

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences



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Written by Marlene Fritz

Table Grape Growers Can Learn About Powdery Mildew Management at Sept. 20 Field Day in Emmett

EMMETT, Idaho—While organic table grapes have the potential to become a lucrative new alternative crop for small- to mid-range producers in southwestern Idaho, powdery mildew is threatening growers' ability to harvest high-quality, marketable fruit. Most of the available information on managing this disease has been developed for growers in California, Washington and Oregon, but Treasure Valley producers can tour ongoing local research from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at a field day at Rocky Fence Vineyard in Emmett.

"Managing this disease is critical to the success of producers and to the sustainability of the industry," says Ariel Agenbroad, University of Idaho Canyon County Extension educator. She and colleague Tony McCammon of Payette County and grower Mike Medes will lead a tour and hands-on demonstration of research funded by a two-year Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Producer "Professional Grant.

Entitled "A Multi-Faceted Approach to Managing Powdery Mildew on Organic Table Grapes in Southwest Idaho," the project's partners include University of Idaho pomologist Essie Fallahi and plant pathologist Krishna Mohan, both located in Parma.

The free field day will be held at 3770 Fuller Road in Emmett. The tour will focus on:

- developing powdery mildew management protocols for southwestern Idaho
- trellising systems and pruning strategies for optimal air flow and operator access
- timing and materials for preventative treatment
- scouting and early detection of the disease organism
- using disease forecasting models
- timing treatments with organically approved materials
- exploring the use of composts and compost teas in fertility and disease control

Refreshments will be provided and RSVP is appreciated. For more information, call the University of Idaho's Canyon County Extension Office at (208) 459-6003.

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