

# Vineyard Team Growers' Report, May 2016:

## Bloom Time

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### May is the month for bloom on the Central Coast. Here's what some of our growers are reporting:

- This year is about a week behind last year, which is still earlier than usual.
- We are seeing shorter bloom to set times this year, averaging 9 days.
- Overall set is looking better than it has in recent history, but many areas were still in bloom during the recent cool period.
- Pinot Noir and Chardonnay have set all along the coast.
- Cabernet Sauvignon is reported to be anywhere from 50% to 100% bloom all along the coast.
- Later varieties all along the coast are at 80% to 100% bloom.
- Very few reports of varieties which have not reached cap fall.
- Crop load is looking heavier than usual. Cluster numbers per vine are up in all varieties. John Pierini of J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines has noticed many triples on Cabernet Sauvignon.
- Pierini and other growers commented that canopies are larger and denser. This will contribute to higher mildew pressure and increased water demand during the season. Vic Guerrero of Coastal Vineyard Services reports significant amounts of Phomopsis on canes and leaves from Malibu to Westside Paso Robles.

### Top Concerns:

- A very difficult battle with powdery mildew due to larger canopies and spring rains.
- Increased irrigations necessary for larger vines and large crop.
- Another year of low rainfall is contributing to salt accumulation.
- Risk of wildfire and smoke taint due to another dry winter.
- Availability and cost of labor - will there be enough workers to open up canopies and bring in the harvest? And at what cost?



*Grape cluster in bloom.*

*Special Thanks to:* Vic Guerrero of Coastal Vineyard Services, Brecon Jackson of Treasury Wine Estates, John Pierini of J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, Lucas Pope of Halter Ranch, Ryan Scott of Monterey Pacific Vineyards, and Jim Stollberg of Maverick Farming for reporting.

### 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](mailto:craig@vineyardteam.org).