

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

A cooperative program between Cornell and Penn State Universities, Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties, Penn State Extension – Erie County, NYS IPM Program, National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Brands, Walker's Fruit Basket and growers of the Lake Erie Grape Industry

LERGP Home Pages: <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu>; <http://lergp.com> Phone: 716.792.2800



April - June 2018

2018 Concord Summit

On April 12, 2018, members of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program participated in Governor Cuomo's Concord Grape Summit in Westfield, NY. One of the outcomes of the Summit was the creation of a Vineyard Improvement Program. The LERGP extension team was asked to submit a proposal that will allow growers to remove Concord acreage and replant with a more marketable grape variety or another agricultural commodity. Growers will also have the opportunity to remove Concord acreage and let the land go fallow. Removal of Concord acreage that would be abandoned due to lack of a market is seen as critical to the continued viability of the industry in Western NY. Unmanaged vineyards have the potential to act as reservoirs for insect and disease pests that would make management of nearby commercial vineyards much more difficult. A five-year, \$1.25 million project has been submitted to the NYS Dept of Ag & Markets with the LERGP Extension team providing the leadership for the program and Chautauqua CCE providing the bookkeeping expertise.



Coffee Pot Meetings


The 2018 Coffee Pot season started on May 2 at Clover Hill Farm in North East, PA. Coffee Pot Meetings are small group meetings held at different grower venues across the Lake Erie grape belt. There is no set agenda for the Coffee Pot meetings as it is typically set by questions from growers pertaining to what is going on in the vineyard. The five counties participating in the LERGP represent an area from the shores of Lake Ontario in the north to the Pennsylvania/Ohio state line to the west. Coffee pot meetings help the LERGP extension team to address the problems specific to a particular region of this large geographical area. A total of 16 Coffee Pot meetings were held in 2018 with 13 taking place in the critical May - June timeframe of the growing season. Coffee Pot meetings are held once a week during May but switch to twice a week during June to allow the team to visit more growers during the critical prebloom to immediate post bloom period. Participants in Coffee Pot meetings are able to earn 1 NYS DEC pesticide recertification credit or 2 PA recertification credits.



Efficient Vineyard Project

The third year of the USDA/NIFA funded SCRI project “Efficient Vineyard” is at the point where there is some great research information to dispense to growers. To ensure that growers from all growing regions across the United States can access this information, a monthly webinar series, A Hitchhiker’s Guide to Precision Viticulture, is being produced and delivered on the second Tuesday of every month. Jackie Dresser, CLEREL and Kevin Martin, LERGP Extension, team up to work growers through the ins and outs of precision viticulture starting with the science behind it and working towards the nuts and bolts of implementing variable rate management in a vineyard.

A Hitchhiker’s Guide to Precision Viticulture

A Webinar Series brought to you by efficient  vineyard



NEWA - Network for Environment and Weather Applications

Grape growers in the Lake Erie region and across NYS are able to receive a daily email (eNEWA -grapes) providing them with weather and grape pest model information using data collected through the NEWA network. Growers in the Lake Erie region have been able to choose from a number of new sites in 2018 due to a grant received from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Program, Inc. (National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Brand and Walker’s Fruit Basket). This grant allowed the program to purchase nine Rainwise instruments to expand the coverage of NEWA in the Lake Erie region, as well as, providing funds to create a half time position to help in ensuring the weather network provides reliable weather data throughout the year.

Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted Lanternfly is the latest invasive species from Asia and has shown itself to have the greatest potential to cause economic damage in vineyards. This planthopper has one generation per year, going through 4 nymphal stages prior to becoming an adult. Adults are approximately 1-inch long and about one-half inch wide. They feed directly on the phloem of the plant looking for nitrogen and amino acids in the sugary sap, leading them to expel the waste sap as a sticky honeydew. They swarm feed with severe infestations having up to 250 - 300 adults per grapevine. The spotted lanternfly has been shown to feed on over 70 plant species in the U.S., but favors Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), grapes, hops, apples, walnuts, maples and cherries. In Pennsylvania, where they were first found, they are also causing concern in the lumber, ornamental and nursery industries, as well as, in residential areas where swarm feeding causes people to feel like prisoners in their own homes due to the excessive honeydew production which has been compared to raining sugar water.



In 2018

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (7) and LERGP Crop Update (22)

Podcasts - 82 weekly podcasts available on <http://lergp.com/podcasts/>

Web resources - <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu>, <http://lergp.com> and <https://www.efficientvineyard.com>

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