



The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



Electronic Crop Update for October 24, 2013

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Visit our LERGP Website at: <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar. Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one! UPCOMING EVENTS are also listed toward the bottom of this Update.

Let us know if you have changed or are in the process of changing your email address so we can keep the Electronic Crop Update coming to your inbox!

[Please email Edith at: emb35@cornell.edu.](mailto:emb35@cornell.edu)

Dear Grower,

With the growing season winding down we will go to an every other week schedule for the Electronic Crop Update. The next Crop Update is scheduled for November 7, 2013. You can look for Electronic Crop Updates: November 7, 21; December 5, 19 to finish out 2013.

Please continue to look for other emails from us such as Veraison to Harvest, Upcoming Events notices, and other information we need to share with you as necessary.

As always, if you have any questions or need help with the website or email, please do not hesitate to contact me at emb35@cornell.edu or 716-792-2800 ext. 209.

N FROM NORTH EAST, PA: **Bryan Hed**

r Harvest is nearly complete at the North East Lab and I think it's fair to say that the weather has been relatively cooperative throughout much of the ripening period. Our current growing degree day (gdd) total (April 1 to October 23) at the North East lab is 2707, which is slightly ahead of our 14 year seasonal average. Although September finished up a little cooler than average, it was also drier (*and perhaps sunnier?*) than average with 80 % of our rainfall for that month falling on just one day (September 21). The first 3 weeks of October racked up an additional 207 gdds at our location, well beyond our 14 year average (146) for the entire month! And though it has been rather wet during October at 5.22 inches of precipitation, we have not had any threats of early frost that could have brought the season to an abrupt end. Instead we have experienced one of the warmest Octobers in years. Growers that thinned excessively large crops have had few problems reaching minimum sugar in 2013 and should continue to reap the benefits of thinning into next year's crop.

GRAPE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: Tim Weigle

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As far as pest management goes, we are well past being able to do anything about grape diseases and insects. However, it is the perfect time to start working on your IPM strategy for next year. While touring vineyards it has been interesting to notice the differences in the amount of fruit that was lost and on the ground due to the winds and heavy rains the region has experienced lately. With the wind gusts and hail different areas have seen recently, it is not surprising that fruit was lost in even the healthiest of vineyards. That being said, it was also not difficult to distinguish between vineyards with good disease and insect management vs. those with less than commercially acceptable control just by looking under the vine.

This helps to emphasize that harvest is one of the best times to determine the success or weaknesses of your vineyard IPM strategy. While harvest is an extremely busy time it would be well worth the effort to either walk your vineyard rows when there is a break in the action (with your vineyard map and writing instrument) or ask your harvest crew to be on the lookout for problems areas as you harvest. While this may seem like another task added to the lengthy list of things that must be done at this time of year, the hardest part is getting started doing it. Once you have implemented it into the harvest routine it will become second nature and provide you with invaluable information this winter when planning next year's IPM strategy.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

Affordable Care Act Exchanges open on October 1st

The complexity of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) does make it challenging to discuss. The optimal course of action for your business may vary based on your goals, employees, and location. The New York exchange has had a few problems but seems to be up and running now. The federal exchange is a bit more of a fiasco. So much so, I would postpone any decision making until we get closer to the end of the year. For those subject to a strict deadline it is possible to use the Federal Exchange, or make a purchasing decision over the phone. For others, I would take a look at it in December.

Small Businesses

Generally speaking, ACA creates no mandate or penalty for small businesses. Businesses that provide health care through the exchange may be eligible for a tax credit. The refundable credit is valued as high as 50% of the business share of the premium. The credit is gradually phased out for employers that have more than 10 full-time equivalent (FTE). It is also phased out for employers with average annual wages in excess of \$25,000 per employee, or \$12.50 per hour. For the most part, individuals are eligible for more valuable tax credits than businesses. Some small companies that do provide health insurance are actually considering dropping coverage. As the 50% tax credit expires, it is possible even more businesses will drop coverage.

Individual Marketplace

The health care market place, combined with individual tax credits, makes the individual market more affordable for employees making less than \$25,000 - \$30,000 per year. These individual credits do not expire and are supposed to be funded by tax revenue generated by large companies that do not provide health insurance. Companies with less than 50 FTE employees are exempt from this tax. Many seasonal employees will not count toward that number.

