

March 10, 1981

Ben A. Volkhardt
6 De Leu Drive
Suisun, Calif. 94585

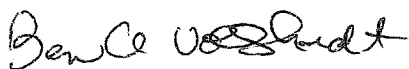
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Washington, D. C.

RE: Green Valley, Suisun, Valley Viticultural Area

Gentlemen:

I, Ben Volkhardt, owner of Volkhardt Vineyards, Green Valley, Calif.,
and President of West Solano County California Grape Growers Association,
hereby Petition the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to have
Green Valley and Suisun Valley of West Solano County California established
as a grape growing viticultural area. The attached are reasons this
area should have its own viticultural appellation.

Sincerely,



Ben A. Volkhardt, President
West Solano County Grape Growers Assoc.

BAV/pjv

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUISUN VALLEY APPELLATION AREA

Beginning from the town of Cordelia due Northeast along Cordelia road to Pennsylvania Avenue, thence due North along Pennsylvania Avenue to Soda Springs Creek, thence due West to the corner of Napa and Solano County, thence due West along the border of Solano and Napa Counties to Wooden Valley road, thence due South to the town of Cordelia the point of beginning.

DISCRIPTION OF THE GREEN VALLEY VITICULTURAL APPELLATION AREA

Beginning at the Northwest corner between Napa County and Solano County, thence due South along the Napa Solano County border to Jameson Canyon road, thence East along Jameson Canyon road to the town of Cordelia, thence due North to Wooden Valley road, thence due West along the Napa Solano border to the point of beginning.

June 8, 1981

Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
P. O. Box 385
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Robert White

Subject: Addendum to the Green Valley, Suisun Valley Areas.

The following is a breakdown of Soils and temperatures between Green Valley and Suisun Valley and the Vacaville, Dixon area of Solano County. Information on soils was obtained from Solano County Soil Survey's, by University of California, May, 1977. Temperatures were obtained from Jim De Tar, Farm Advisor, Solano County and University of California Weather Stations in Green Valley and Suisun Valley and Vacaville, Dixon area.

GREEN VALLEY VITICULTURAL AREA

Green Valley is a small valley approximately one mile wide and four miles long. The soil in Green Valley consists of Conejo Clay Loam, ideal for growing Cherries and Grapes. Fog is very prevalent in Green Valley, since it lies close to the Bay and Ocean in the months of May, June July and August. The season totals for degree days above 50 degrees in 1973 were 3,683.9 and in 1974 were 3,498.2. All watershed in this valley drains Southward into the Suisun Bay.

SUISUN VALLEY VITICULTURAL AREA

Suisun Valley is a larger Valley lying to the East of Green Valley, it is approximately three miles wide and eight miles long. The soils in Suisun Valley consist of Brentwood Clay Loam, Sycamore Silty Clay Loam, San Ysidro Sandy Loam, and Rincon Clay Loam. Fog hardly ever penetrates into the Suisun Valley. The season totals for degree days above 50 degrees in 1973 were 3,768.4 and in 1974 were 3,700.5. All watershed in Suisun Valley drains Southward into the Suisun Bay.

VACAVILLE - DIXON AREA

Vacaville - Dixon area lies Eastward of Suisun Valley. It has approximately 65 % of the balance of land area in Solano County. The soils are Yolo Loam, Yolo Silty Clay loam, with some Brentwood Clay Loam. Fog never penetrates into the Vacaville - Dixon areas. The season total degrees above 50 degrees in 1975 for Vacaville - Dixon areas were 3,927. The watershed form this area drains Eastward into the Sacramento River.



Ben A. Volkhardt, President
West Solano Grape Growers Association

July 8, 1981

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 385
Washington, D. C.

Addendum to the Green Valley, Suisun Valley Viticultural Areas

GREEN VALLEY - Has approximately 400 acres in grapes, with approximately 1,000 tons annual crush. There are no bonded winerys in Green Valley at the present. Chateau De Leu Winery, 205W Mason Rd., Green Valley, will be bonded by September 1, 1981.

SUISUN VALLEY - Has approximately 800 acres in grapes with approximately 3,000 tons annual crush. There are two bonded winerys in Suisun Valley; Wooden Valley Winery, Founded in 1932, Rt. #1, Box 124 Suisun, Calif., with 150,000 gallons storage capacity and Cadenasso Winery, Founded in 1906, Box 22 Fairfield, Calif., Storage capacity 300,000 gallons.

