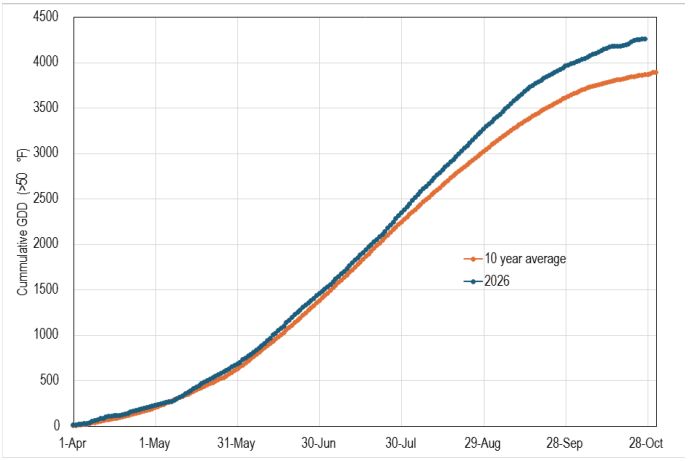
You're welcome to bring any and all questions, photos, epiphanies, etc.

Upcoming Events

- **11/7/26 Post-Harvest Get Together**
  - Agrinature center, 12-6pm. Geraldine and I will be holding a listening session from 1-230pm at the same time as this event. We'd like to hear from you--what went well this season, what didn't? What would you like us to concentrate on in the 2027 growing season?

Growing Degree Day Comparison



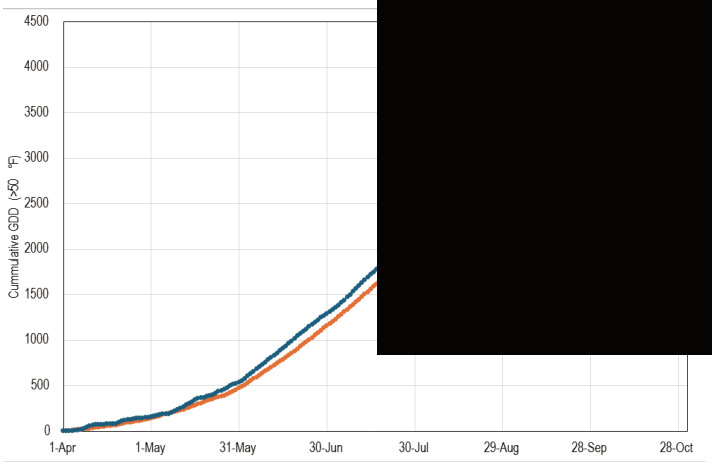


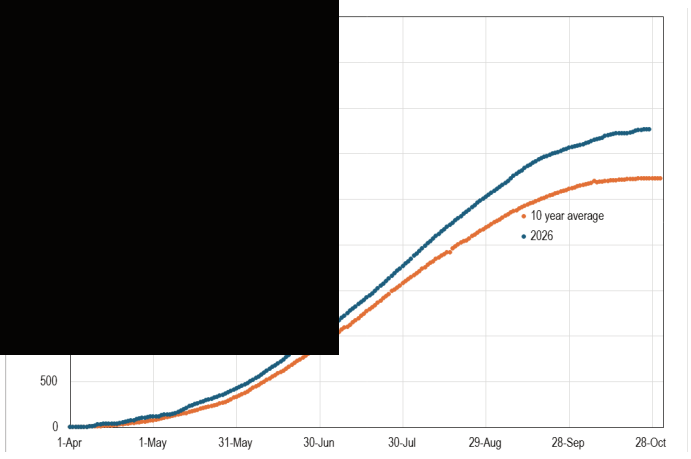
Las Cruces, 3/1-10/27 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 5932
GDDs, 10 year avg. : 5461
Rainfall 3/1-10/27/26: 10.57"
Rainfall 3/1-10/27/25: 5.29"

Los Lunas: 4/1-10/27 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 4260
GDDs, 10 year avg.: 3863
Rainfall 4/1-10/27/26: 6.65"
[redacted]5.41"





Farmington: 4/1-10/27 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 3876
GDDs, 10 year avg.: 3607
Rainfall 4/1-10/27/26: 5.37"
Rainfall 4/1-10/27/25: 4.64"

Alcalde: 4/1-10/27 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 3261
GDDs, 10 year avg.: 2726
Rainfall 4/1-10/27/26: 11.6"
Rainfall 4/1-10/27/25: 8.03"

These numbers were taken from ZiaMet, a state wide collection of weather stations. Do you know which station is the closest to your growing site? Take a look at: **weather.nmsu.edu/ziamet/**



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Guía de enfermedades comunes en viñedos de Nuevo México

No, este no es un reenvío del correo anterior. El Día de la Marmota es en febrero. Nos complace anunciar la segunda entrega de una serie de tres: una guía de campo para identificar enfermedades comunes en los viñedos de Nuevo México. Está disponible gratis en línea y en PDF; en el futuro esperamos ofrecer una versión impresa a bajo costo.

