



Quarterly Report **2nd Quarter 2026**



FINGER LAKES
GRAPE
PROGRAM

RESEARCH · RELATIONSHIPS · RELEVANCE

Program

Highlights

USDA Grant Launches Two-Year Sour Rot Study

The FLGP was awarded a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to test ways of managing sour rot — including reducing cluster compactness, strengthening berry skins, and UV light treatment — while cutting reliance on insecticides that fruit flies are increasingly resistant to. Trials are underway in Seneca and Yates County vineyards.

Growers Stay Connected Through Spring Meetings

Nearly 100 growers turned out for the Spring Grape IPM Meeting in May, and FLGP kicked off its season-long Tailgate Meeting series shortly after — giving growers ongoing access to information on current conditions, disease updates, and Cornell expertise.

April Frost Damages Finger Lakes Vineyards

Below-freezing temperatures on April 20–21 damaged vineyards across the region, with losses ranging from under 10% to nearly total in some blocks — hardest hit around Keuka Lake. The Finger Lakes fared better than other East Coast grape regions, opening a possible fruit-sourcing opportunity for wineries elsewhere.



Spring Frost Event Damages Finger Lakes Vineyards



The April frost event killed both the primary (middle) and secondary (top) buds on this Cabernet Franc vine that was suffered major water stress last year.

On Monday, April 20, and Tuesday, April 21, temperatures in much of the Finger Lakes region dropped below freezing for several hours, causing damage to many vineyards in the Finger Lakes region. Temperatures had been much warmer than normal in the previous week, causing vines to begin to emerge from dormancy earlier than normal, making them more susceptible to the subfreezing temperatures. The most significant damage was around Keuka Lake, with vineyards in other locations having varying levels of injury depending on site characteristics, location and variety. Initial estimates of crop losses from growers ranged from less than 10% to almost 100% in certain blocks. One trend that has become fairly evident is that losses were generally more extensive in vineyards that suffered from higher levels of drought stress last season.

The region fared better overall than other grape production areas in the East, such as southeast Pennsylvania, portions of Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia, where damage was even more extensive. This may represent a market opportunity for some Finger Lakes growers to sell fruit to wineries in other states and regions. We have been encouraging growers to make use of the [NY Grape & Wine Classifieds](#) website to promote the availability of any extra fruit they might have to sell this year.

Two-Year USDA Sour Rot Project Begins

The FLGP was awarded a two-year Specialty Crop Block Grant from the USDA to investigate methods that can help to manage sour rot while reducing the need for insecticide applications. Sour rot can spread rapidly in a vineyard as harvest approaches because it is spread by fruit flies that are feeding and laying their eggs on injured grapes, resulting in hundreds of dollars per acre in economic losses.

Recent surveys of New York vineyards have found widespread resistance to several legally approved insecticides for control of fruit flies, making them a less effective tool for many growers to use. This project is looking at treatments that can reduce cluster compactness (a major source of berry injury), strengthen berry skins, or using ultraviolet light to control the microbes that cause the disease. The project is being conducted in a Pinot noir vineyard in Seneca County and a Riesling vineyard in Yates County. If successful, this project will help to reduce the economic losses to the disease and decrease the amount of insecticides needed to manage it.

Spring Grape IPM Meeting Kicks Off the Growing Season

Much like the return of the robins to Capistrano, the FLGP's annual Spring Grape IPM Meeting is a sign that spring has returned. This year's meeting was held on Tuesday, May 5 at Wagner Vineyards in Lodi. This year's program featured talks on disease management using biopesticides, the latest information on spotted lanternfly (SLF) in the Finger Lakes, a potential new disease model to improve management of sour rot, and a new pesticide recordkeeping system for New York farms. Almost 100 growers attended this year's meeting, which was supported by six sponsoring companies.

Tailgate Meetings Keep Growers Informed During the Growing Season

The week following the Spring IPM meeting, the FLGP started our series of Tailgate Meetings that take place at different vineyards in the region throughout much of the growing season. The Tailgate Meetings are a time when FLGP staff and growers can meet to discuss current conditions, answer questions, and get updates on relevant science that can address vineyard issues. Some meetings also feature "special guests" from Cornell or other organizations to discuss specific topics, including weed management, developing disease management programs, and new disease-resistant grape varieties.

Tailgate Meeting Schedule for 2026

- May 12 – Thirsty Owl Wine Company, 6861 State Route 89, Ovid NY
- May 26 - Folts Farms, 2939 Williams Hill Rd., Bluff Point NY
- June 9 – Bully Hill Vineyards, 8843 Greyton H Taylor Memorial Dr., Hammondsport NY
- June 23 – Young Sommer Winery, 4287 Jersey Rd., Williamson NY
- July 7 – Kashong Glen Vineyard, 1107 Earls Hill Rd., Penn Yan NY
- July 21 – Randall Standish Vineyard, 5506 Route 21, Canandaigua NY
- August 4 – Hillick & Hobbs Estate, 3539 Route 79, Burdett NY
- August 18 – Boundary Breaks Vineyard, 1568 Porter Covert Rd., Lodi NY



Mission Statement: We connect Finger Lakes grape growers to Cornell research, to practical expertise, and to each other — helping them grow better fruit and more sustainable businesses.

Vision Statement: We support a thriving Finger Lakes wine industry, rooted in viticultural excellence and strengthened by an engaged and innovative grower community.

FLGP Industry Advisory Committee Members

Ontario County

Eric Amberg, Amberg Grapevines

TJ Brahm, Randall Standish Vineyards

Schulyer County

Tina Hazlitt, Sawmill Creek Vineyards

John Santos, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards

Seneca County

Cameron Hosmer, Hosmer Winery

Ian Wagner, Wagner Vineyards

Steuben County

Peter Weis, Weis Vineyards

Matt Doyle, Doyle Vineyard Management

Wayne County

Steve Sklenar, Sklenar Vineyard

Rick Bernard, Boom Point Vineyards

Yates County

Tara Farnan, Buzzard Crest Vineyards

Adam Folts, Vineyard View Winery

Other Members

Chris Gerling, Cornell AgriTech

David Orzel, Nutrien Ag Solutions

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