



The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



Crop Update for May 8, 2014



Upcoming Event Dates to put on your calendar:

Please note the deadline for each event.

May 20, 2014-Training Your Customers:Effective Tasting Room Techniques at CLEREL
Rescheduled date- *Deadline for registration-Wednesday May 13, 2014*

June 10, 2014- TAP reimbursement information meeting with Mary Lynn Laver
CLEREL from 4:00pm-5:00pm

June 21, 2014- Hops Production in the Lake Erie Region

Full day conference focusing on the process of commercial Hops production. The morning program will consist of oral presentations presented at the Brocton Central School and then after lunch the group will move outside to the hopyard at CLEREL. *Deadline for pre-registration: Friday June 13, 2014*

Information and registration forms for all of the listed events are available in this update.
Registration is also available on-line for most programs at our web-site: lergp.cce.cornell.edu



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Vineyard Damage- “Watch out for that Vineyard!”

Kevin Martin, Penn State University, LERGP

While the rest of the crop update will likely discuss the lack of heat, there seems to be just enough spring weather to encourage spring festivals, outings, and parties. Everybody knows all too well that alcohol and driving are not the best mixers. At first blush, the impact on grape growing is a bit more opaque.

In the last week I've helped three growers complete damage assessments for insurance purposes. Automobiles driving through vineyards typically impact two to three growers per year. With this spike I just wanted to remind growers that Extension can help provide an independent evaluation of the economic damage caused by vehicles or other outside factors.

Typically growers over-estimate the cost of materials and fruit loss. On the other hand, some significantly under-estimate the value of their management and set-up efforts that contributes to the economic loss. Keeping in mind management fees and equipment set-up time, will significantly increase the size of smaller claims. Of course, many insurance companies do not require an independent evaluation and may be satisfied with grower estimates. If that's the case, just make sure you do not forget to include these costs. If growers have questions like this, please feel free to contact me.

The claim form I typically use is shown below. On occasion I have had to add additional expenses for fitting ground but this form typically covers everything. It is usually modified to mirror the grower's actual cost as closely as possible. Post and wire type can change cost estimates. The time of the year can as well. Depending on the time of year an additional crop year might be lost or set up time may increase. Springtime typically saves insurance companies a bit of money as pounders are ready to go and vines can be replanted the same year the crop is lost.

Item					
	Labor/hr	\$16.00			
	Management/hr	\$27.00			
	Equipment/hr	\$47.00			
	# of vines	4			
	# of end posts	2			
	# of line posts	2			
	2014 Grape Price Estimate	0.145			
Vineyard Endposts, posts, and Trellis Wire					
		Item costs	Quantity or hours		Subtotal
	Parts (endposts)	\$7.50	2		\$15.00
	Posts	\$5.50	2		\$11.00
	Anchors/wires	\$8.00	2		\$16.00
	Labor hours	\$16.00	0.5		\$8.00
	Equipment hours	\$47.00	0.25		\$11.75
	11-ga. High tensile wire (1 roll)	\$0.09	-		\$0.00
Vine Replacement					
	New Vines (Own rooted Concord)	\$6.00	4		\$24.00
	Stakes	\$0.35	4		\$1.40
	String (3 yrs)	\$0.10	4		\$0.40
	Grow Tubes	\$2.25	4		\$9.00
	Equipment	\$45.00	0.5		\$22.50
	Planting Labor	\$16.00	2		\$32.00
	Vine Training Labor	\$0.50	4		\$2.00
Crop Loss					
	Year 1 (2014) (23lbs/vine)	23	4		\$13.34
	Year 2 (2015) (23lbs/vine)	23	4		\$13.34
	Year 3 (2016) (23lbs/vine)	11.5	4		\$6.67
Management Costs					
	Evaluation Damage/Billing (per hour)	\$27.00	1		\$27.00
	Supervising Labor (per hour)	\$27.00	0.25		\$6.75
	Equipment set-up/take down (per hour)	\$16.00	1		\$16.00
Overall Total					\$236.15

