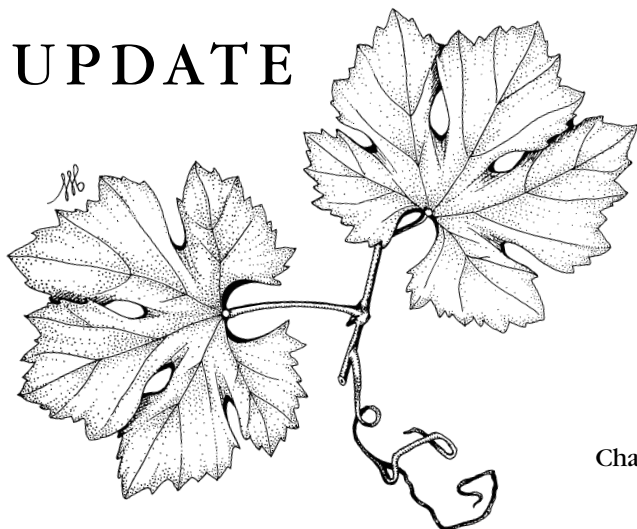


## UPDATE



# *Zinfandel Heritage Vineyard*

by Dr. Jim Wolpert  
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**T**he 1999 season was our second year of data. Again this vintage, information was recorded for important fruit characteristics such as cluster weight and berry size. As you will remember from the 1998 data, we saw significant differences among the 57 field selections and 6 certified clones in both cluster weight and berry size. The 1999 data are currently being “crunched” and will be presented in a later newsletter.

One important event in the Heritage Vineyard has been the addition of Phase II of the planting. We are adding 27 more selections to our original 63 for a total of 90, some done already in Fall of 1999 and the remainder slated for Spring of 2000. Thanks to the efforts of UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor Donna Hirschfeldt and Foothills Growers, we plan to add 9 selections from Amador, El Dorado and Calaveras counties.

The addition of Foothill selections was a key goal of Phase II. Continuing our desire for wide geographic distribution, Farm Advisor Janet Caprile help us locate a selection from Alameda County. Dave Gates, viticulturist with Ridge Vineyards, helped locate a selection used in Santa Clara and other South Bay vineyards. One other goal we had for Phase II was inclusion of selections from Southern California. With the help of Don Galleano (Galleano Winery) and Nick Karavidas (Fillipi Winery) we were able to collect selections from the Rancho Cucamonga region, at the border of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We also hope to include more selections from San Joaquin County where Farm Advisor

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Paul Verdegaal has an extensive collection of local favorites. All of these Phase II efforts were coordinated with the superb assistance of my technician Mike Anderson.

Finally, in viewing the leaf color over the past few years, it seems apparent that our effort to avoid vines with visual “red-leaf” symptoms in the original source vineyards was not entirely successful, as some of our selections have visible “red-leaf.”

Additionally, with funds from the Nursery Improvement Advisory Board, we performed a woody index on six selections at Foundation Plant Materials Service, UC Davis and found that viruses were present in some selections. This gives us pause to consider whether some of the cluster architecture differences we are seeing are due to clonal effects or virus effects. In order to better know the virus status, we have re-enlisted the assistance of FPMS, with a special thanks to Dr. Golino and her staff there, who will run an extensive panel of laboratory virus tests. Recent advances in these tests at FPMS have been remarkable, in terms of their speed, reliability and number of viruses detected.

This testing will be completed this winter and hopefully will give answers about viruses in Heritage selections, answers that are about 90% equivalent to a woody index but without both the extensive resources required for the index and nowhere near its 18-month time frame. Again, we will report on these activities as well in future newsletter. Our thanks continue to go to ZAP Board and membership for your support of this trial.