



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In the Vineyard

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

By this point, most growers are in the final throes of this year's harvest. There are still a few Riesling blocks getting picked this week, but most of the harvest focus has shifted to later season varieties like Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Catawba and Vidal. Concord harvest at Constellation Brands wrapped up at the end of last week, and finished with acceptable brix levels despite the heavy crops in many vineyards this year.

Between canopies that have been yellowing over that past few weeks and some colder temperatures lately, ripening of any kind in the remaining fruit has slowed to a crawl, if anything. And even that small amount will be coming to an end by tomorrow if the weather forecasts for tonight and tomorrow morning are accurate, as much of the region is under a freeze warning. The actual temperatures that are being forecast, however, are still in the low 30s, so it's possible that some locations with good lake effect may manage to stay above freezing. At this point in the season, getting a hard freeze may not have as much of an impact on ripening the remaining fruit, but can make harvest a bit more of a headache in terms of more leaves and petioles falling into lugs and bins, especially with mechanical harvesting.

Although it hasn't been true across the board, one of the main issues at this point in the season has been the lack of tank space at wineries due to the larger than normal crop in a lot of vineyards this year, which is either limiting the tonnage that they can accept or delaying harvest of some blocks in certain cases. A few places that I visited this week have been digging out old tanks or steel barrels that haven't been used in years in order to contain everything that they are bringing in.

### *Soil Testing*

Once harvest is wrapped up, be sure to take a deep breath or two and give yourself a pat on the back for getting through another season. But don't forget that right after harvest is an ideal time to take soil samples in order to determine if any lime or nutrients need to be added to the soil before the snow flies.

A few quick reminders about collecting soil samples:

- Try to avoid taking samples when the soil is extremely wet (e.g., just after a rainstorm). If you do, however, try to let each sample dry out at room temperature for a day or two before mailing it. Not only does it cost more to ship water, it can alter the results of the test as well.

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- A composite soil sample (one sample taken from a mixture of multiple samples) should represent no more than about 10 acres of vineyard, even if soil conditions are similar. Collect at least 15-20 subsamples for each composite sample. Make sure to collect subsamples that are representative of the area being tested. For example, if 75% of a block is a clay loam soil and the remaining 25% is gravel, the subsamples you collect should reflect that as well (or take two separate samples for those areas).
- From a practicality standpoint, it is not necessary to take subsoil (10-18" deep) samples in established vineyards, unless trying to diagnose a specific problem at depth (e.g., low or high pH).
- The general recommendation is that a vineyard or block should be sampled once every 3-5 years, unless there is a particular problem that is being addressed over a few years.
- Make a map of where subsamples are collected, and then consider making another map(s) with results from each sampled area.



Unlike those used for petiole tests, there are a few different methods used by different labs to analyze for certain nutrients in soil samples, especially phosphorous. Therefore, it's important to use the same lab as much as possible to analyze your samples, so that the same methods are used to come up with results, and these results can then be compared over time. Sending samples to different labs each year will mean that some differences in results may not be the result of changes in the nutrient levels in the soil but merely because different lab methods were used. When you find a lab that you like, stick with them as much as you can.

## Grapes & Wine Classifieds Site

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*Hans Walter-Peterson*

If you've had the chance to look at the NY Grape & Wine Classifieds site lately, you know that it's been pretty busy with growers trying to find homes for extra grapes, and wineries looking to buy up some fruit or trying to clear some tank space by selling some bulk juice or wine. There are currently 188 ads on the site from people looking to either buy or sell fruit, juice or bulk wine, which is a fair bit higher than what we normally have seen on the site at this point in the season. We're glad to see that many so many growers, winemakers and others find the service useful.

A couple of quick reminders about using the site:

- *Do not delete the verification email that you receive after you post your ad.* It contains links to make changes to the ad or delete it if it is no longer needed.
- *Make sure that your ad is set to appear in the correct category and region of the state (the region that you live/farm in).* We used to be able to correct these problems ourselves if we noticed them, but for some reason that ability was removed at some point. If you list your tractor for sale in the bulk wine category, it's a lot less likely that somebody will find it.

