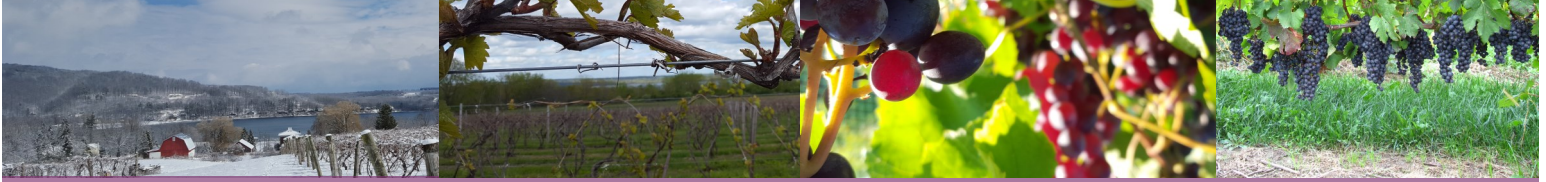


# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Finger Lakes Grape Program



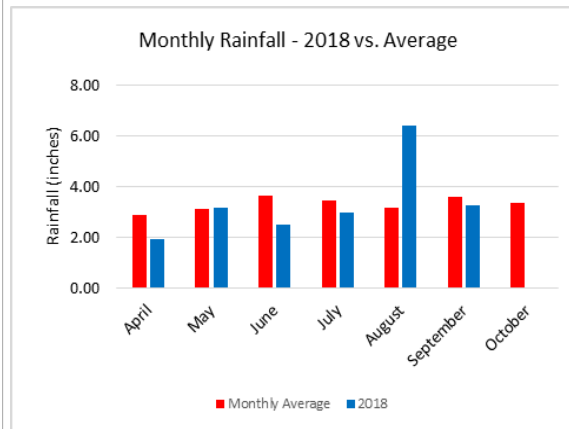
### Quarterly Report: July-September 2018

#### Program Highlights

- Spotted lanternfly was found in Yates County, near several vineyards on Keuka Lake. The FLGP assisted staff from the Department of Ag & Markets and Yates County CCE with further surveying and communication efforts about this invasive pest.
- The dry and sunny weather pattern that predominated in the Finger Lakes early in the season shifted by the end of July, bringing higher amounts of rainfall and humidity. This resulted in higher than normal levels of bunch rots in certain varieties, making decisions about when to pick that fruit more challenging.
- Our Tailgate Meetings, held every other week during the growing season, continue to be well-attended and an important outreach tool for the FLGP. A total of 160 growers attended eight Tailgate Meetings this year.

#### 2018 Season: The Only Constant Is Change

You all know the old joke – “If you don’t like the weather here, just wait 10 minutes.” While it took a little more than 10 minutes, we saw a significant change in the weather pattern in the Finger Lakes in the July – September period. The season started out drier than normal, and by the middle of July, we were starting to see symptoms of water stress in grapevines planted on soils with lower water-holding capacity.



Monthly rainfall totals at Geneva in 2018 compared to average.

By the end of the month, however, we entered a new pattern with significantly higher rainfall than the first part of the season. This culminated in one of the defining events of 2018, when anywhere from 2 – 10” of rain fell in the Finger Lakes on August 14. The heaviest rain fell in the area near Lodi, Ovid and Hector, where heavy flooding caused major damage to some homes and roadways. For the vineyards in the area, the primary damage was to

headlands and gravel roads, and little impact to the vineyards themselves.

We often say that the conditions during September will have more influence on the quality of the final harvest than any other time of year. There have been several seasons in the recent past where conditions were less than ideal heading into harvest, but dry and warm conditions in September turned the season around in some ways. That was not the case in 2018. The presence of more-than-adequate rainfall and high humidity conditions in September created perfect conditions for sour rot to develop in susceptible varieties like Vignoles, Pinot noir and Riesling. As harvest season got underway, growers and wineries were keeping an eye how extensive the rot was becoming, and many decided to pick the fruit a little earlier than normal this year and bring it in clean, rather than taking the risk of losing more of it to sour rot.

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### 2018 Season: The Only Constant Is Change

In September, we received word that a live spotted lanternfly (SLF) adult was found in Yates County, near Penn Yan. Since that finding, the FLGP has been working with Yates County CCE's invasive pest educator, Laura Bailey, and inspectors from the Department of Ag & Markets, to get the word out to growers and the community about this new invasive pest.



*Adult spotted lanternfly*

The SLF has the potential to cause significant damage to fruit and grapevines in vineyards if it becomes well-established in the Finger Lakes. Hans Walter-Peterson assisted Ag & Markets field staff during vineyard surveys near the site where the insect was found. As part of our Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) project this year, Don Caldwell has also been identifying any tree of heaven, a preferred host of SLF, that are located near vineyards in the Finger Lakes, and inspecting them for any sign of the presence of SLF. To date, there have been no further SLF finds in the Finger Lakes, raising the hope that the one found earlier was a lone individual that was transported here from Pennsylvania. While that is good news for the short term, the long-term reality is that this insect will likely appear in the Finger Lakes in the near future.

### Program-Generated Funding

#### Funded Projects

*New York Crop Insurance and Risk Management Education Project.* USDA Risk Management Agency. FLGP Budget: \$3,000. 10/1/18 – 3/31/20.

#### Completed Projects

*Developing a Mechanical Method to Seed Under-Vine Cover Crops in NY Winegrape Vineyards.* New York Farm Viability Institute. Project Budget: \$34,848. 5/1/16 – 7/31/18.



Don Caldwell and FLGP Intern Ellen Coyne take measurements in a field trial on managing bindweed in vineyards.



Hypodermic thermocouple measuring berry temperature in Corot noir as part of a study on anthocyanin content and sun exposure of red hybrid grapes.

### Finger Lakes Grape Program Activities

#### *EnoCert: Introduction to Viticulture. August 14, 2018*

The EnoCert program was developed by Cornell's Enology Extension Program as a series of 'professional development' workshops for those currently in the industry and those who are thinking of joining it. By attending a certain series of courses, participants receive a certificate of completion indicating that they have received training on those particular subjects.



One of the workshops in the core set of Enocert courses is a one-day course on the basics of viticulture, which was taught by Hans. The course consists of approximately 5-6 hours of classroom instruction, followed by a walkaround at the Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard, where many of the concepts in the classroom portion are pointed out and discussed out in the field.

#### *Tailgate Meetings*

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| July 10, 2018   | Bully Hill Vineyards (Steuben County)      |
| July 24, 2018   | Smith Brothers Farm (Wayne County)         |
| August 7, 2018  | Hillick & Hobbs Vineyard (Schuyler County) |
| August 21, 2018 | Hosmer Winery (Seneca County)              |



#### *Field Meeting. August 28, 2018.*

##### *Boundary Breaks Vineyard (Seneca County)*

This final field meeting of the season was co-hosted by the FLGP and Dr. Justine Vanden Heuvel, associate professor of viticulture. Topics for the meeting included under-vine cover crops, differential harvesting of grapes based on NDVI imaging of vineyards, and a tasting of research wines that are part of the FLGP's evaluation of the influence of different clones and sites on Riesling aromas and flavors.

#### *Empire Farm Days. August 8, 2018*

Along with the other regional agriculture extension teams, the FLGP was at Empire Farm Days to meet with farmers and the public and answer their questions.

## Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

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

[flgp.cce.cornell.edu](http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu)

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



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