Sincerely,



Ben Volkhardt

BV/pjv

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FARM ADVISOR'S OFFICE
2000 WEST TEXAS ST.
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

THE WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY
OF
SOLANO COUNTY

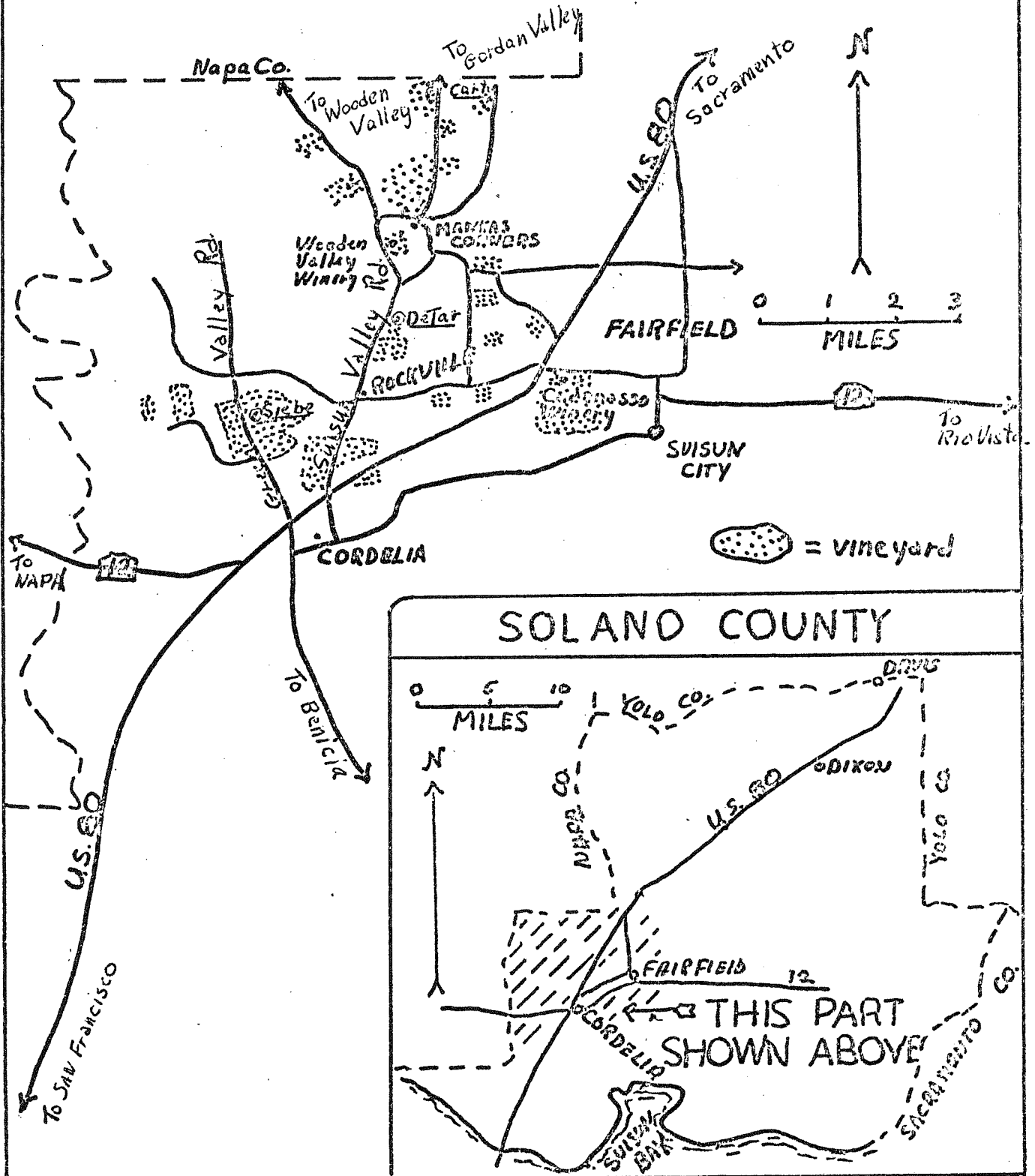
By: James E. DeTar, Farm Advisor

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

3/3/75

Green Valley - Suisun Valley Wine Grape Area



THE WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY IN SOLANO COUNTY

Historically the grape industry has been centered in Green Valley and Suisun Valley in the south-western portion of the county, adjacent to the Napa County line, and closely linked with the Napa-Sonoma wine industry. These two valleys lie within the southern end of two ranges of the Coast Range, the Vaca Mountains on the east and the Mount George Range on the west. The valleys terminate in the south at the marshlands of Suisun Bay and constitute the drainage basins of Green Valley, Suisun Valley and Ledgewood creeks. In the 1960's new plantings were established in Lagoon Valley, just east of the Vaca Mountains, and in the 1970's on Ryer and Hastings Islands in the Delta area of eastern Solano County.

Grapes have been grown commercially in Solano County since the late eighteen hundreds. As early as 1909, over two-thousand acres were recorded by the Bureau of the Census (Table 1). Since that time a small but stable wine grape acreage has been continuously maintained (Table 1a).

The principal varieties grown in decreasing order of acreage are: Gamay, Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignane, Zinfandel, French Columbard, Chenin Blanc, Early Burgandy, Gamay Beaujolais, and Gray Riesling (Table 1b).

Traditionally a large portion of the grape crop has been crushed outside of the county, primarily at wineries in the north coast counties. In 1974 about 20 percent of the crop was processed by the two local wineries, Cadenasso Winery and Wooden Valley Winery, while 80 percent was crushed at wineries in Napa and Sonoma Counties (Table 2).

Grapes from western Solano County have been well received by Napa-Solano vintners and growers have experienced no difficulty in meeting the minimum acid and sugar requirements for north-coast grapes (table 3).

The major consideration in fitting grape varieties to the climate has traditionally been the accumulation of heat units during the growing season, April to October. Five grape growing regions have been designated in California:

- Region I - Less than 2500 degree-days over 50°F.
- Region II - 2501 - 3000 degree-days
- Region III - 3001 - 3500 degree-days
- Region IV - 3501 - 4000 degree-days
- Region V - 4001 or more degree-days

Regions II, III, and IV occur in the agricultural portions of Solano County. Records from three University of California weather stations in Suisun Valley and Green Valley place these two areas in a mid-region III. Over a fourteen year period the station in mid-Suisun Valley averaged an accumulation of 3,368 degree-days (Tables 4-6).

Based on temperature units alone, this area would be comparable to the Calpella, Ukiah and Hopland areas of Mendocino County; the Calistoga area of Napa County, and the Alexander Valley, Asti, and Cloverdale areas of Sonoma County (Univ. of Calif. Leaflet 154); the Oakville, Pope Valley, and St. Helena areas of Napa County (Coop. Ext., Univ. of Calif., Napa Co. mimeograph, see pg. 15); and the Coyote Dam, Hopland, Potter Valley, Ukiah, and Round Valley areas of Mendocino County (Coop. Ext., Univ. of Calif., Mendocino Co. mimeograph).

Within the Green Valley-Suisun Valley area, based on short term records, the accumulations of degree-days could be expected to vary from cooler to several-hundred degree-days warmer (Tables 7-8).

Four generalized area climates can be identified in Solano County; Maritime, Coastal, Transitional, and Interior (map pg. 13-14). The Green Valley-Suisun Valley grape area lies within the Coastal areaclimate, and is characterized by cool moist winds blowing inland from the ocean, and bay almost continuously from May through early fall. The Lagoon Valley grape area is situated at the lower end of the Interior areaclimate and is largely cut off from the ocean breeze by a range of hills.

This publication is meant to characterize in part the established grape area of the western portion of Solano County. No similar data is presently available for the Rio Vista Delta area.

Table 1

SOLANO COUNTY GRAPE ACREAGE

1909 - 1973 ^{1/}

YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	TOTAL ACREAGE
1909	2427	NA
1919	1131	1194
1924	NA	2102
1929	2412	2669
1934	1981	2185
1936	1656	1842
1941	1320	1345
1943	895	915
1949	782	NA
1953	690	690
1958	613	613
1963	554	629
1968	730	800
1973	796	942

^{1/} Prepared by James E. DeTar, University of California Cooperative Extension
 Source: 1909 - 1936, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, all grapes; 1941 - 1973, Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, State of California, all grapes; 1949, Solano County, Department of Agriculture.

