



# POWDERY MILDEW IN WINEGRAPES

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## Managing Powdery mildew

Your primary resource for information on managing powdery mildew should be the UC IPM website. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r302100311.html#MANAGEMENT> Use the year-round pest management guidelines to develop a monitoring program. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/C302/m302yi01.html>

Key points in Powdery mildew management:

1. If you had powdery mildew on fruit or serious problems on grapes this year, consider applying lime sulfur this winter ( January/February) to reduce inoculum for next year.
2. If you have cane scarring this year, you had significant overwintering PM last year. Look at photo of cane scarring on UC IPM website at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/U/D-GR-UNEC-BT.001.html>

## 3. Powdery mildew control is dependent upon reducing early-season inoculum and subsequent infection.

4. Treatment must begin as soon as buds begin to push to reduce inoculum for the season. **The first spray at budbreak should always be sulfur, and subsequent sprays until shoots reach 8-10" of growth should also be sulfur..** Using sulfur first will also take care of erineum mites. **Sulfur is only a preventive, not an eradicant, thus it must go on before the infection gets established.**
5. For non-commercial vineyards, sulfur, neem oil and other oils, and potassium bicarbonate are the materials of choice. Oils are eradicants.
6. All materials other than oils, including the strobilurins and sterol inhibitors used by commercial growers should be considered as protectants

and applied **before** the disease is established. Early and repeated treatments may be necessary in mild or wet years.

7. Every time it rains, you need to reapply a fungicide.
8. In years with high disease pressure, treatments may need to be continued every 10 days through veraison (color change) in order to prevent damage to fruit.
9. Disease growth will stop when temperatures are above 95° IN THE VINE CANOPY (not on your window thermometer) for more than 12 hours, so treatment intervals may be lengthened in hot weather.
10. Alternate materials with different modes of action. If using sulfur and then oil, be sure there is no sulfur residue remaining on the plant when oil is applied.



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