

## **RESEARCH PRIORITIES 2026 (revised Sept. 2026)**

*Ranked from highest priority to lowest priority:*

### **1. Pest and disease management**

- Spotted Lanternfly
- Identification and mitigation for Leafroll and Red Blotch
  - Cover crop management (for beneficial/vector management)
- Short- and Long-Term Effects of Viruses on Plant Performance
- Crown Gall
- MALB (Replacements for Synthetic Pyrethroids)
- Quality Improvement (Canopy Management, Powdery Mildew, Black Rot, Fruit Fly, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, botrytis, downy mildew, earwig management, etc)
- Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), Sour Rot
- Spray Programs Strategies (Rotation, Feedback Mechanism)
  - Alternatives to delisted sprays
- How to remove/mitigate botrytis taint

### **2. Variety Evaluation and Development**

- Vitis Certification (Local Vine Propagation & Supply)
- Clonal and Sub-Clonal Stability (Assessing Trueness to Type)
- New adaptative grapevine varieties
- Clonal Sensory Evaluation
- Forecast of “Winning” Varieties and Style of Wine

### **3. Agronomy**

- Winter Injury and Mitigation Technologies
- Quality Improvement (Canopy Management)
- Extreme weather events recovery and strategy
- Post-frost picking strategy and must handling in the winery
- Crop Level vs. Quality in light of climate change and weather patterns (i.e. Color, Tannin Development)
- Operations of Winery (i.e. Filtration, Yeast, Nutrients)
- Site Selection (Terroir)
- How to determine optimal picking times
- Sparkling Wine, Icewine, Late Harvest

### **4. Sustainability**

- Cover crop management (ecosystem services and reduced pest pressure)
- Extreme weather events recovery and strategy
- Spray program strategies (alternatives to delisted sprays)
- Vitis Certification (Local Vine Propagation Supply, reduced reliance on imports)

### **5. Technology**

- Advancements in technology & AI (Ex. Drones, lasers, scouting, etc.)
- Winter Injury and Mitigation Technologies
- Spray program feedback mechanisms
- Winery process optimization (filtration, yeast, nutrient management)
- Economic production of dealcoholized or low-alcohol wine in Ontario

### **6. Consumer and Market Research**

- Consumer Science (consumption and purchasing trends)
- Sensory Science
- Sparkling Wine Profiles
- Export/Market Development
- Promoting local
- Economic feasibility of low- and dealcoholized wines