



# Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## A Great Vintage Starts Here



OSU viticulturist Imed Dami supports increasing Ohio's wine-grape acreage to serve the needs of local wineries.

Grapes vines may be idle and covered by snow right now in the Buckeye state, but winter brings a key element to the success of Ohio's booming wine industry: the [2007 Ohio Grape and Wine Conference](#), an educational event bottled with all the right ingredients to help growers, vintners and wine marketers remain competitive and improve their businesses.

Formerly known as the Ohio Grape-Wine Short Course, the yearly event will be held Feb. 12-13 at the Shisler Conference Center on the Wooster campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development (OARDC), 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster.

The conference is organized by the [Ohio Grape Industries Committee \(OGIC\)](#), the [Ohio Wine Producers Association \(OWPA\)](#), and [Ohio State University's Viticulture & Enology Program](#) - a research and outreach effort partnering OARDC and Ohio State University Extension.

The name change reflects "the new era associated with this annual educational event," said [Imed Dami](#), state viticulturist with OARDC and OSU Extension and an assistant professor in the Horticulture & Crop Science Department (H&CS). An overall improved program emphasizing quality and affordability has been developed for 2007 in response to feedback from industry leaders, producers and educators. The conference features a two-day program (instead of the three-day short course), more technical sessions that translated into greater choices for attendees, and a \$100 reduction in registration costs thanks to OGIC's sponsorship.

The program includes four general and six concurrent sessions covering a wide range of topics for grape growers, vintners and wine marketers. Speakers from across the country will join the conference to share their knowledge and experience in current topics essential to the industry. Also new this year are several panels of producers who will talk about the do's and don'ts for successful businesses, in addition to the debut of an "Ask the Experts" panel at which university and industry experts will answer questions from producers.



Additional events include a two-day trade show featuring vineyard and winery equipment and services, the Ohio Wine Reception featuring a taste of Ohio's versatile wines, and the traditional Banquet and Hall of Fame organized by OWPA.

Featured speakers include **Jean-Laurent Groux**, winemaker at Stratus Wines,

Ontario, Canada; **Jane Baxter Lynn**, lead consultant for Seattle-based JBL Public Relations Strategies; **Tim Martinson**, senior Extension associate in viticulture at Cornell University; **Cliff Ohmart**, research/IPM director for the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission; **John Santos**, vineyard manager at the Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards and Winery, Finger Lakes, New York; **Randy Ullom**, winemaker at Kendall Jackson Wine Estates, California; and OSU Extension Director **Keith Smith**.



Registration is \$210 and includes access to all technical sessions and the trade show, social events and meals, a printed conference packet, and a CD-ROM with Power Point presentations (to be mailed after the conference). For more registration information, contact Hannah Roscoe-Metzger, Shisler Conference Center, at (330) 287-1424 or [roscoe-metzger.1@osu.edu](mailto:roscoe-metzger.1@osu.edu).

Ohio is quickly becoming one of the top wine-producing states in the country, boasting nearly 3,000 acres of grapes, a yearly production of over 800,000 gallons, and more than 80 wineries - growing from 37 just nine years ago - that bring in an estimated \$70 million a year. The success of the grape industry here has a lot to do with the work put forth by OARDC researchers and OSU Extension specialists: a unique team of viticulturists, enologists, plant pathologists and entomologists who conduct research and develop programs and techniques aimed at boosting grape

production, controlling insects and diseases, and improving grape and wine quality.

OARDC, OSU Extension and H&CS are part of Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

Story by Mauricio Espinoza. Web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).  
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