Many of you are still busy with winemaking but a quick reminder that fall is a critical time for vineyard weed management. It is critical for controlling pesky perennial weeds and preemergence of winter annuals.

- The 3 main types of weeds:
  - Annuals - Plants that live for less than one year
    * Winter annuals germinate in the late fall and winter, grow, and go to seed during the following spring and summer
    * Summer annuals germinate in the spring, grow, and go to seed during that spring and summer.
  - Biennials - Plants that live for more than one year, but less than two years
  - Perennials - Plants that live for more than two (2) years
    * Can be herbaceous or woody

- To insure optimal efficacy of herbicides always remember:
  - Use the correct herbicide for the specific weed pest.
  - Use the correct herbicide rate for the time and soil type.
  - Use the proper application technique.
  - Apply at the appropriate time.

- Sprayer calibration is important with pre-emergence herbicides. If you have been using a “Roundup only” program and haven’t calibrated lately be sure to do so before making the pre-emerge application.

- Perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, nutsedge, poison ivy, mulberry, and many perennial grasses are especially susceptible to glyphosate (Roundup) at this time of year.
  - Fall applications are very effective because these plants are strongly translocating down so they will take the herbicide to underground storage structures which will greatly improve there activity.
  - Spring applications of glyphosate are less effective on most perennials since movement of stored energy is upward and away from storage structures.
  - An application after grape leaf drop but while the weed foliage is still intact is ideal. Glyphosate can be absorbed by any green tissue, so waiting until grapevine leaf drop or use of shielded sprayers is
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important. In any event, avoid contact with grape foliage or green stems or damage may occur. See labels for complete instructions.

- This is also the time to include (tank mix) a pre-emergence herbicide with the glyphosate.
  - A pre-emergence herbicide will control winter annual weeds (e.g. chickweed and henbit)
    * Residual grass herbicides include: Devrinol, Gallery, Kerb, Prowl, Sinbar, Solicam, and Surflan.
      ▪ Kerb, Sinbar, and Solicam may be used but only be on vineyards established 3 years.
    * Residual broadleaf herbicides include: Casoron, Gallery, Goal, Karmex, Princep, Sinbar.
      ▪ Casoron, Karmex, Princep, and Sinbar may be used but only be on vineyards established 3 years.

* Again, these are only meant as suggestions – always see labels for complete instructions.

Fall herbicide applications are the first step in a successful weed management program. You can follow up in early to control the summer annual weed pressure.