



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## B.E.V. NY 2014 in the Books!

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

The new combined conference with our friends at Cornell’s Enology Extension Lab, *B.E.V. NY*, was a great success in many ways. Attendance for each of the three days focused on business & marketing, enology and viticulture far exceeded what we anticipated. About 140 people came for the Business Day, around 180 attended Enology Day (a record attendance for the former ‘Wine Industry Workshop’, as far as any of us can remember), and about 230 people jammed into the room for Viticulture Day on Saturday. Add in our trade-show vendors on Saturday, and we had well over 500 people participate in B.E.V. NY this year.



On behalf of all of us who worked on the conference, I want to thank all of the speakers for the program, who brought great information that was relevant and timely for our industry. Thanks also to the vendors who filled our trade show this year and the program sponsors for their support and participation in this year’s event.

Finally, I want to thank Karen Gavette, Gemma Osborn, Mike Colizzi, Anna Katharine Mansfield and Chris Gerling for all of their tireless work in helping to bring this new venture to fruition and making it work seamlessly (at least it did to my eyes). We’re already looking to start planning for B.E.V. NY, and will be taking many of our cues from the evaluations that were turned in.

We are in the process of creating the website where .pdf versions of all of the slide presentations that we have permission to post will be available. The site will be password protected, and we will provide that password to everyone who attended the conference (you will have access to the presentations from all three days even if you only attended one day). If you did not attend the conference but would like to access the presentations, we will have a way for you to pay for access to them. All of these details will be sent out in the next week or so.



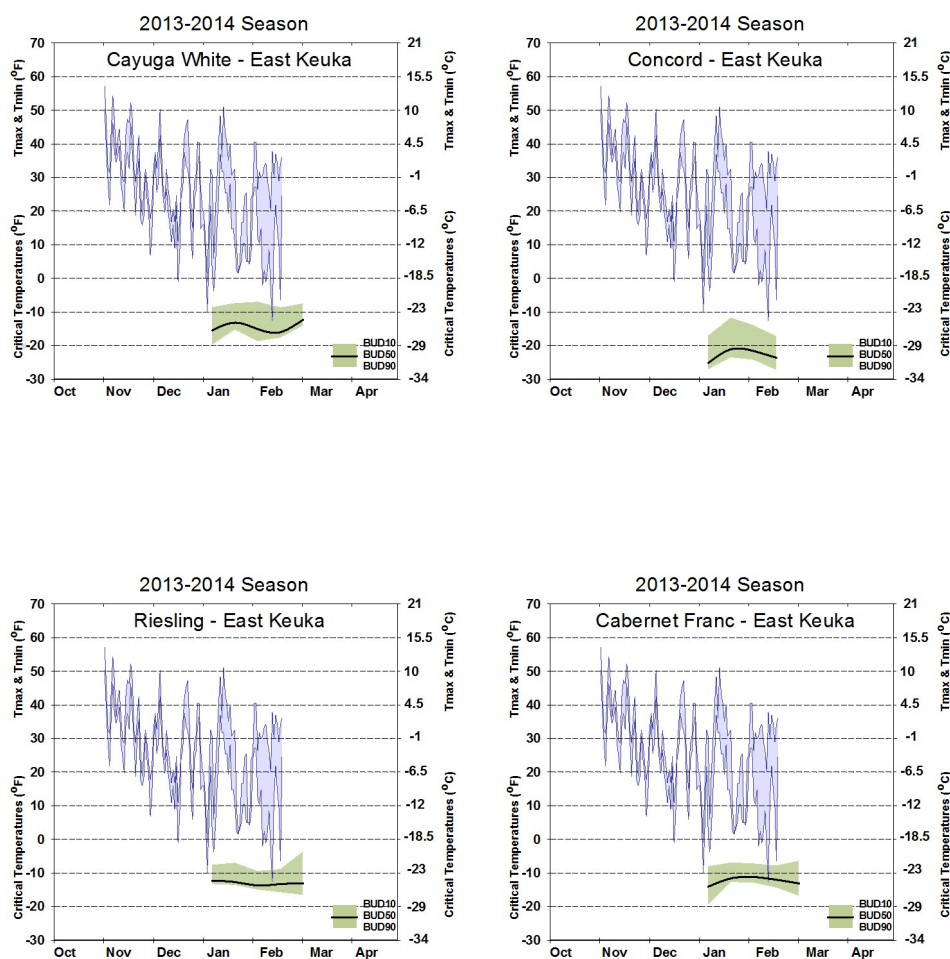
### *Links To*

<a href="#"><i>Winter Injury</i></a>	<a href="#"><i>2</i></a>
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## Bud Hardiness/Winter Injury Update

Hans Walter-Peterson

The most recent bud hardiness results, based on samples collected on March 3, have been posted at the project website, <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/outreach/viticulture/weather.cfm>. Cold temperatures have kept the buds quite hardy based on these readings, but as we discussed at our field meeting last month and in previous Vineyard Updates, these readings may not be correlating to actual bud injury as well as they do in most years due to the amount of injury in some varieties. Because of this, we still strongly encourage growers to conduct their own bud injury assessments before beginning to prune their blocks, especially as growers are at the point of pruning more cold sensitive varieties now.



