

AgriLife Extension Offers Two South Plains Viticulture Workshops

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LUBBOCK - Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Viticulture Team will conduct two different wine grape workshops in early August.

- The “Prospective Wine Grape Grower Workshop” will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock (1102 East FM 1294).
- The “Advanced Grower Workshop” is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 7 at the Twin T Vineyard located at 1634 Pecan Drive at Brownfield.

The Lubbock workshop will deal with the requirements and risks associated with establishing and operating a commercial wine grape vineyard.

Topics include: necessary viticulture knowledge, vineyard-site considerations, risk factors and labor requirements and economics.

“This is not a ‘how-to’ workshop, but rather a realistic overview meant to help prospective growers evaluate their goals in the Texas wine industry,” said Penny Adams, AgriLife Extension viticulture advisor for the Hill Country at Fredericksburg.

Adams and Fran Pontasch, her North Texas counterpart headquartered at Stephenville, will conduct both workshops.

Adams said participants in the Advanced Grower Workshop will be taught accurate sampling techniques in the Twin T Vineyard.

“Accurate sampling is crucial in estimating yield and fruit quality,” she said. “Growers will learn how to better assess their crop’s maturity and quality which directly affects their bottom-line.”

Adams said the Prospective Wine Grape Grower Workshop meets part of the requirements of the Viticulture Certificate Program. The program consists of five on-line courses and a three-part series of actual vineyard instruction. The two-year curriculum serves as an introduction to basic commercial viticulture.

Registration for the “Prospective Wine Grape Grower Workshop” at Lubbock is \$125 per person or \$200 per couple by 5 p.m. Aug. 4. Registration will be accepted at the door at the same cost. The fee includes lunch.

Individual registration for the “Advanced Grower Workshop” is \$20 either on-line or at the vineyard.

To register for either of the workshops, go to <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu/> or call 979-845-2604.

For more information call Adams at 830-708-8050 or Pontasch at 254-977-3641.

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