SOLANO COUNTY WINE GRAPE ACREAGE
1929 - 1974 ^{1/}

YEAR	BEARING	NON-BEARING	TOTAL ACRES
1929	2060	230	2290
1936	1358	181	1539
1941	1200	25	1225
1943	805	20	825
1949	782	NA	NA
1953	606	0	606
1958	588	0	588
1963	530	75	605
1968	720	70	790
1973	794	146	940
1974	807	439	1246

^{1/} Prepared by James E. DeTar, University of California, Cooperative Extension.

Source: 1929 and 1936, U.S. Dept. Commerce, Bur. of Census; 1949 and 1974 Solano County Dept. of Agr.; 1941, 1943, Bul. Dept. of Agr., State of Calif.; 1953-73 Calif. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

1974 SOLANO WINE GRAPE ACREAGE (over 3 yrs.)

BY VARIETY AND DISTRICT ^{1/}

	Green Valley Suisun Valley	Lagoon Valley (Vacaville)	Hastings-Ryer (Rio Vista)
Other White	4.0		
Alicante Bouschet	22.1		
Black Malvoesie	5.1		
Burger	2.0		
Cabernet Sauvignon	80.6	3.4	60.0
Carignane	109.4	2.1	
Chenin Blanc	15.0	33.7	20.0
Early Burgandy	33.4	30.0	
Flora	5.0		
French Colombard	74.4		
Gamay	133.9		80.0
Gamay Beaujolais	46.0		
Gray Riesling	45.4		
Green Hungarian	11.5		
Malvasia bianca	3.8		
Palomino	41.6		
Petite Bouschet	25.0		
Petite Sirah	123.5	15.0	60.0
Petite Verdot	8.0		
Pinot noir	37.0	7.0	
Sauvignon blanc	10.3		
Sauvignon Vert	12.7		
Zinfandel	21.9	2.4	56.0
TOTAL	871.6	93.6	276.0

^{1/} Prepared by James E. DeTar, Univ. of Calif., Coop. Ext.
Source: Solano County, Dept. of Agr.

UTILIZATION OF SOLANO COUNTY GRAPES - 1974 ^{1/}

Solano County Wineries	742 tons	18.4%
Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino County Wineries	3,238 tons	80.3%
San Joaquin Valley Wineries and Others	52 tons ^{2/}	1.3%
<hr/>		
TOTALS	4,032 tons	100.0%

^{1/} Prepared by James E. DeTar, University of California Cooperative Extension.

Source: Solano County Department of Agriculture

^{2/} Ryer and Hastings Island grapes from Eastern Solano County.

Table 3

Acid and Sugar Content of all French Colombard,
 Petite Sirah, and Napa Gamay Grapes from Solano
 County, Delivered to Allied Grape Growers in 1974.

VARIETY	TONS	TOTAL ACID	ACID REQUIRED ^{1/}	SUGAR	SUGAR REQUIRED ^{1/}
French Colombard	230	0.98	0.8-1.0	21.1	20-23
Petite Sirah	112	0.77	0.7-0.9	22.4	21-24
Napa Gamay	243	0.77	0.7-0.9	21.1	20-24

^{1/} Requirements of Allied Grape Growers for north-coast grapes
 Source; George Buonaccorsi, Allied Grape Growers, St. Helena, Calif.

TTB NOTE: Table 4 was not included in the petition.

