



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In the Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson



*What can happen when you don't get the bird netting installed in time.*

Vineyards continue to push through veraison this week. A little bit of color is starting to show in some Concord vineyards, and we are starting to see some Riesling berries starting to soften in our teaching vineyard as well. Our earliest variety, Marquette, is just about finished with veraison, and we were looking forward to already having a small crop to harvest on these second year vines. I say "were" because of exactly what many growers experience with earlier ripening varieties, reds in particular – the birds (and perhaps a few other critters as well) cleaned out just about every cluster in the span of about 4-5 days. I have been noticing nets starting to get put out in blocks of Pinot noir, Riesling, and Gewurtztraminer, and have also heard a couple of canons going off.

We just received word today that Constellation will be starting their harvest season on Tuesday, August 27, starting with Aurore as usual. National Grape/Welch's hasn't nailed down exact dates for harvest yet, but at this point it looks like Niagara grapes will start sometime in mid-September, and Concords will follow starting sometime near the end of the month. This is not significantly later than the average opening date of harvest for Concords, which is September 24 according to the [Lake Erie Regional Grape Program's phenology data](#). But as with all things harvest, schedules can change in a heartbeat so none of this is written in stone.

We will probably start taking maturity samples near the end of the month as part of the annual Veraison to Harvest project, which is being coordinated again this year by Tim Martinson and Chris Gerling, and supported by the NY Wine & Grape Foundation. We will be making our plans for the project and the accompanying newsletters later this week, which will once again include results from our fruit sampling and weekly updates from around New York on how the harvest is progressing. You can always find archive issues of Veraison to Harvest newsletters at the project website, <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/veraison-to-harvest/>.

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### Upcoming Events: [more details in Upcoming Events on page 4](#)

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| • Vineyard Tailgate Meeting      | August 20, 2013    |
| • New Grower/New Winery Workshop | August 22-23, 2013 |

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

August 14, 2013

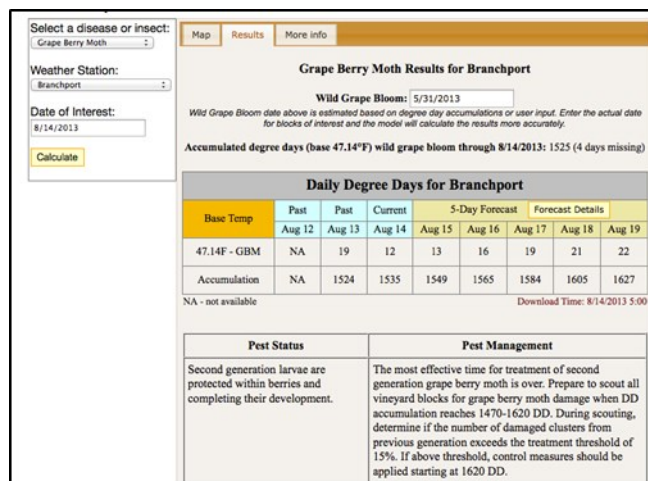
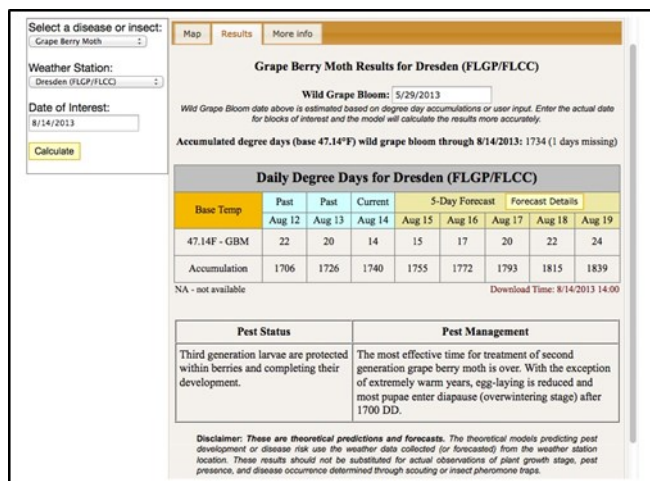
## IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

Downy mildew and botrytis continue to be the two primary disease concerns at this point in the season, which obviously is not surprising given the conditions that we have been having this season. It seems that we are getting another reminder about just how much conditions earlier in the season can influence what happens later on. Early infections getting established on leaves or in young clusters means that there is a larger baseline of disease from which later infections can develop, and that seems to be how things are lining up for us this year. In years like this with higher disease pressure, all the stops need to be pulled out, both in terms of materials and rates and equipment, as well as cultural practices that can influence disease development. The problem is finding the time, labor, equipment and money to do everything when it is best to do it. At this point in the season, it may still make sense to remove some extra leaves in the fruit zone of vines trained on VSP and Scott Henry trellises – many growers only pulled leaves on the east side of canopies - just to make sure that sprays applied in that area are getting the best possible coverage on the clusters.