Individual Mandate

Sometimes referred to as an individual mandate there is a theoretical tax that will may apply to individuals

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without health insurance.. Individuals must report the status of health insurance coverage on income tax in 2014 for both themselves and dependents. Verification of employer provided coverage would be included on the W2. Individuals without insurance pay \$95 in 2014, phasing upward to \$750 in 2017. If the cost of coverage exceeds 9.5% of household income, the penalty would be waived. In NY, individuals earning more than \$40,000 per year that do not have health insurance may be subject to the tax.

Health Care Premiums

Premiums were just announced for the Federal exchange yesterday. New York State is running its own exchange. NYS insurance is more expensive, partially because NYS has mandated additional coverage for its minimum plans. Along with half of the States, Pennsylvania will be using the default Federal Exchange. Premiums for businesses in NY will not be released until October 1st. Insurance providers are fairly limited in NY compared to other states. Even fewer options exist for the business market.

Federal Exchange

Healthcare.gov
[Penn State Guide](#)

NYS Exchange

NYStateofhealth.ny.gov



YouTube Video that you can watch on your own time!

FARM FAMILIES AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT – A Webinar

A discussion about Farm Families and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Please [click here](#) or go to: <http://youtu.be/6UXvN9AmJPE>

GRAPE CULTURAL PRACTICES: Luke Haggerty

On site visits and growers coming to the lab here in Portland I have been seeing a fair amount of [grape berry moth \(GBM\)](#) damage. Some GBM damage has been followed by secondary problems of fruit fly infestations and disease. The edges of the vineyards seem to be where GBM has caused the most damage, however I have also been seeing damage throughout some vineyard blocks.



Image 1. Grape Berry Moth damage on Concord grape berry. Picture by Luke Haggerty.

Opening left by the GBM allows easy access for fruit flies to lay eggs and fill the grape berries with larvae. The wet weather paired with GBM damage has also caused an increase of secondary rots. It's important to determine whether GBM is in your vineyard so you can adjust your harvest plan. It is not recommended to leave infected berries in the vineyard or dumping them in nearby trees. The ideal way of disposing of infected berries is to bury them. If there are a lot of infected under the rows right now you can use a 'grape hoe' or other cultivations techniques to cover them with soil.

Start planning for next year. If you find that you have infected vineyards it's IMPORTANT that you follow the GBM Degree Day Model on the NEWA website

[\(http://newa.cornell.edu/\)](http://newa.cornell.edu/) in order to accurately time insecticides applications next growing season.

LERGP WEBSITE LINKS OF INTEREST –

- **PHENOLOGY INFORMATION:**
http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=66&crumb=cultural%20practices|cultural_practices
- **WEATHER DATA:** <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=64&crumb=ipm|ipm>
- **Table for: Insecticides for use in NY and PA:**
<http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=69&crumb=ipm|ipm>
- **Crop Estimation and Thinning Table:** http://nygpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/submission/pdf65_pdf.pdf



Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar of events.
Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one!



AG YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by: New York Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee

Submission Deadline: November 18, 2013

Do you know a High School Senior who has been involved with agriculture and plans on continuing studies in this field? Encourage them to apply for the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship, sponsored by the New York Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. Students applying must have a family Farm Bureau membership or a student Farm Bureau membership (a membership application may be included with scholarship enclosures). Students are required to submit a brief essay answering the question, “If you had the power to change something in your community or on your farm, what would you change and why?” To nominate someone for the scholarship or to request an application, call 1-800-342-4143. Click on the [link](http://www.nyfb.org/resources/Ag_Youth_Scholarship_634_resource.htm) (http://www.nyfb.org/resources/Ag_Youth_Scholarship_634_resource.htm) for more information!

PLEASE NOTE: Next Electronic Crop Update will be Thursday November 7, 2013

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Crop Update is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and sent out by subscription only. For subscription information, please call us at 716.792.2800 ext. 201. For any questions or comments on the format of this update please contact Tim Weigle at: thw4@cornell.edu.

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Appellation Cornell Newsletter Index: <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/appellation-cornell/>

Veraison to Harvest newsletters: <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/veraison-to-harvest/index.cfm>

This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may not be registered in all states, may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use should be directed to the appropriate extension agent or state regulatory agency. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell and Penn State Cooperative Extensions, and their employees, assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsements of products are made or implied.

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Contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.



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