Table 5

TEMPERATURE SUMMARY ^{1/} FOR SUISUN VALLEY ^{2/}
SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 1961-1970 ^{3/}

Year	Region	APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPT.		OCTOBER	
		Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max	Low Min	Hi Max
1961	III	32	89	39	80	49	115	47	109	44	100	42	100	31	100
	Mo.Temp.	58.6		58.9		68.6		73.7		72.6		65.9		62.2	
1962	III	35	90	40	87	42	103	49	99	47	103	45	100	41	94
	Mo.Temp.	59.2		60.9		67.4		71.9		70.8		62.4		61.3	
1963	III	33	69	36	91	43	98	46	101	46	103	47	106	36	97
	Mo.Temp.	50.6		59.3		66.1		68.9		71.9		71.0		62.3	
1964	III	34	93	37	89	45	102	47	102	45	103	41	105	41	100
	Mo.Temp.	57.5		60.0		65.8		71.1		71.9		68.8		65.4	
1965	III	32	94	38	92	47	94	49	100	53	99	38	96	37	95
	Mo.Temp.	57.8		62.9		64.3		71.5		74.0		64.8		64.0	
1966	III	39	92	45	95	40	108	48	100	50	104	43	102	36	93
	Mo.Temp.	62.0		64.2		69.4		70.6		74.0		68.9		64.0	
1967	IV	31	66	34	98	49	97	52	104	47	105	49	102	40	92
	Mo.Temp.	48.1		63.0		66.5		74.3		75.1		72.8		65.9	
1968	IV	36	88	36	93	43	100	48	103	46	103	44	101	38	90
	Mo.Temp.	60.6		63.0		70.6		72.1		69.9		70.0		61.7	
1969	IV	34	86	42	96	49	96	50	103	48	105	45	107	38	87
	Mo.Temp.	56.7		65.2		67.1		73.6		74.5		71.2		62.1	
1970	III	32	84	38	103	47	100	50	108	47	106	38	102	29	103
	Mo.Temp.	54.6		66.0		68.0		73.1		70.9		70.2		59.4	
Mean Average of Ten Years		56.6		62.3		67.4		72.1		72.6		68.6		62.8	

GRAPE REGION SUMMARY

Degree-Days
Over 50°F.

Year	Apr.-Oct.	Region
1961	3145	III
1962	3182	III
1963	3065	III
1964	3384	III
1965	3375	III
1966	3766	IV
1967	3606	IV
1968	3604	IV
1969	3687	IV
1970	3435	III

Average 3425

^{1/} Degrees F.

^{2/} Based on records obtained from the University of California, Weather Station V. W. DeTar ranch, Suisun Valley road at Morrison Lane.

^{3/} Compiled by:
Robert Merritt, Neighborhood Youth Program

Table 6

TEMPERATURE SUMMARY ^{1/} FOR UPPER SUISUN VALLEY ^{2/}
Solano County, California 1972-1974 ^{3/}

Year	Region	APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL
		Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	
1972	III	67.4	44.6	77.3	48.2	82.1	52.2	88.2	57.5	85.1	57.2	75.9	50.3	68.5	52.1	3172.2
	Mean	56.0		62.8		67.2		72.9		71.2		63.1		60.3		
	Degree-days over 50°F	180.0		396.8		516.0		709.9		657.2		393.0		319.3		
1973	IV	72.1	45.9	80.4	52.3	87.4	57.0	89.5	56.3	87.4	52.8	83.8	55.4	76.0	49.9	3768.4
	Mean	59.0		66.4		72.2		72.9		70.1		69.6		63.0		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	270.0		508.4		666.0		709.9		623.1		588.0		403.0		
1974	IV	68.1	46.1	76.6	47.3	84.7	54.0	88.0	56.9	90.3	56.0	89.5	52.2	80.0	51.6	3700.5
	Mean	57.1		62.0		69.4		72.5		73.2		70.9		65.8		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	213.0		372.0		582.0		697.5		719.2		627.0		489.8		

GRAPE REGION SUMMARY

Degree-Days over 50°F. ^{4/}

Year	April-Oct.	Region
1972	3172	III
1973	3768	IV
1974	3700	IV

^{4/} Calculated from average monthly maximum and average monthly minimum temperatures

^{1/} Degrees F.

^{2/} Based on records obtained from U.C. Weather Station, Robert Carty vineyard, Gordon Valley Road, 1 mile South of Napa County boundary.

