

NEWS JULY · 2007

It's been hot here in Washington! Joan Johnson, our viticulturist, says "the vines are enjoying themselves. I've seen a jump in shoot length and berry size. As long as growers keep up with their irrigation programs everything will be fine." To access raw data for the AgWeatherNet network, go to the AgWeatherNet web site URL as follows: www.weather.wsu.edu. Data provided courtesy of Washington State University AgWeatherNet. Data are copyright of Washington State University.

Joan and I spent one morning visiting some of our growers' vineyards and inspecting the crop. Everything looks on track for a great harvest. We are approximately four to six weeks from veraison, depending on the vineyard location. We took some early crop estimates and will visit again at veraison to revise as necessary.

WINE GRAPES AND JUICE

Grape prices for 2007 will be out the end of July or beginning of August. We expect to see about a 4% increase on average in our pricing this harvest. There are a couple of factors that go into this increase –

- ❖ Base prices to growers have increased an average of 10% on reds and 6% on whites since 2004. By keeping pace with market pricing we have been able to assure our customers with consistent quality and supply from our growers.
- ❖ The labor shortage of recent years has meant we have had to pay a premium for hand picked grapes. Growers expect the labor shortage to continue and will most likely be greater this year.

Once the wineries have established their 2007 processing fees, we will provide you with pricing for our 2007 wine grape juices. We don't anticipate much of an increase for these products.

Product is still available at this time. But don't wait to place your orders. Call today!

G.D. Williams now has the ability to accept credit card payments for your purchases, including grapes, juice and bulk wine. Add points to your credit card rewards program by using your VISA or Mastercard to pay your invoices.



SPECIALTY FOODS

We are currently revising the Specialty Foods section on our web site to display our complete offerings. Check back often as we continue to develop this part of the web site. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call if you want to inquire about any specialty food items.