Al igual que la anterior, esta guía explica cómo reconocer primero un patrón general (véase a la derecha) y después identificar una enfermedad específica (véanse las dos páginas siguientes). Incluye los principales hongos, complejos de enfermedades y virus que hemos encontrado en Nuevo México. La última guía, que esperamos publicar para primavera, abordará las malezas.

Geraldine realizó aproximadamente el 90 % del trabajo, así que felicítenla cuando la vean. Phillip Lujan, fitopatólogo de Extensión de NMSU, fue fundamental para verificar nuestras observaciones mediante la clínica de diagnóstico de plantas. Yo aporté algunas fotos. Esperamos que la guía les resulte útil y agradecemos sus comentarios y sugerencias.

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Compare your symptoms with the photographs in the guide. Match your observations with guide sections. Use Field symptoms and Key identification features to confirm diagnosis and/or rule out look-alikes. Confirm with the NMSU plant diagnostic clinic if needed. Is the diagnosis uncertain? Some problems, especially diseases and viruses, require laboratory testing for accurate identification. Collect samples and submit them to the NMSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic if confirmation is required for adequate management.		



Mi colección de fotos de enfermedades bastante desagradables de las uvas del estado de Nueva York resultó útil para esta guía (véase a la izquierda). Procuramos usar fotos de Nuevo México siempre que fue posible; las que traje de Nueva York se reemplazarán conforme encontremos estas enfermedades en el desierto. Como dato adicional, nuestro colega Matt Halldorson, de Arizona, comenta que encuentra pudrición ácida cada temporada después de las lluvias del monzón.

Guía de campo de enfermedades comunes en viñedos de Nuevo México



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Figure 2. Advanced stage of powdery mildew on grapevine leaves.

Guía de campo de enfermedades comunes en viñedos de Nuevo México



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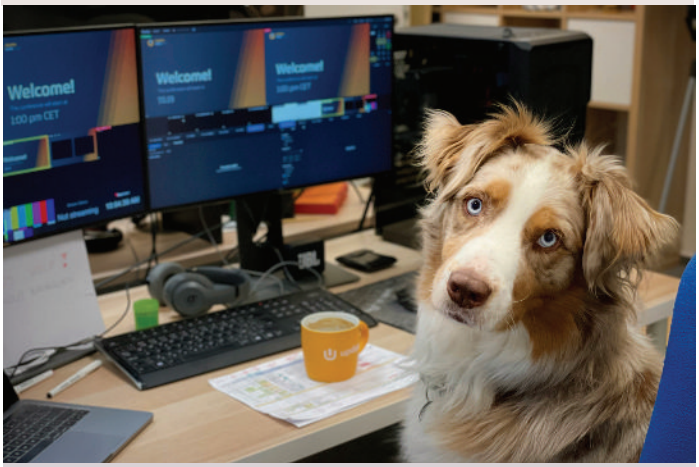
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En algunas bodegas, las fracciones de prensado fuerte se determinan con equipos de laboratorio, como nefelómetros (turbidez) o espectrofotómetros (contenido fenólico). En otras, el único equipo que se utiliza está en la boca.





Horas de Oficina Virtual

Todos los lunes, de 2:00 a 3:00 p. m., salvo que se indique lo contrario.

