

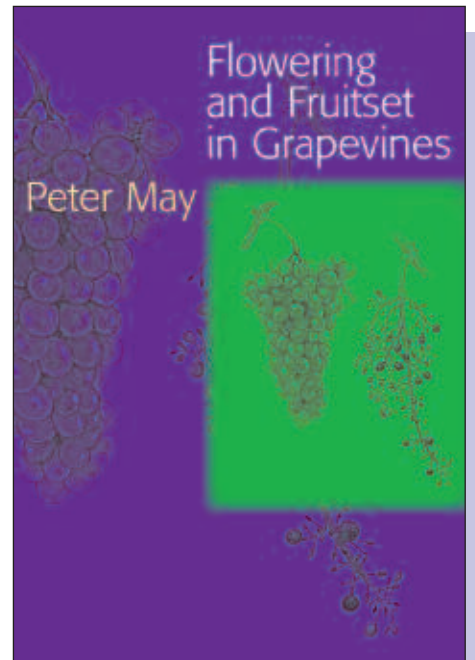
Flowering and Fruitset in Grapevines

by Peter May

Flowering and the subsequent setting of fruit is a critical process in the grapevine's annual cycle. When the weather is unfavourable just before and during flowering poor fruit can result, with consequently lower yields at harvest. Such incidents are infrequent in Australian vineyards, but when they occur they have serious commercial consequences for individual viticulturists and the industry as a whole.

Peter May has combined his considerable experience in the area with an exhaustive survey of the published research to produce a valuable account of grapevine flowering as it affects the production of the young berries. He describes in detail the whole process from the formation of the inflorescence initials to the events of flowering and fruitset, with respect to their morphology and physiology. He then describes how environmental conditions affect these developmental processes. In particular, he stresses the importance of establishing and maintaining long-term records of local weather conditions to enable the assessment of the relationship between weather and vine development, especially with respect to flowering. While there are limited means of redressing poor fruitset, this book contains proposals on how its sometimes devastating impact can be minimised.

Peter May is one of Australia's eminent viticultural researchers. He had a distinguished career working with CSIRO Division of Horticulture. He has been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Burgundy, Dijon, France and Malang, Indonesia, and is at present Visiting Research Fellow, The University of Adelaide. Dr May was the founding Editor of the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research*, one of the leading world publications in its field. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1996 recognition of his service to viticulture.



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