

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program



Quarterly Report: April - June 2018

Program Highlights

- The FLGP was awarded a grant of \$16,738 from the NY Wine & Grape Foundation to evaluate methods of controlling bindweed in vineyards.
- Jeremy Veverka was hired to be the new videographer working with the FLGP, CCE Communications and three other regional agriculture extension teams.
- The FLGP, along with Cornell's Enology Extension program, hosted two meetings with regional growers and winemakers to develop priorities for viticulture and enology research and extension.
- Some growers have seen greater bud and vine injury in some varieties than we would expect given the conditions this past winter. The FLGP is working with Cornell and USDA scientists to try to understand what factors may have contributed to this.

2018: The Start of Another Finger Lakes Vintage

The Finger Lakes region had to wait for the arrival of spring for a little longer than it normally does, and this included the region's grape growers. Temperatures in April were well below normal, which kept the vines from emerging from dormancy too early. This allowed growers to finish early spring work like tying and trellis maintenance before the season got underway.

Once the season finally got underway in May, it became apparent that a number of vineyards, primarily with *vinifera* varieties like Riesling and Cabernet Franc, were seeing more bud and cane injury than would have been expected given the relatively mild winter of 2017-18. The reasons for why this happened in certain vineyards are unknown at this point, but there are a few potential factors that might have played some role:

- Some vineyards had extremely high crop levels last year, which may have forced the vines to focus more of their energy on ripening the crop and less on committing reserves for winter survival.
- A significant heat spike in September, combined with more than adequate soil moisture, may have caused shoots on some vines to continue growing during ripening, rather than stopping growth and preparing for dormancy. This could result in the vines not properly "hardening off" before winter, making them more sensitive to winter cold.
- A rapid drop in temperature in mid-January (more than 50 degrees within 36 hours) may have injured vines by causing damage before the vines could acclimate themselves to the colder temperatures.
- In at least one case, the ability of wind to reduce the water content of buds (desiccation) may have played a role in higher levels of injury where vines were not sheltered from those winds by a structure on the west side of the vineyard.



Vines with winter injury on western side of Seneca Lake near Dresden.

We have been talking with Cornell and USDA scientists about why this has happened in some vineyards but not in others. We have come to no conclusions yet, but are hopeful that we can provide some guidance to growers as we head into the end of the growing season and before winter sets in.

Continued on next page.

Finger Lakes Grape Program

2018 Quarter 2 Report

2018: The Start of Another Finger Lakes Vintage

The first few months of the 2018 growing season have been relatively dry, which has helped to keep disease pressure low and reduced the need for pesticide applications so far. While not nearly as drastic as the drought conditions in 2016, the lack of rain this year has caused a few vineyard blocks on shallow or loose-textured soils to begin exhibiting some early symptoms of water stress. There is little concern at this point that the dry weather will have a negative impact on the vineyards.

New Faces with the Finger Lakes Grape Program



After the departure of our videographer, Jim Monahan, a search committee consisting of CCE regional ag team, communications and administrative staff convened to hire a new CCE videographer. **Jeremy Veverka** was hired to fill the position and started with Cornell on May 24, 2018. Jeremy is from upstate New York originally, and previously worked on video productions for Cornell's Alliance for Science program along with his own video production work. Similar to Jim, Jeremy's position is supported by four of the regional agriculture extension teams and CCE Communications, with Hans acting as his direct supervisor. Jeremy will be based in Roberts Hall in Ithaca.



Ellen Coyne is the FLGP's summer intern this year. Ellen is a native of Rochester, New York, a 20-year Navy veteran and a student at Finger Lakes Community College where she is finishing her first year in the Viticulture and Wine Science program. She is working with the FLGP on several projects this summer, including monitoring insect traps for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) project, collecting berry weight data to help improve crop estimation, and updating our GIS maps of Finger Lakes vineyards. She will also be helping with ongoing maintenance at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard.

Program-Generated Funding

Funded Projects

Evaluation of Methods for Management of Field Bindweed in New York Vineyards. New York Wine & Grape Foundation/Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program. Project budget: \$16,738 (Year 1 of two-year project). Collaborator: Bryan Brown - NYS IPM Program.

Finger Lakes Grape Program Activities

FLGP Team Planning Retreat

Our annual one-day retreat to discuss programming, projects and team goals for the coming year. Held April 5, 2018 at the NY Wine & Culinary Center in Canandaigua.

Finger Lakes Industry Research & Extension Priority Meetings

These meetings were developed and hosted by the FLGP and the Enology Extension program at Cornell AgriTech (Chris Gerling, extension enologist and Anna Katharine Mansfield, association professor of enology), in order to assess the research and extension needs of the region's grape growers and winemakers. Two meetings were held, one in Penn Yan (April 24) and the other in Watkins Glen (April 26). A total of 32 individuals attended these two meetings to provide their input. The FLGP and Enology Extension staff will consolidate the feedback we received during these meetings and present our findings to our respective Industry Advisory Committees and Cornell colleagues for their thoughts and reactions before developing a final list of priorities.

Tailgate Meetings

This is the 5th year that the FLGP has held our Tailgate Meetings for growers in the Finger Lakes. These meetings are held every other Tuesday during the growing season, providing FLGP staff and growers with a chance to communicate in an informal setting about questions and observations from the vineyards. Pesticide credits are awarded at each meeting.



May 1, 2018	Simmons Vineyard, Bluff Point NY (Yates County)
May 29, 2018	Randall Standish Vineyard, Naples NY (Ontario County)
June 12, 2018	Harry Humphreys, Dundee NY (Yates County)
June 26, 2018	Ravines Wine Cellars, Geneva NY (Ontario County)

Spring Grape IPM Meeting

Our annual Spring IPM meeting was held at Wagner Vineyards in Lodi, NY on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. The meeting features speakers from Cornell discussing various pest management topics including insect and weed management, the NEWA weather station network, and the Spotted Lanternfly. Attendees are invited to stay for dinner which is paid for by meeting sponsors. Over 100 growers attended this year's meeting.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Finger Lakes Grape Program

Hans Walter-Peterson—Team Leader
Donald Caldwell—Viticulture Technician

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is supported, in part, by six county Cornell Cooperative Extensions Associations: Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates.

flgp.cce.cornell.edu



"Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer"