

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Q2 2024

Quarterly Highlights



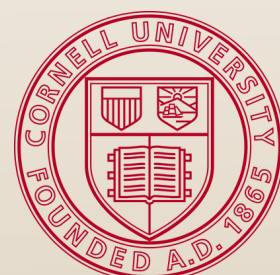
After a historic freeze event in May 2023, the Finger Lakes managed to avoid any injury to young buds this spring.

Program Highlights

The Finger Lakes annual series of grower meetings kicked off in May with the Spring Grape IPM Meeting, which was held at Hosmer Winery on Tuesday, May 7 in Ovid. The meeting offered growers a chance to learn about new updates on disease and insect management, including the status of the spotted lanternfly in New York State. Almost 100 growers and other industry members attended this year's meeting.

One week later, the FLGP hosted the first tailgate meeting of the season. The meetings continue to be one of the most effective and popular ways for the FLGP and growers to stay connected with each other during the season.

Helping Concord growers to improve their ability to predict the final yields in their vineyards is the focus of a new cooperative project this year between the FLGP and Gallo, funded by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation. The project is being conducted in five Concord vineyards in Yates County, with the goal of improving yield predictions to less than 10% error on a per acre basis.



FLGP Hosts Annual Spring IPM Meeting at Hosmer Winery

The FLGP's annual Spring IPM meeting was held on Tuesday, May 7 this year at Hosmer Winery in Ovid, NY, with almost 100 people in attendance, including growers, field representatives and meeting sponsors. The objective of the meeting each year is to provide growers with the latest information on insect, weed and disease management and other important issues related to vineyard pests at the beginning of the season.

This year's speakers included:

- David Combs, Cornell AgriTech – The role of biopesticides in grape disease management.
- Greg Loeb, Cornell AgriTech – Update on insect management in vineyards
- Sophie Westbrook, Cornell Crop & Soil Science Dept. – How weed management practices influence weed communities
- Brian Eshenaur, NYSIPM Program – Current status of Spotted Lanternfly in New York
- Hans Walter-Peterson, Finger Lakes Grape Program – The importance of cultural practices in disease management

Participants were eligible to receive 1.5 pesticide recertification credits for the meeting, which was followed by dinner and plenty of social interaction.

Tailgate Meetings Bring Growers and Latest Vineyard Information Together

The FLGP's annual series of Tailgate Meetings started again in May this year. These meetings are intended to be small, informal gatherings where growers and FLGP staff can discuss what is happening in the vineyards, ask questions of each other, and simply network with their peers.

Growers can earn 1.5 pesticide recertification credits for each meeting that they attend.

Tailgate locations for 2024:

- May 13 – Three Brothers Wineries and Estates, Geneva NY; attendance = 15
 - May 28 – Heron Hill Winery, Hammondsport NY; attendance = 19
 - June 11 – Thorpe Vineyard, Wolcott NY; attendance = 8
 - June 25 – Dr. Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars, Hector NY; attendance = 24
 - July 8 – Simmons Vineyards, Bluff Point NY
 - July 23 – Knapp Winery, Romulus NY
 - August 13 – Randall Standish Vineyards, South Bristol NY
 - August 21 – Miles Wine Cellars, Himrod NY
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FLGP Partners with Gallo on Crop Estimation Project

Crop estimation is one of the most challenging aspects of vineyard management, but new tools and technology may be making the process easier and more accurate for growers of Concord grapes.

This season, the FLGP is cooperating with viticulture staff from Gallo on a project that uses NDVI sensing and targeted field sampling to estimate the potential crop in a vineyard block in early to mid-July. Previous work in western New York has shown that yield estimates using this method were within 5% of the final yield of the vineyards where it was used, far surpassing a manual process based on random sampling.

The NDVI scans were done in early June at bloom, which was about 7-10 days earlier than normal this year. At 30 days after bloom, the maps created from the NDVI scans will be used to target yield sampling locations based on the relative size of the canopy in each block. The weights from each of those samples will be used to calculate the potential yield of each block. These estimates will be compared to the actual yields collected at harvest to determine how effective this process was this year.



One of the NDVI sensors being used to improve crop estimation in Concord vineyards

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

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The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.



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