

Hogue Viticulture Internship

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Introduction

My internship experience took place at Hogue Cellars in Prosser, WA. Hogue has been operating and producing award winning wine since 1982. Hogue Cellars sources and monitors grapes from over 2000 acres of vineyard land throughout the Columbia Valley. Monitoring these vineyards requires a dedicated staff of viticulture professionals.



ATV's are the most efficient way to monitor closely spaced vine rows, flags are utilized to make it easier for vineyard workers to locate the ATV's while hidden in the rows.



Monitoring Vineyard leaves for pests and diseases pre-lag phase.

Internship Responsibilities

- Monitoring contracted vineyards for pests, diseases, and other cultural practices associated with viticulture.
- Assist in Collecting data for estimating crop yields, cluster counting, and weighing.
- Collecting maturity samples during harvest
- Utilizing palm pilots for data entry and field observations
- Use of ATV's for vineyard monitoring



Summary

This Internship experience has given me the tools that I will need to pursue a career in viticulture and enology. Vineyard monitoring allowed me to see over twenty different varieties of grapes mature throughout an entire growing season. I have also been given the great opportunity to see the various vineyard management plans and cultural practices in use as growers attempt to bring their crops to fruition. Among the many things I learned throughout this internship experience has been pest and disease diagnosis and management, yield estimating based on "lag phase", vineyard management through different vine lifecycles, and many other important viticulturist practices. This experience has undoubtedly increased my knowledge and enjoyment of viticulture and has placed me on a path toward my ultimate goal of a viticulture profession. I highly recommend this type of internship to anyone interested in viticulture and enology.



Left: Hail damage to vineyard site north of Sunnyside, WA. Damage such as hail affects yield estimates and vineyard management practices. Right: The tools of the trade 5-gallon bucket, pruning shears, scale, and palm pilot for data collection and entry.