

Azienda Agricola Piaggia

Integrated insect and disease control is followed. Copper and sulphur base products are mainly utilised. No insecticides are used.

Only organic fertilizers are used.

The soil between the rows of vines is tilled, therefore there is no use of herbicides.

Appendix

Integrated insect and disease control (“*Lotta integrata*” in Italian)

Integrated insect and disease control is a control practice where the use of substances such as insecticides or fungicides is drastically reduced. It is based on three stages: prevention, observation and intervention. Besides spraying the vines, other means of control are also utilised which can be agronomical (maintaining healthy vines and vines that are “balanced” so that the incidence of diseases is much lower, managing the canopy so to prevent humidity building up and so on) or for example the coupling of insects is prevented (“male confusion” where strips emanating insect sex attractants - pheromones – mask the female insect’s own attractant so that the sexes fail to get together), or insect predators are introduced or bacteria that kill certain types of insects (as products made with *Bacillus Thuringiensis*) are used etc.

In practice control treatments are carried out only when strictly necessary and this is established by monitoring of various kind such as agro-metereological stations (according to weather conditions alarms for diseases are given), pheromone traps (when the captured insects reach a certain number, control measures are necessary) etc. One of principles of this method is, as far as insect pest control is concerned, to control only the harmful insects (without necessarily eradicating them) and to protect the “useful” ones.

In the EU, and consequently in Italy, there are various regulations that foresee integrated insect and disease control and subsidies are given to those growers that apply such practices. Controls are very strict and are carried out by professionals hired by the various Italian regional entities.