



Photo by Ales Maze on Unsplash



Grape Compass

Enabling quality grapes

Powered by HydroNET

User Experience: Bergendal Boerdery - Oukraalsvlei

Introduction

Grape Compass is a smartphone application that can be used as a decision support system for viticulturists/grape growers that makes reliable forecasts of fungal disease risks in vineyards. Not only does Grape Compass help avoid unnecessary sprays during periods of low risk, but the app also helps to ensure optimal crop protection during periods of high disease risk.



Oukraalsvlei is a Grape Compass user and the farm's manager, Gerhard Crous, provided some valuable insights on their experience in using the application in the 2022 season.

About Oukraalsvlei

Oukraalsvlei is a deciduous fruit and wine grape farm in the Piketberg area. "Bergendal Manenberg (Pty) Ltd as the holdings company adds value to our produce by packing and drying our fruit delivered to the main facility."

Oukraalsvlei forms part of Piekenierskloof Wine Company, and all the farm's wine grapes are processed at their facility in Citrusdal.

How did you get started with Grape Compass?

Oukraalsvlei trialed Grape Compass in the 2021/2022 season and then signed up to use it in the 2022/2023 season. Gerhard explained that the farm had a few spells of downy mildew and powdery mildew infection in the 2022/2023 season.

"In combination with a 21-day spray program and the Grape Compass info, we could manage the infection in such a way that we had no problems during this season."

How was your experience with Grape Compass?

"The powdery mildew is always a problem, but with the timely warning on downy mildew, the app helps in deciding if we are going to use a contact or systemic chemical against the fungal infection."

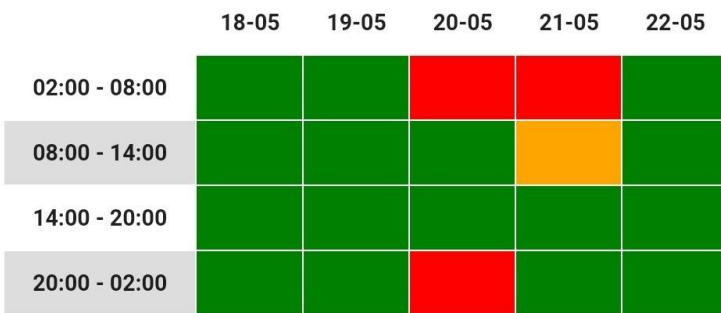
What would you say is the biggest benefit of Grape Compass?

“Long-term planning of spray programs.”



Photo by [Tim Mossholder](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Downy mildew - Primary infection risk



Botrytis - Infection risk



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