If you need a quick explanation of how to collect and check buds for injury, you can watch our YouTube videos on the subject:

Part 1: Collecting samples – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= RHJ5mY3fAs>

## **Bud Hardiness/Winter Injury Update** (continue from page 2)

Part 2: Checking buds for injury - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWtr0jzI2Dk>

We are in the middle of conducting another bud injury survey of the Finger Lakes this week. We have expanded the number of sites where we have collected material and the number of varieties at those sites. We should have the survey finished by the end of the week, after cutting over 10,000 buds. We will send out the results of that survey once we have compiled all of the information.

Several representatives of Extension, including Tim Martinson, Luke Haggerty (Lake Erie Regional Grape Program) and me, have been communicating with representatives of the Department of Ag & Markets about the potential for there being enough damage to result in the Department allowing farm wineries to purchase fruit or bulk juice of certain varieties from outside of New York. The threshold required for this provision to kick in is a 40% crop loss of a particular variety *across the entire state*. In other words, if the Finger Lakes loses over 40% of its Merlot crop (highly likely, it seems), that won't necessarily trigger the provision because other parts of the state (i.e., Long Island) may not have much of a loss at all and therefore buffer the loss of the variety in other parts of the state. For a variety like Riesling, where the Finger Lakes contains the majority of the acreage, what happens here will have much more of an effect on the statewide crop.

The other factor we're working on with Ag & Markets with regard to this determination is how to document the loss. New York's office of USDA's Ag Statistics Service has not published any kind of documentation of yearly crop production for grape varieties except Concord and Niagara since 2011 due to budget cuts, and reports prior to that year did not break out any vinifera varieties at all. Estimating a crop loss is difficult when we have no idea what the average crop has been. We are hoping that information like the bud injury surveys that we are doing in the Finger Lakes and Lake Erie and some other data will be an acceptable substitute for that direct crop loss information. We will keep the industry updated as we know more.

## EPA Seeks Input on Revisions to Worker Protection Standard

On February 20, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency announced proposed changes to the agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

### *Overview of proposed changes*

Proposed changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) include:

- Increased frequency of mandatory trainings (from once every five years to annually) to inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law, including restrictions on entering pesticide-treated fields and surrounding areas, decontamination supplies, access to information and use of personal protective equipment. Expanded trainings will include instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides; the signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- First time-ever minimum age requirement: Children under 16 will be prohibited from handling pesticides, with an exemption for family farms.
- No-entry buffer areas surrounding pesticide-treated fields will protect workers and others from exposure from pesticide overspray and fumes.
- Measures to improve the states' ability to enforce compliance including requiring employers to keep records of application-specific pesticide information as well as farmworker training and early-entry notification for two years.
- Personal Protection Equipment (respirator use) must be consistent with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are providing protection, including fit test, medical evaluation, and training.
- Make available to farm workers or their advocates (including medical personnel) information specific to the pesticide application, including the pesticide label and Safety Data Sheets.
- Additional changes make the rule more practical and easier to comply with for farmers.
- Continues the exemptions for family farms.

The EPA has published a two-page document that compares the requirements of the current regulation with the proposed changes— [click here to read it \(http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/comparisons-current-proposed-wps.pdf\)](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/comparisons-current-proposed-wps.pdf).

More information on the proposed changes and how to comment can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/index.html>.

## eNEWA for Grapes - Beta Testing

*Tim Weigle, NYS Grape IPM Specialist*



Would you like to see the current weather and grape pest information found on NEWA (Network for Environment and Weather Applications) without having to click through the website? Then eNEWA is for you. eNEWA is a daily email that contains current weather and pest model information from a station, or stations, near you. The email will contain:

1. high, low and average temperature, rainfall, wind speed and relative humidity
2. the 5-day forecast for these weather parameters,
3. GDD totals (Base 50F),
4. 5-day GDD (Base 50F) forecast, and
5. model results for powdery mildew, black rot, Phomopsis and grape berry moth.

The weather information is provided for not only the current day but for the past two days as well.

We will be conducting a beta test of eNEWA for Grapes in 2014. You can choose from any number of stations located near you for delivery of this information via email each day at a time specified by you. Please keep in mind that you will receive a separate email (approximately 3 pages in length) for each station you choose. Once during the growing season and again after harvest, you will be asked to complete a short survey to assist us in improving the eNEWA for grapes email system.

If you would like to be a part of this project just fill out the [form\(s\) by clicking here](#) and return to [thw4@cornell.edu](mailto:thw4@cornell.edu), or print it off and send it in the mail addressed to: Tim Weigle, CLEREL, 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY 14769

## 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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