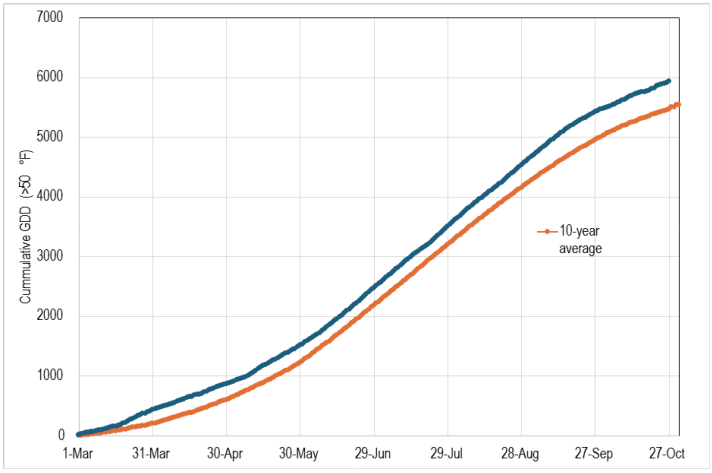
https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/82042824719 O Marca al 253-215-8782.

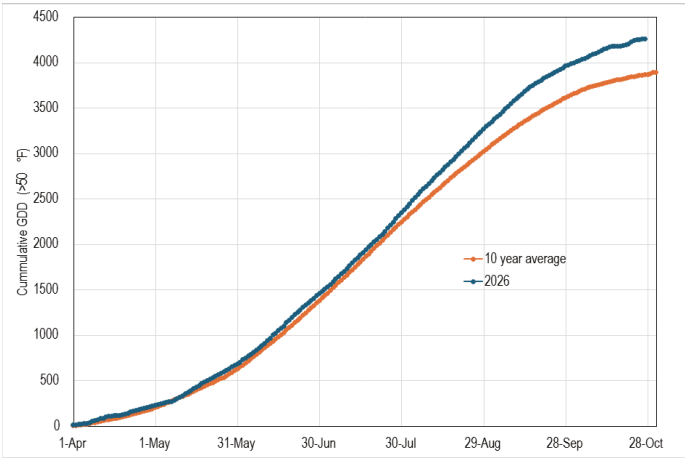
Pueden traer todas sus preguntas, fotos, revelaciones y lo que quieran compartir.

Próximos eventos

- **11/7/26 Convivio Poscosecha**
  - Agrinature center, 12-6pm. Geraldine y yo tendremos una sesión para escuchar sus experiencias de 1:00 a 2:30 p. m., durante este evento. Queremos saber qué salió bien esta temporada y qué no. ¿En qué les gustaría que nos enfocáramos durante la temporada de cultivo de 2027?

Comparación de grados día de crecimiento





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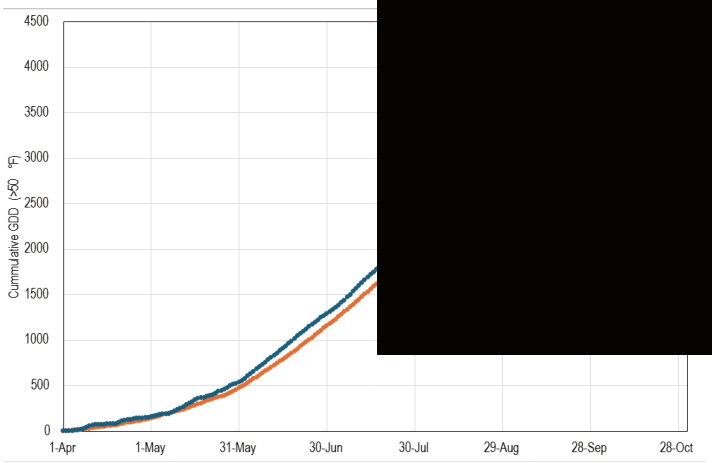
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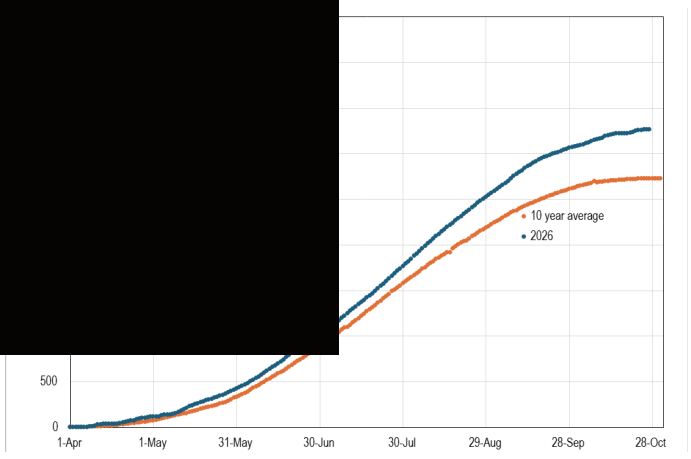
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