### Grape Berry Moth

When using the GBM model on NEWA, make sure that you are using the model based on the weather station that is closest to you. As we all know, the climate can be significantly different in vineyards depending on their location, so conclusions about applications for GBM or other diseases should be based on the most local data possible. For example, if you look at the GBM model using the station at our teaching vineyard (Dresden), you would conclude that the window for making an application for berry moth control had already passed. However, according to the station located in Branchport, the 1620 GDD threshold when an application should be made is still a few days away and therefore growers in that area should still be scouting to determine if the level of damage would justify spraying when that threshold is reached.



*GBM model for Dresden (left) showing that the 1620 GDD threshold is past, while it is still approaching according to the model using data from Branchport (right).*

### Errata from last week:

- Credit for the write-up on Botrytis materials in last week's Update should have been given both to Alice Wise and Wayne Wilcox.
- The photo of the cross-section of a phylloxera gall in last week's Update was taken by Martin Goffinet.

## Petiole Testing

Mike Colizzi

Most varieties are approaching veraison, for growers interested in taking petiole samples now is a great time to do so. Veraison is a great time to look at the vines macronutrient levels. For example potassium levels in the vine are more stable at veraison. Also potash is most effective when applied in the fall and allowed to percolate into the soil profile over winter.

For me the reason to take petiole samples is all about one thing, the nutrient status of the vine. We all know that soil samples are a great way to see what is available to the vine, but a petiole sample shows you exactly what the vine is extracting from that soil solution. Without petiole samples you could easily be over applying a nutrient thinking that the vine is not taking it up. When in fact the vine is taking it up it's just that there is some other factor limiting the vines ability to use that nutrient efficiently.

[More information on how to take petiole samples is available here](#)

Petiole tests are available through several companies including [Dairy One Laboratory in Ithaca](#), and [A&L Eastern Labs in Virginia](#)

## New Grower/New Winery Workshop

Hans Walter-Peterson

*One final reminder, in case any of you know of or meet people who might be interested in this workshop next week.*

I know that many of you in the industry get approached by people who want to start a new vineyard and/or winery. If you know of anyone who is thinking about entering "the business", whether here or anywhere in the Northeast, please let them know about this two-day workshop that we will be holding in a few weeks at the Ag Experiment Station in Geneva. Please feel free to distribute this announcement however you would like as well.

More information about the workshop, including program and registration information, can be found in the announcement below and at <http://nysaes-bookstore.myshopify.com/collections/nysaes-meetings/products/new-grower-winery-workshop>.

Thanks for spreading the word!

### New Grower/New Winery Workshop

August 22-23, 2013

NY State Agricultural Experiment Station

630 W North Street, Geneva NY ([click here for map](#))

This workshop is an opportunity to learn about key aspects grape growing and winemaking for those interested in starting a new vineyard or winery business. Attendees will learn about the decisions that need to be made in preparation for planning or starting a winery, and also once production has begun. The workshops will include a tour of a vineyard and winery.

The first day will focus on developing a new vineyard. **Hans Walter-Peterson** and **Mike Colizzi** of the Finger Lakes Grape Program, **Andrew Landers** from Cornell University, and **Tim Weigle** with the New York Integrated Pest Management Program, will cover topics including site selection and preparation, appropriate varieties to plant, essential equipment for new vineyards, and pest and weed management.

The winery workshop on the second day will look at winemaking, analysis, equipment and more. **Anna Katharine Mansfield** and **Chris Gerling** of Cornell's extension enology lab will be joined by enology lecturer **Patricia Howe** to cover the wine topics. **Sam Filler** from the Empire State Development agency's "one stop shop" for wine beer and spirits will also be giving a presentation and answering questions related to licensing and other legal aspects of starting a winery.

Registration for either day is \$150, or \$250 for both days, and includes all materials and lunch. Registration for the workshop is [available online](#). Questions can be directed to Gemma Osborne at [gro2@cornell.edu](mailto:gro2@cornell.edu) or 315-787-2248.

## Upcoming Events

Don't forget to check out the calendar on our website (<http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.

### **Vineyard Tailgate Meeting**

*Tuesday, August 20, 2013 5:00 – 6:30 PM*

*Goose Watch Winery*

*5480 Route 89, Romulus NY ([click here for map](#))*

*Final Tailgate Meeting of the season!*

These are a series of informal meetings held with growers in different locations around the Finger Lakes during the growing season. Meetings are held every other Tuesday afternoon, starting at 5:00 PM and usually ending around 6:30 PM. During the day of each meeting, Mike and I visit a few growers and vineyards near the meeting location to get a sense of what has been happening in the area, and give us some ideas about some potential topics for the meeting later that day. There will also be ample time to discuss any questions or issues that others want to bring up as well. There is no need to register ahead of time – just show up when you can, and leave when you have to.