^{3/} Compiled by James E. DeTar, University of California Cooperative Extension

Table 7

TEMPERATURE SUMMARY ^{1/} FOR MID-SUISUN VALLEY ^{2/}
Solano County, California 1971 - 1974 ^{3/}

		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL
Year	Region	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	
1971	III	69.3	41.9	72.4	48.5	83.0	52.4	90.3	56.4	90.0	55.7	88.5	49.4	77.4	41.1	
	Mean ^{4/}	55.6		60.5		67.7		73.4		72.9		69.0		59.3		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	168.0		325.5		531.0		725.4		709.9		570.0		288.3		3318.1
1972	II	69.0	39.8	73.1	44.4	82.2	49.1	85.0	52.9	86.0	51.9	82.6	49.4	71.6	49.5	
	Mean	54.4		58.8		65.7		69.0		69.0		66.0		60.6		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	132.0		272.8		471.0		589.0		589.0		480.0		328.6		2862.4
1973	III	74.6	43.7	79.3	49.7	88.3	55.6	88.5	55.1	83.5	49.8	83.6	51.5	77.3	45.4	
	Mean	59.2		64.5		72.0		71.8		66.7		67.6		61.4		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	276.0		449.5		660.0		675.8		517.7		528.0		353.4		3460.4
1974	III	69.4	42.4	77.3	46.6	83.6	54.0	86.3	55.5	87.4	53.2	86.5	48.2	76.7	45.5	
	Mean	55.9		62.0		68.8		70.9		70.3		67.4		61.1		
	Degree-days over 50°F.	177.0		372.0		564.0		647.9		629.3		522.0		344.1		3256.3

^{1/} Degrees F.

^{2/} Based on records obtained from U.C. Weather Station V.W. DeTar RAnch, Suisun Valley Road at Morrison Lane

^{3/} Compiled by James E. DeTar, Cooperative Extension, University of California

^{4/} Calculated from average monthly maximum and average monthly minimum temperatures

TEMPERATURE SUMMARY ^{1/} for GREEN VALLEY ^{2/}
 Solano County, California 1973 - 1974

	APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL
	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	
1973 IV	74.4	47.9	77.6	51.7	86.9	55.7	88.0	57.0	84.9	54.4	83.7	54.7	75.1	48.9	3683.9
Mean	61.1		64.7		71.3		72.5		69.7		69.2		62.0		
Degree-days over 50°F	333.0		455.7		639.0		697.5		610.7		576.0		372.0		
1974 III	68.0	46.0	74.7	48.7	83.1	56.1	85.3	58.7	86.6	57.2	83.9	53.0	77.4	49.8	3498.2
Mean	57.0		61.7		69.6		72.0		71.9		68.5		63.6		
Degree-days over 50°F.	210.0		362.7		588.0		682.0		678.9		555.0		421.6		

^{1/} Degrees F.

^{2/} Based on records obtained from U.C. Weather Station, Harold Siebe vineyard, Green Valley Road, 1/2 mile south of Rockville Road, 3 miles east of Napa County boundry.

