



POWERING THE VINEYARD INDUSTRY

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Understanding Dew Point

courtesy of Rainbow Ag

Frost Protection: When Do You Turn the Sprinklers On?

If you'd like to know the expert answer to that question, you must understand dew point. Dew point measures humidity, or how much water is in the air. The greater the air's humidity, the better it acts as insulation, holding in the earth's daytime heat.

Also, as nighttime temperatures drop, the air cools and dew condenses on your vines. The condensation process releases energy into the atmosphere, warming it and protecting your crop. So, the higher the humidity, the greater the buffer of protection you have from frost, and the lower you can let the temperature slide before turning on the sprinklers.

A sling psychrometer measures dew point. It's a fairly simple tool you can purchase by contacting **Warren Henry** at Rainbow's Ukiah location: **(707) 462-2404**.

Once you learn to use your psychrometer, the handy chart below shows you when the sprinklers need to go on.

WHEN TO TURN ON THE SPRINKLERS

If dew point is	Start sprinklers at:	To maintain:
13-14° F	43° F	40° F
15-16° F	42° F	39° F
17-18° F	41° F	38° F
19-21° F	40° F	37° F
22-23° F	39° F	36° F
24-25° F	38° F	35° F
26-27° F	37° F	34° F
28° F	36° F	33° F