

**Virginia Wine Board Grant  
Final Report**

7/21/2023

Mizuho Nita  
Virginia Tech  
595 Laurel Grove Rd, Winchester, VA 22602

*Title:* Viticulture Extension and Research Support

*Proposal Number:* PB6ET3HQ

*Project Type:* ☐ Research ☒ Education ☐ Marketing

Is this a multi-year grant? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which year does this report address? [E.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 3-year grant]

*Original Funding Amount:* \$33,000

*Remaining Balance:* \$39

*Objectives and Results:*

- I. Provide viticulture extension support for established, beginning, and prospective grape growers
  - a. We held four (in 2022) and three (in 2023, one more to come) monthly virtual viticulture meetings which attracted over 200 participants.
  - b. Mr. Hatch provided assistance in four of Nita's grape disease workshops in February and March 2022 and March and April 2023.
  - c. We provided technical assistance to growers via emails, phone calls, and on-site visits.
  - d. Mr. Hatch was also part of the VA Sentinel Vineyard project. Although he was not funded through the Sentinel project, he helped planning meetings, participated in the discussion, and provided articles in reports.
- II. Continue to evaluate the merits of partial canopy rain shelters for rain protection, and the 2020 cultivar evaluation plantings for both viticulture and grape pathology programs.
  - a. Mr. Hatch worked with members in the Nita lab to maintain six grape pathology blocks and two viticulture blocks.
  - b. Rain shelter trials were held at four vineyards in 2022. (Three locations with temporary rain shield, two locations with fruit/cluster bags and umbrellas).



Temporary rain shield



Cluster umbrella



Cluster bag

*Note: umbrella and bag are for table grapes, which was funded through the VDACS, I am showing them because they are relevant. The main objective in this project is to test materials and timing of application for the temporary rain shield.*

Although there were no major disease outbreaks, at two of the locations, the shelter (bag in this location) provided significant protection against bird damage (please see the pictures below, from the left, no-cover control, cluster umbrella, and cluster bag

treatment.



- c. In addition, the temporary rain shield can also provide some level of protection against honey dew damages (i.e., mold) due to the spotted lanternfly.



*Overall Benefit for Virginia Wine Industry:*

*Publications and Activities Associated with Project:*  
Please refer to objective 1.

*Future Work:*

Since the new state viticulturist won't start until January 2024, I requested another year of support and the Board granted. We will keep the same level of activity in 2023. The bagging project was completed in 2022, but we have table grapes and other studies that Mr. Hatch is actively involved.

*Final Budget and Justification:*

Item Type	Original Awarded Amount	Final Amount Spent
Personnel	\$28,000	\$30,095
Fringe	\$2,293	\$2,302
Travel	\$2,000	\$0
Supplies & Materials	\$707	\$564
Contractual	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0
Total	\$33,000	\$32,961

The Final budget followed what we proposed.

*References:* [List all references.]