Armstrong R & D Farm

Growing conditions were good in 2004, & most vines filled the cordon.
Cane growth was dense on many cultivars.
Shoots were positioned ("combed") in mid-July to improve light penetration and air circulation.
Shoots running along the trellis were pulled over to drape down. The skirts were then trimmed about a foot above the ground.
After shoot positioning ("combing")
Before & After shoot positioning
For VSP trained vines, the shoots were tucked between the catch wires several times during the growing season.
The Armstrong Farm suffered 2,4-D Injury. It was rated in September on a scale of 1 (no apparent injury) to 5 (very severe injury).
Cynthiana & Vanessa exhibited the severest symptoms.
The results were similar to those recorded in 2003.
Crown Gall became evident on some cultivars at the Hort Farm.

‘Chambourcin’
Difference between sites was attributed to the early killing frost at the Hort Farm & previously being planted with apples which are also prone to crown gall.
Across all cultivars, vines in the organic approve plots exhibited the highest incidence of crown gall.
Even though the vines were sprayed with liquid lime sulfur, some cultivars exhibited anthracnose.
Anthracnose Rating

Scale: 1 = none visible, to 5 = very severe.
Vines in the organic approve plots exhibited the higher incidence of anthracnose at the Hort Farm, but not at the Armstrong Farm.
It is speculated that the mulch created an environment favorable for the development of anthracnose, and shielded the base of the canes from the liquid lime sulfur application.
Powdery Mildew was evident on the vines at the Armstrong Farm in late summer & was rated.
Beginning in early July, vines at the Hort Farm were sprayed weekly, while at the Armstrong Farm, vines were sprayed twice in August after symptoms were observed. Fixed copper sprays were effective in controlling powdery mildew.
Copper spray residue