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Progression of Bud Break

Luke Haggerty, Viticulture Extension Educator, Lake Erie Grape Program

Bud progression is moving right along. With warm days in the forecast I've started to see the first sign of Concord leaf tips starting to peel away from the pink buds. I did have to look at quite a few buds to find the one in the picture below, but it's a good sign that the buds are getting close to full bud break. However, I did notice a large variation of progression in low spots, with buds that were just coming out of dormancy, some that were at 'bud swell' stage and other that were wooly and pink. As part of our phenology project our Research Aid Kelly Link, has been collecting data in bud progression this past week to determine when the buds hit 10% pink. At the Fredonia site, Link reports that Concord buds (balanced pruned 30+10) were at 10% pink on May 6th. Looking at data going back to 1970 the average date for 10% pink at Fredonia is April 18th, so as of now we are about 18 days behind. Though this may sound like a long time we can do a great deal of catching up with some warm weather. Again, using the phenology data the average date for 50% bud break (Half or more of leaf edge exposed) at Fredonia is May 4th. By next week's 'Crop Update' we should have a good idea how close we are to bud break.



Pink bud with half or more of the leaf edge exposed



We had a grower contact us this week with a concern regarding the legality of driving Farm Vehicles (Gators) on the side of the road to travel from one vineyard to the next. They were, in fact, pulled over by local police for doing so. I am citing a link that provides some information on this topic. It is important to note the 2 main rules: 1) you must have the "Slow Moving Vehicle" sign on the vehicle and 2) it needs to be just that, a slow moving vehicle, designed to operate at 25 mph or less.

<http://www.safeny.ny.gov/slowmove.htm>

IPM

Early Season IPM

Tim Weigle, NYSIPM, LERGP

Steely beetle and Cutworm

The cool spring weather has buds moving slowly in area vineyards. According to Kelly Link, 10% pink was officially called at the Fredonia lab on May 6th this year (compared to an average date of April 18th). So now would be a good time to start looking at vineyard areas with a history of steely beetle and/or climbing cutworm damage. The short term weather forecast is for temperatures in the 70's so buds should start moving, but I think the buds will continue to remain in the susceptible stage for these pests (bud swell to 3-inch shoot growth) for the near future. If you have vineyards that received moderate to severe bud damage this winter, you cannot afford to lose more buds to steely beetle or climbing cutworm and should add these to your list of areas to scout.

Steely beetle is often found at the vineyard edges adjacent to brushy areas or woods. The steely beetle feeds directly on the bud, hollowing it out and destroying it. Time of susceptibility is bud swell through 1- to 2-inches of shoot growth. Scout the edges of vineyards where steely beetle has been a problem in the past and treat if damage reaches 2% bud damage or above for balanced pruned vines. For balanced pruned vines a threshold of 2% bud damage has been used to trigger treatment against this pest. However, for those vineyards where more buds are available after pruning, a higher threshold should be used. While both steely beetle and climbing cutworm are secondary pests they should not be ignored as they have the ability to cause economic damage quickly. As shown in the photo, steely beetle can reduce bud numbers on vines to the point where it appears a freeze event has killed the vegetation (note that a few rows over from the edge the canopy is growing normally).



Steely Beetle Damage Edgerow



Steely Beetle Adult

If you have vineyards where you have found lower than expected yields at the vineyard edges during harvest without a good explanation of why, that block may have experienced steely beetle damage in the spring. If you are not looking, it is often quickly concealed by normal shoot growth – so get out and look.

Scouting for climbing cutworm should take place in vineyards with a history of damage from this pest or those that had poor weed control last year as this can dramatically improve the habitat for climbing cutworm. Climbing cutworm does its feeding at night and moves down into leaf litter or into areas of vegetation on the vineyard floor during the day. We have seen in the past that vineyards that have weed growth up to the base of the vine are much more prone to damage from climbing cutworm than are vineyards that have a weed free strip under the row. Climbing cutworm also prefer lighter, sandier soils. Scouting for climbing cutworm will involve



Cutworm Habitat

looking for the distinct damage or the shoots being fed on and “cut” off the shoot (see photo). As with climbing cutworm, the more buds that are left on the vines after pruning is completed the higher the damage threshold should be raised.

