Frost Mitigation in Clarksburg

David Ogilvie
Wilson Farms
Ogilvie Merwin Vintners
The Clarksburg AVA

• Noted for the Delta Breeze

• Whites in 2021:
  • Chardonnay – 49k tons
  • Pinot Gris – 21k tons
  • Sauvignon Blanc - 19k tons
  • Chenin Blanc - 9k tons

• Reds in 2021:
  • Pinot Noir - 27k tons
  • Petite Sirah - 7k tons
  • Merlot – 5k tons
Spring Frost Situation in Clarksburg

Rarely happens and when it does it’s not widespread

- 2008 was minor, 2001 more widespread
- Frost Protection Infrastructure not looked at as a financially viable option due to rarity of events.
- This may change as prices for grapes and frequency of events increase.
The Frost Event - April 12th 2022

Temperatures forecasted to be in the upper 30s. From previous experience, we knew that there could be pockets of lower temperatures.
Cold Air Movement
Cold Air Movement – Slow it Down
Cold Air Movement – Slow it Down
Furrow Irrigation

- Lots of water fast
- Increased heat holding capacity
- Discing or mowing cover crop may help as well but not in 2022.
The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day.
- Robert FROST

Thank You

David Ogilvie
Wilson Farms, Ogilvie Merwin Vintners, David@WilsonVineyards.com