

# Massachusetts Center for Agriculture

University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Development of a Research & Education Program for Small-Scale, Sustainable Viticulture & Enology in Massachusetts

### Issue

Fruit producers in Massachusetts are looking for new crops and products to improve profitability and maintain viability. This project identifies sites in Massachusetts that are best adapted for the production of wine grapes, tests wine grape cultivators at research and farm sites, and develops capacity to do enological research at the University.

### Impact

By establishing and managing demonstration vineyards and a fermentation facility, practical knowledge was gained on variety performance, training systems, trellising systems, insects, disease and weed management, canopy management, harvest parameters and procedures, winemaking facility design, equipment,

product flow, fermentation techniques, etc. Additionally, the development of a vineyard site assessment tool and associated manual helps determine the suitability of prospective sites. By developing a vineyard site suitability tool, new entry vineyards are able to evaluate prospective sites with confidence and make informed decisions about vineyard establishment. By facilitating the establishment of the Massachusetts Farm Wineries and Growers Association, this project has helped to support established and prospective vineyard/winery operations. Indirectly, this project has contributed to a change in conditions in as much as the number of vineyard/winery operations in Massachusetts has nearly doubled to 29 from 15 in less than 10 years (1998-2007) according to the most recent MDAR survey.

### Primary impact area(s)

- Research
- Education
- Extension

### Funding sources

- Hatch

### Topics

- Food Safety
- Horticulture
- Precision Agriculture
- Sustainable Agriculture

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