There will be 0.75 pesticide recertification credits available for each meeting. As with other events where credits are available, you need to be present at the beginning of the meeting to sign the meeting roster – make sure to have your card with you - and stay until the end to receive your certificate.

Many growers have told us that they get a lot out of these meetings, and that they have brought back something they heard about and implemented on their own farm. This is the final Tailgate Meeting of the season, so if you haven't had the chance to attend one, why not come by and see what these meetings are all about.

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### **New Grower/New Winery Workshop**

*August 22-23, 2013*

*Room 251, Food Science Building*

*NY State Agricultural Experiment Station*

*614 W North Street, Geneva NY ([click here for map](#))*

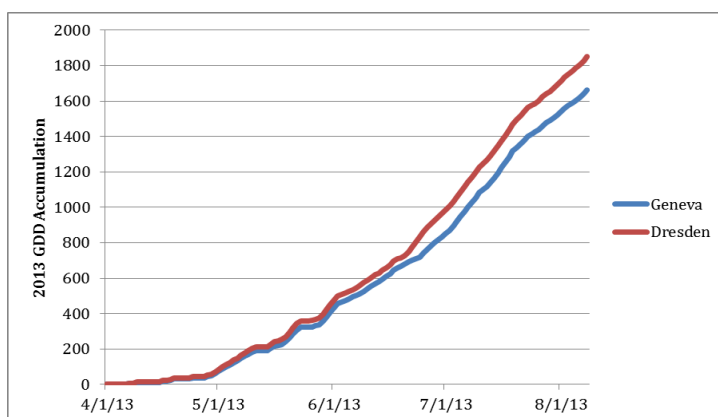
[See the announcement above.](#)

## 2013 GDD Accumulation

We are tracking growing degree day (GDD) and precipitation accumulation again this year, but we will be reporting data from [our weather station located at the teaching & demonstration vineyard in Dresden](#), at Anthony Road Wine Company, instead of using the station at Geneva. We will continue to monitor GDD accumulation at Geneva in order to see how our new location compares with it, and to provide context of where we are with regard to heat accumulation compared to our long-term average.

It was pointed out to me last week that I have been comparing apples and oranges (or grapes) when mentioning how many days ahead of average our season has been based on GDD accumulation. I had been comparing our Dresden data for 2013 with the historical averages from the station at Geneva. Earlier this spring when I was comparing the two sites, the temperatures were very similar, so I had been assuming that they were at least close enough that the comparison would still be valid.

Looking at the data this week, I should have been checking the data between the two stations more often. The location of the Dresden weather station, at Anthony Road Wine Company, has been distinctly warmer than Geneva this summer – about 180 GDDs warmer - , which has led me to overstate just how far ahead of normal that we are this season (e.g., I said we were almost 2 weeks ahead of average GDD accumulation in last week's Update). When comparing the current year's data from Geneva to the historical data set going back to 1973, it turns out we are only about 3 days ahead of normal – and that just seems to make a lot more sense given the season we are having.



From now on, I will make sure to be comparing apples to apples (or grapes to grapes) when stating where we are in relation to our historical averages. My apologies for the confusion.

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
8/7/13	77.7	63.4	0.00	20.6	1825.0
8/8/13	83.9	66.3	1.78	25.1	1850.1
8/9/13	75.9	68.0	0.25	22.0	1872.0
8/10/13	73.6	57.1	0.00	15.4	1887.4
8/11/13	76.8	54.9	0.00	15.9	1903.2
8/12/13	78.1	59.5	0.00	18.8	1922.0
8/13/13	72.6	59.2	0.89	15.9	1937.9
Aug 2013 Total			3.22"	245.0	
Season Total			16.55"	1937.9	

Apr 1 GDD on August 13, 2013 at Geneva: 1746.5 (currently 3 days ahead of average)  
 Average GDD on August 13 (Geneva): 1700.5  
 Apr 1 GDDs on August 13, 2012 (Geneva): 2016.0

2013 Rain on August 13 at Geneva: 20.73"  
 Average Rain on August 13 (Geneva): 14.33"

## Additional Information

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Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the [NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website](#) today!

Become a fan of the [Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter \(@cceflgp\)](#). Also check out our website, “The Grape Lakes – Viticulture in the Finger Lakes” at <http://flg.cce.cornell.edu>.

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### FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

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## 2013 GDD Accumulation

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