^{3/} Compiled by James E. DeTar, U.C. Cooperative Extension

PLANTCLIMATES OF CALIFORNIA

SOLANO COUNTY

MAJOR ZONES

MARITIME TRANSITIONAL

COASTAL INTERIOR

SUBZONES: A-Z AND 1-20 = WARM TO COOL

— MAJOR ZONE BOUNDARY

--o-- APPROX. TOP OF SUBTROPICAL THERMAL

-o-x-o- APPROX. BOTTOM OF SUBTROPICAL THERMAL & VALLEY FLOOR

— OTHER SUBZONE LINES

||||| APPROX. SUMMER FOG LINE

— HYDROGRAPHY

—□— HIGHWAYS

• CITIES AND TOWNS

• COUNTY SEAT

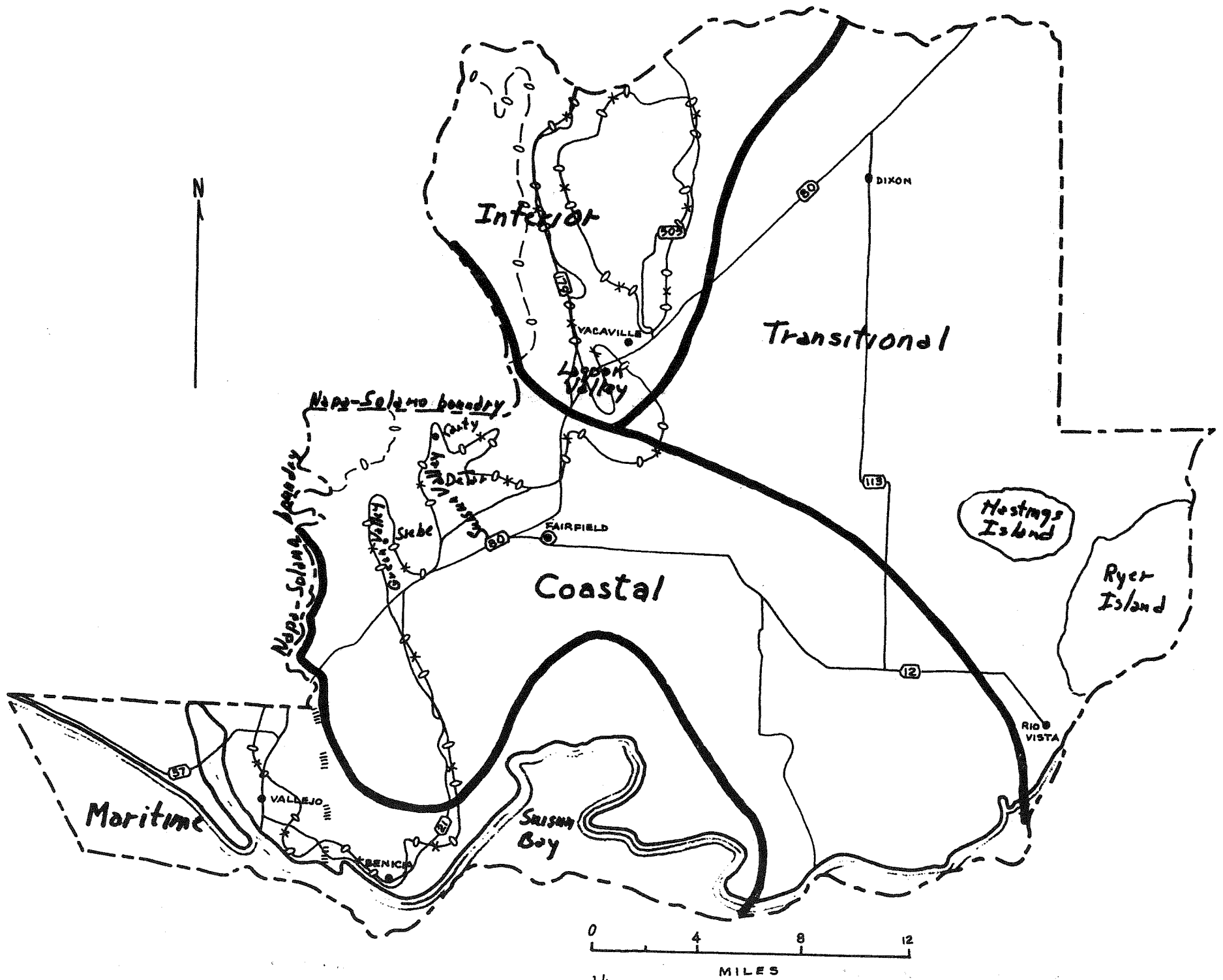
SCALE 1:250,000

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

MARSTON H. KIMBALL, EXTENSION BIOCLIMATOLOGIST

JANUARY 1964



Taken from Weather Bureau records for about 20 years (Personel conversation with Keith Bowers 2/27/75).

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Napa County

Degree Days Above 50°F.

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>OCT.</u>	<u>SEASON TOTAL</u>	
ANGWIN, P.U.C.	90	267	451	654	617	504	325	2,908	II
BERRYESSA LAKE	222	428	639	837	834	678	477	4,115	V
DUTTON'S LANDING	174	276	417	456	484	450	341	2,598	II
KNIGHT'S VALLEY	63	220	378	711	493	399	208	2,472	I
NAPA STATE HOSPITAL	195	329	447	536	514	498	363	2,882	II
OAKVILLE	196	333	479	577	599	523	417	3,124	III
POPE VALLEY, 2E	195	338	561	738	713	582	341	3,468	III
ST. HELENA	195	360	513	645	623	543	350	3,229	III
SONOMA	168	310	465	583	580	507	338	2,951	II
VACAVILLE	249	453	627	797	750	642	409	3,927	IV