

Section VIII

Mites & Sap-sucking Insects

THRIPS INFLUENCE ON GRAPE BERRY SET
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The predominate species of thrips on wine grapes in central Washington are the western flower thrips (WFT), *Franklinella occidentalis* (Pergrande); the grape thrips, *Drepanothrips reuteri* Uzel; and the onion thrips, *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman. Thrips, mainly WFT, feed on buds at bud-break but are also found on cluster buds and in the developing fruit clusters. Damage is evidenced by fruit scaring which may result in small or split berries. This study investigated the possibility that thrips feeding injury reduced berry number and cluster size by feeding on flower buds or berries shortly after bloom. Two insecticides were used along with an untreated check. Results from 1996 indicated no difference in numbers of injured berries or percent injured berries between treated or untreated grapes.