

# 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



## July - September 2018

### Vineyard Improvement Program

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. This five-year, \$1.35 million project is live and accepting applications on our website, [lergp.com](http://lergp.com). The LERGP extension team will take the lead in the administration of the program and CCE Chautauqua will administer the financial side. The program is funded primarily through the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. Business plans and a proposed budget are part of the application process to help ensure a successful outcome for participants. Abandoned vineyards which host common and invasive species pose a significant threat to the sustainability of neighboring operations. With this program we hope to reduce insect and disease pressure from abandoned vineyards. Despite a recent uptick in demand, juice grape prices should remain below \$250 per ton for the next 2 - 3 years making this project a very beneficial option for Lake Erie Concord growers.



### Crop Insurance Programming

2018 Crop Insurance training was a success. The Risk Management Agency contracted with Cornell University and the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program to conduct programming for grape growers. Kevin Martin led the effort by providing updates on the latest changes in Crop Insurance during the team's weekly Coffee Pot meetings, as well as conferences and through the LERGP video podcast series. The project will shift gears a bit in 2019 but level funding for the project ensures that growers in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties will continue to receive the most current information needed to make informed decisions about crop insurance. In 2018 education focused on supplemental riders that can be added to yield policies. In 2019 the focus will be on record keeping for non-policy holders to enhance the value of farm sales to operators that use crop insurance.

## Summer Meetings Completed

The Coffee Pot season came to a close at the end of July with a meeting at Ziesenheim farm in Lake City, PA. A total of 226 growers participated in 16 Coffee Pot meetings. These meetings are held weekly during the growing season starting the first week of May. Coffee Pot meetings are routinely mentioned by growers as a favorite method of getting research-based information. Without a formal agenda, participants guide the conversation to topics that are of interest to them. One of the highlights of these meetings is when growers become the educators, discussing how they deal with a particular problem in their vineyard operation. The team has often mentioned that they can learn as much from the growers as the growers learn from us. In addition to Coffee Pot meetings, the team held the LERGP Summer Growers Conference on August 15. In response to growers frequent questions, weed management was a focus of the meeting along with Spotted Lanternfly and results of the Efficient Vineyard Project.



## NEWA - Network for Environment and Weather Applications

Grape growers in the Lake Erie region have four new sites providing weather and pest model information through NEWA [newa.cornell.edu](http://newa.cornell.edu). The team uses information from NEWA to promote the implementation of grape IPM practices through newsletters, podcasts, Coffee Pot meetings and individual consultations. The four new sites bring the total number of stations in the Lake Erie grape region to 17, stretching from Lake City, PA to Burt, NY. The installation of additional stations was made possible through a grant received from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Program, Inc. (National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Brand and Walker's Fruit Basket) and the New York Wine and Grape Foundation.

## Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive species from Southeast Asia that continues to be a concern for grape growers in not only the Lake Erie region, but across New York, Pennsylvania, and the United States. Grapes are one of the preferred hosts of SLF and reports of 250 adults feeding per vine have been reported from the quarantine area in Southeast, PA. While no infestations have been found in NY, SLF adults and/or egg masses, have been found in Albany, Chemung, Monroe, Suffolk and Yates Counties as well as Brooklyn and Mahattan in 2018. An excellent hitchhiker, SLF has the ability to catch a ride out of the quarantine zone through any type of human transportation. Tim Weigle, IPM with the LERGP, is working with the NYS SLF Incident Command System on outreach and education to ensure rapid identification and reporting of this pest. The team has produced six podcasts on monitoring for SLF, proper identification, reporting a sighting and how to identify Tree of Heaven, the preferred host of SLF. The podcasts can be found at [lergp.com/podcasts](http://lergp.com/podcasts)



## In 2018

**Publications** - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (8) and LERGP Crop Update (27)

**Podcasts** - 88 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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