In The Vineyard

This past Saturday morning most of us were keeping a close eye on the temperature in our vineyards. Some locations experienced temperatures at or below freezing while others hovered around 35 degrees. I made several stops on Tuesday to try and get a better handle on the extent of the damage. From my best judgment we were right on the verge of experiencing significant damage. In the severely affected vineyards we were seeing that 80-90% of shoots were damaged. These are vineyards planted on flat sites with very poor air drainage. Once you moved away from the flat sites and got onto ground that had more of a slope the damage was substantially less.

Many of the damaged vines I was looking at yesterday were starting to compensate for the frost damage. If just the shoot tip was damaged laterals were already starting to push. In cases where the whole shoot was scorched...
In The Vineyard (continued from page 1)

secondary buds were swelling and should be expected to push in the next week. What could happen now is that we have vines with a crop on primary and secondary shoots. This could extend the bloom period several weeks and make both disease management and harvest logistics challenging.

As far as the potential impact on yield is concerned many vineyards will have to wait and see what emerges from the secondary shoots. In some cases there was no damage to clusters and just the shoot tips were killed, while other vines lost whole shoots. At this point damaged clusters will be brown and the florets will fall off when you touch them. Depending on how severely the cluster was it might result in a total loss of the cluster or just reduced set. Lets hope that was the last cold night until fall.

Labor continues to be an issue for growers. Most vineyards are at least pruned with just a few places needing to finish the follow up in spur pruned natives and hybrids. However, many vineyards are still not tied. Deep snow across our area plus the condensed spring has kept crews very busy and in high demand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Low Temp (F)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branchport</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden (FLGP Teaching Vineyard)</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva (Experiment Station)</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammondsport</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hector</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himrod</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovid</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watkins Glen</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Morning low temps for 5/23/15

IPM

Mike Colizzi

For most vineyards at least one if not two sprays have been applied by now. We are at that time where a Phomopsis spray is critical to protect against rachis infections. The forecasts are calling for rain this weekend and some of next week so getting a spray on now could be what it takes to keep your vineyard clean. Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew sprays should not be delayed anymore. Downy mildew organisms typically first become active once shoots reach 10 inches long.
Winery Benchmarks program kicks off

Allows wineries to measure their business against wine industry peer data

PUBLISHED ON MAY 26TH, 2015

ENFIELD, Conn. — Farm Credit East’s Winery Benchmarks program is currently underway and accepting sign-ups for the 2015 benchmark! This unique program, now in its eighth year, allows wineries to measure their business against wine industry peer data.

“The benchmark program provides an exclusive report on winery business performance unique to our region, comparison reports showing the participants data next to industry data, an annual meeting and one-on-one follow up with a winery business consultant,” said Gregg McConnell, director of the program. “This year, the benchmark program is growing to include several Michigan wineries that will join us as they build their own regional program. Their participation will bring additional data to the benchmark and new ideas as participants enjoy networking at the meeting.”

Winery owners throughout the Northeast use the benchmarking program to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their businesses, find strategies to capture the full market value of their products, create marketing that matches the quality of their wine and to find new ways to control costs and gain efficiencies.

Data collection for this year’s program is currently underway. If you’d like your winery to be included in this year’s benchmark, please contact your local Farm Credit East office, call Kathy Young at 800.929.7102 or email Gregg McConnell at Gregg.McConnell@farmerediteast.com.

Results will be compiled in July and individual benchmark reports will be provided to each of this year’s participants in time for the annual meeting to be held at the New York Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua, NY on August 5, 2015. For more information on the Farm Credit East Winery Benchmarks program and to watch a short video about the program, visit the following link: https://www.farmerediteast.com/winerybenchmarks.aspx

—Farm Credit East
Upcoming Events

Don’t forget to check out the calendar on our website (http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/events.php) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.

FLGP Tailgate Meetings

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Smith Brothers Farm
9404 Ridge Road
North Rose, NY 14516

Our annual series of tailgate meetings continues on Tuesday, May 19, at Smith Brothers Farm in North Rose. This will be our first grower meeting in Wayne County since they joined the FLGP this year.

These meetings are held every other week at various grape farms around the Finger Lakes, and are intended to be informal, small-group meetings where FLGP staff and growers can ask questions and discuss issues about vineyard management, IPM strategies or other topics appropriate for that point in the growing season.

The DEC has approved 1.0 pesticide recertification credits for each Tailgate Meeting this year.

Dates and locations for the rest of this year’s Tailgate Meetings can be found under the ‘Events’ section of our website.

40th Annual American Society for Enology and Viticulture – Eastern Section Conference

July 23-25, 2015

Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
30 Lake Shore Drive E
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Join us for the 40th American Society of Enology and Viticulture – Eastern Section (ASEV-ES) conference in Dunkirk, NY on July 23-25, 2015. The host hotel for the ASEV-ES Conference will be the Clarion Hotel Marina and Conference Center in Dunkirk, NY. On Thursday, July 23 there will be a pre-conference tour of New York vineyards and wineries. The conference will begin with technical presentations on Friday and Saturday, July 24-25 and include Friday's Oenolympics Grazing Dinner with Wines of the East and Saturday's Sparkling Wine Reception and Grand Awards Banquet.

For registration, housing and program information, please visit http://www.asev-es.org/.
Second International Workshop on Vineyard Mechanization and Grape and Wine Quality

July 26-29, 2015

SUNY-Fredonia Campus
Fredonia, NY

The Second International Workshop on Vineyard Mechanization and Grape and Wine Quality will be held July 26 to July 29, 2015, in Fredonia New York. The event is sponsored by the International Society for Horticulture Science, in conjunction with the Eastern Section of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, and follows the successful inaugural event held in Italy in 2012. The workshop brings together international experts in grape mechanization and grape producers to report and discuss the latest research on grapevine mechanization, precision viticulture and the use of mechanization and technology to improve grape and wine quality. Technical focus areas will include engineering advancements and mechanized tools for vineyard operations, the application of remote and proximal sensing technologies for monitoring vine performance, variable rate and zonal vineyard management for improving vineyard productivity and the economic impact of mechanized systems on fruit yield and quality. This is the first time that the workshop will be held in the US. Scientists and grape growers from over 20 countries are expected to participate in the event.

Registration and program details can be found by visiting http://events.cals.cornell.edu/ishs.
Additional Information

Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website today!

Become a fan of the Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter (@cceflgp). Also check out our website, “The Grape Lakes – Viticulture in the Finger Lakes” at http://flg.cce.cornell.edu.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.