## Grapes & Wine Classifieds Site (continue from page 2)

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- *Check to make sure that your ad appears on the site, and that it appears just once.* The software that the site is based on isn't perfect by any means, and sometimes it may either delay posting an ad so somebody posts it again, or something else might happen. If the ad appears more than once, just delete the extra versions of it if you can.
- *Please delete your ad if it is no longer needed.* This will both help to keep the site clear of irrelevant ads, and also keep you from having to answer a bunch of phone calls or emails about that 5 tons of Riesling you sold two weeks ago.

We've been having a little trouble lately with a few people not getting all of their ads posted, or with the site denying somebody access to it. We have little in the way of technical support for the software that runs the system, so we have limited recourse in making permanent fixes that might alleviate some of these problems. If you have any issues with the site, your best option is to send an email to [gwclassifieds@cornell.edu](mailto:gwclassifieds@cornell.edu) or call our office at 315-536-5134 and let us know.

This winter, we will be looking into some options for the site than can provide us with better support in order to more easily address issues that come up, as well as make the site a better service for those who use it. Of course, if we make any significant changes to the site, we'll be sure to let everyone know about them.

## Disaster Programs

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### USDA Designates 37 Counties in New York as Primary Natural Disaster Areas With Assistance to Producers in Surrounding Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 37 counties in New York as primary natural disaster areas in three separate designations.

#### Designation 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 37 counties in New York as primary natural disaster areas due to damages caused by excessive rain and related flooding, high winds and hail that began May 1, 2013 and continues.

Those counties are:

Albany	Essex	Monroe	Otsego	Seneca
Broome	Franklin	Montgomery	Putnam	Sullivan
Cayuga	Fulton	Oneida	Rensselaer	Ulster
Chenango	Genesee	Ontario	Saratoga	Washington
Clinton	Greene	Orange	Schenectady	Wayne
Columbia	Herkimer	Orleans	Schoharie	Westchester
Cortland	Jefferson	Oswego	Schuyler	Wyoming
Duchess	Madison			

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Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in New York also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are

Allegany	Delaware	Livingston	St. Lawrence	Tompkins
Bronx	Erie	Niagara	Steuben	Warren
Cattaraugus	Hamilton	Onondaga	Tioga	Yates
Chemung	Lewis	Rockland		

### Designation 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated three counties in New York as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by freeze and frost that occurred March 13 – May 28, 2013.

Those counties are:

Cayuga	Columbia	Oswego
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Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in New York also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

Albany	Greene	Madison	Rensselaer	Ulster
Cortland	Jefferson	Oneida	Seneca	Wayne
Duchess	Lewis	Onondaga	Tompkins	

### Designation 3

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Cayuga County in New York as a primary natural disaster area due to damages and losses caused by weather-related disease and fungi infestation that began June 19, 2013, and continues.

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in New York also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous to Cayuga County. Those counties are:

Cortland	Oswego	Tompkins	Onondaga	Seneca
Wayne				

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas Oct. 1, 2013, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance, and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local

## Disaster Programs (continue from page 4)

USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Secretary Vilsack also reminds producers that Congress has not funded the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. These are SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

## 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 and rainfall 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.

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
10/16/13	62.7	57.6	0.06	10.2	2849.5
10/17/13	64.0	50.7	0.63	7.4	2856.8
10/18/13	58.8	48.5	0.02	3.7	2860.5
10/19/13	61.6	46.8	0.03	4.2	2864.7
10/20/13	53.0	40.2	0.00	0.0	2864.7
10/21/13	66.9	45.2	0.00	6.1	2870.7
10/22/13	55.3	39.0	0.02	0.0	2870.7
Oct 2013 Total			2.63"	212.5	
Season Total			22.13"	2870.7	

Apr 1 GDD on October 22, 2013 at Geneva: 2578.5 (exceeds average GDD accumulation)

Average GDD on October 22 (Geneva): 2458.5

Apr 1 GDDs on October 22, 2012 (Geneva): 2839.8

October 2013 Rainfall at Geneva: 3.17"

Average October Rainfall (Geneva): 3.27"

2013 Rain on October 22 at Geneva: 26.66"

Average Rain on October 22 (Geneva): 22.03"

## 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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