

Vineyard Team Growers' Report, July 2016:

Mid-Season

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This report is from **Shawn Veysey of Scheid Vineyards in Greenfield, Monterey County.**

Phenology:

- Overall, **the amount of crop set looks to be close to average** with notable variation between vineyards and varieties.
- **Pinot noir** along the coast is on track to be of **high quality** with a slightly heavy set, but small clusters.
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** may require some fruit thinning to achieve vine balance going into veraison.
- **Syrah** is reported to have issues with shot berries and shatter in some areas.

Worst Pests:

- **Spider mites** and **vine mealybugs** continue to pose serious challenges.
- The periods of **warm spring temperatures** and **summer heat waves** have created **high levels** of both spider mite and mealybug **pest pressure**.
- **Vine mealybug numbers** and **distribution** are **greater than previous years**.
- **Hot spells** have definitely contributed to **spider mite flare ups** all along the coast.
- **For effective control of spider mites, coverage is key.** Shawn keeps tractor speeds to **no more than 2 mph** and uses **a high volume of water**.

Irrigation Scheduling:

- Shawn uses **multiple technologies** to make irrigations scheduling decisions including neutron probe, soil moisture probes, tensiometers, pressure bomb, porometer, Vintel irrigation models, as well as **visual assessment**.
- **Scheduling is crucial** as he has moved to **fewer deep irrigation sets** and is using shorter sets.



Multiple life stages of Vine Mealybug

- There is no one way to fight vine mealybugs. Shawn **rotates chemistries every year**. **Multiple life stages** at one time make control very difficult.

Join the Conversation:

Want to be a reporter in the future? Want to hear what other growers have to say about a particular topic? Email Craig Macmillan at craig@vineyardteam.org.

Special thanks to Shawn Veysey of Scheid Vineyards and Greg Miller of Nichino America for being this month's reporters.