



How to Manage Crop Loads in Muscadine

Greg Ison

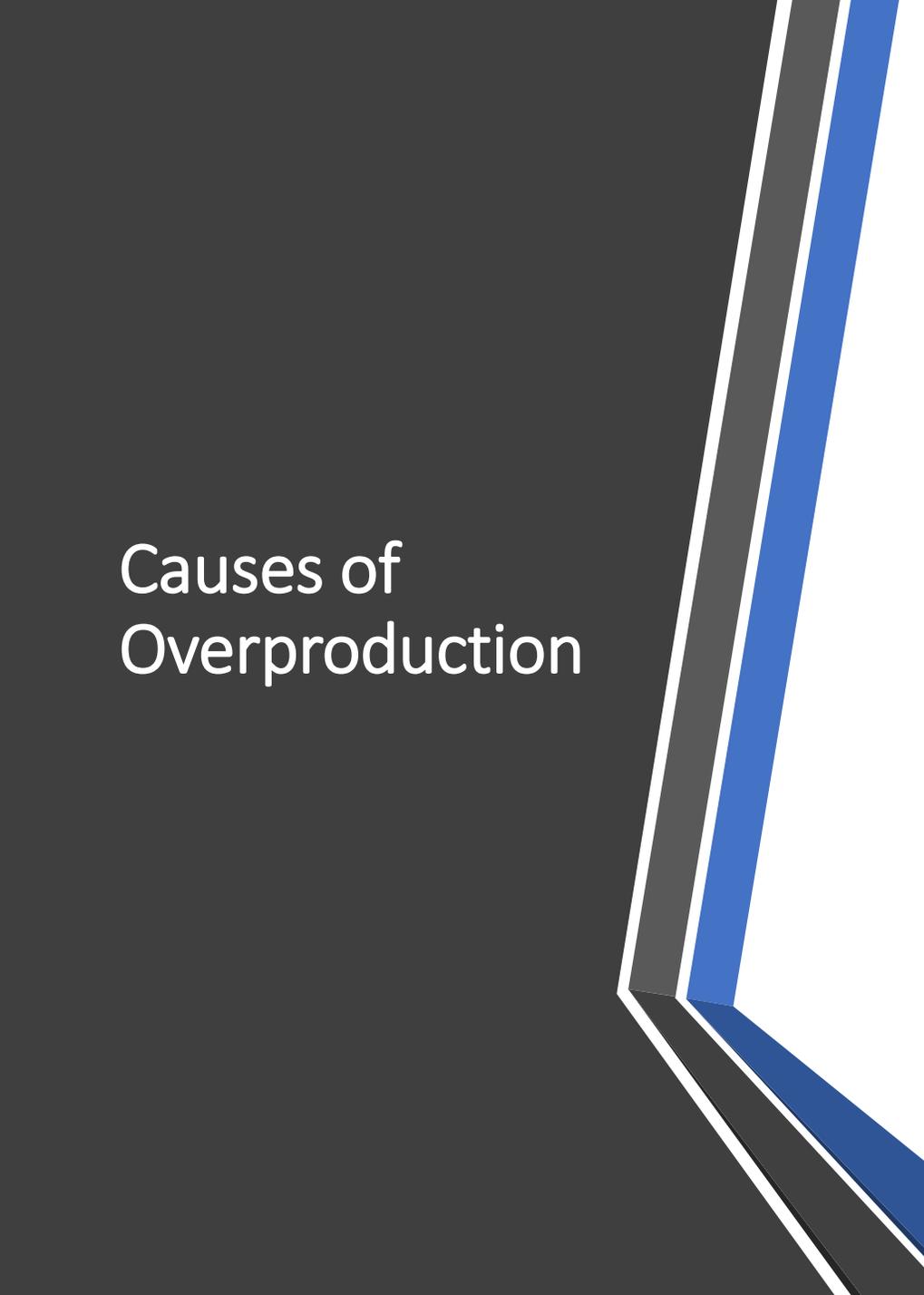
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Overproduction

When a vine produces more fruit than it can efficiently ripen

Muscadine vines can produce in excess of 100 lbs. per vine in a given year

Ideal production levels should range between 60 – 70 lbs. per vine



Causes of Overproduction

Ideal weather conditions during
the bloom

Leaving too many fruiting buds
after winter pruning

Cultivars that are less vigorous
growing

Removal of side growth during
summer months

Varieties that are Vulnerable to Overproduction

- Supreme
- Tara
- Granny Val
- Any self fertile variety





Catastrophes from Overproduction

- Slow to break bud or stunted growth in the spring
- Lack of blooms or fruit set
- Premature fruit drop
- Defoliation
- Significant cold weather injury or complete winter kill



How to Prevent Overproduction

Winter pruning, space spurs 6-8 inches apart

Removal of excess fruit in the early part of summer. Average of 20 clusters per vine

Nitrogen application after fruit set

Irrigate after harvest if dry and temperatures are above normal

How to
Reestablish Vines
after
Overproduction
Occurs

Strong fertility program,
extra nitrogen application
to spur new growth

Prune trunk to a height of
2 feet and retrain new
sucker as if a new vine