NYS IPM Fact Sheets for Grapes (including climbing cutworm and Steely Beetle can be found at:
<http://nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/grapes/default.asp>



Cutworm Damage



Flea Beetle Damage

Are you Using Your GIS Maps?

According to my last report from Rhiann, 271 grape growers in the Lake Erie region (representing 16,880 grape acres) have taken advantage of the opportunity to get GIS maps of their vineyard operations. The creation of these maps, at no charge, is made possible through a Northeast Center for Risk Management Education (NECRME) grant as well as funding from the National Grape Cooperative. The reasoning behind the title of this article is the following question posed by Paul Bencal at yesterday's Coffee Pot meeting; "So what do having these maps do for me?" that came about when we were discussing the collection of information on vineyard soils, canopies and yield using sensor technology.

The answer to the question is that a GIS map of your vineyard operation is the base upon which all the sensor information is built upon. The NECRME project was developed to assist growers in the Lake Erie region in examining the economics of implementing a "whole system" approach of current research-based inputs into their vineyard management strategies including; 1) GPS-sensor technology, 2) GIS mapping of vineyards, 3) mechanization of vineyard practices, 4) using web-based resources to manage inputs for pests and 5) marketing. This project also is looking at how the new quality standards that have been put in place by area processors impact your vineyard management strategy. The closing of Carriage House and cancellation of some Cott/Cliffstar contracts has added a new wrinkle to the managing for your market portion of the project as well.

While having a GIS map of your vineyard operation is useful in helping to determine accurate amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and for conversations with your crop insurance adjuster, these are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the amount of information that can be made available to you to make management decisions. If you have not taken the next step to have canopy or soils done in your vineyards I would suggest that you contact either Kevin Martin kmm52@psu.edu or Luke Haggerty lh85@cornell.edu to get it set up in 2014. You can also give us a call at (716) 792-2800. Kevin's extension is 205 and Luke's is 204.

If you don't have a GIS map of your vineyard operation, it's not too late. Contact Kim at CLEREL, extension 210, and she will get you set up with a minimal amount of effort on your part.

If you would like assistance in implementing any of the current research-based information feel free to contact any of the LERGP extension team members.



**EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION**
NORTHEAST CENTER

Bryan Hed, NorthEast PA Research and Extension Lab

Weather: Our growing degree day (gdd) total for April at the North East lab was 43.8, which is well below our 15 year average of 80.5. April rainfall totaled 5.4”, which was well above our 12 year average of about 3”. We recorded the beginning of bud swell in Concord and Niagara right around the end of April (the 29th?). Currently, we are at 10 % pink, a bit behind schedule for sure. Warmer weather forecast over the next several days is going to push early shoot growth at last. Now is the time to plan that 3-5” shoot spray for early Phomopsis infections.

Observations on bud mortality: From our NE1020 variety vineyard, I don’t have exact numbers but I can say that our Minnesota hybrid wine varieties and Norton have fared the best and are ready to push plenty of new shoots. Elvira and Concord also look good with lots of plump buds and Chancellor and Vignoles have a decent level of live bud tissue. However, our Niagara buds have definitely been thinned out by this past winter and hybrid wine varieties like Noiret, Corot Noir, Traminette, Chambourcin, and Vidal show substantial bud mortality. Live buds of any *Vitis vinifera* will be hard to find this spring.

LERGP Website Links of Interest:

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

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>

Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar of events.

Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one!

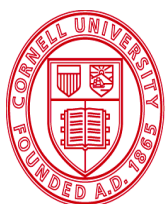


Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Team Members:

Andy Muza, (ajm4@psu.edu) Extension Educator, Erie County, PA Cooperative Extension, 814.825.0900
Tim Weigle, (thw4@cornell.edu) Grape IPM Extension Associate, NYSIPM, 716.792.2800 ext. 203
Kevin Martin, (kmm52@psu.edu) Business Management Educator, 716.792.2800 ext. 205
Luke Haggerty, (llh85@cornell.edu) Grape Cultural Practices, 716.792.2800 ext. 204

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THE LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM at CLEREL
6592 West Main Road
Portland, NY 14769
716-792-2800



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