



Since the last vineyard update, things have changed considerably with the succession of heat waves. Veraison is progressing well; we even observed the first ripening grapes as early as the beginning of July—unprecedented! The harvest is therefore expected in mid-August. While the heat wave has certainly continued to benefit the vines, it is causing significant stress for the plant:

- thermal stress, or «heat/sun stress,» which manifests mainly as burns/scorching on leaves and grapes, and even leaf loss in the most extreme cases;
- water stress, or drought, which causes the vine to stop growing and stalls in the veraison process, preventing the grapes from enlarging.

The water deficit has been very significant in Beaujolais since the beginning of June, with half the normal amount. This situation is very worrying because no significant rainfall is forecast for August, before the harvest. The two major heatwaves at the end of June and mid-July ended, as is typical, with violent hailstorms, particularly in the Quincié area. Vineyards were completely devastated, with most suffering damage of 50 to 70%. This will therefore have a significant impact on our Beaujolais Villages and Cru production.



The harvest potential was very promising at the start of the season. In just a few weeks, the effects of climate change have once again reduced this promising outlook to production levels that are expected to be significantly lower, perhaps even below the 2025 figures, which were historically the lowest in volume for Beaujolais. It is therefore more urgent than ever to adapt to this new climate context!

REPLANTING VINES IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

On July 21st, the technical department brought together around thirty winegrowers for the second edition of its end-of-season technical evening. This meeting focused on a major challenge for viticulture: how to replant vines in the face of the challenges posed by climate change.

To address this issue, several workshops led by experts explored the main levers for adaptation.

The first workshop focused on soil preparation before planting. A soil pit had been dug to observe, describe, and analyze the characteristics of vineyard soils, an essential step for guiding planting choices.

The discussions then concentrated on plant material. Faced with increasingly extreme weather events, the rootstocks traditionally used are showing their limitations. The speakers emphasized the importance of selecting plants better adapted to hot and dry conditions, inspired by more southern plant material.

Another solution presented was top grafting. This technique allows for a change in grape variety on an existing vine by grafting a new variety onto the existing rootstock, offering an alternative to uprooting and complete replanting.

Finally, a workshop dedicated to trellising highlighted the possibilities for optimizing the costs of cultivation operations per hectare while adapting vineyard management to new climatic constraints.

At the end of the evening, the winegrowers left with new ideas and concrete solutions for adapting their vineyards to climate challenges.



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