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Hail damage

Tom Zabadal, MSU Horticulture

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Hail damage to grapevines can range from occasional tears in leaf blades to defoliation. Shoots and petioles become scarred. Petioles may remain attached to shoots while leaf blades are shredded from the vine. Damage to berries on exposed clusters during light to moderate hail will be associated with torn leaf blades. Severe defoliation from hail during early to midseason will typically cause a new canopy to develop from lateral shoots. Fruit maturity will be greatly retarded after severe defoliation. During early stages of berry development, berries will be scarred or will die without onset of fruit rot. Hail during or after veraison will promote fruit rot.



Hail damage showing tears in leaves and scarring of shoots as well as damaged berries. This late-season injury resulted in deterioration of damaged berries by fruit rot.

Photos: T. Zabadal



Severe early-season hail damage on the Catawba variety showing scarring on the shoots and petioles as well as an emerging lateral shoot, which will be the source of new leaves for the vine.

Photos: T. Zabadal

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