



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In The Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

"I'm back in the saddle again..."



Having just returned from a couple of weeks away, I'm still working on getting my bearings again as far as what's been happening in the vineyards, but managed to make a few stops in some blocks on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes yesterday afternoon. Veraison is still pushing along, but we're certainly still in the earlier stages of it in some of the vinifera varieties like Riesling and Cab Franc, while Chardonnay and Pinot

noir are probably the furthest along. Mike mentioned yesterday that Concord is also starting to turn color in blocks around Branchport. At the Teaching Vineyard, Zweigelt, Marquette, and Jupiter (our blue seedless table grape) are fully colored, and all other varieties except for Riesling and Cabernet Franc are almost through veraison.

Constellation Brands is scheduled to start taking Aurore and Baco next week to get the 2014 harvest season underway. I suspect that we will be picking our Marquette at the teaching vineyard sometime in the next week or so, depending on how much more heat we get and if the nets manage to keep the birds out of them long enough.

According to weather data from Geneva, we're now about 3 days behind average with regard to GDD accumulation. And while the season has certainly been a wet one overall, causing some struggles with downy mildew and some early botrytis infections, the month of August has been fairly dry so far. We know from experience (even just last year) that the conditions from now through the month of September will dictate a lot with regard to the final quality of this year's crop. Last year, September was warm and dry and made up for a less than ideal season

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up until then. Another month like that would be welcome this year.

This week also marks the start of this year's 'Veraison to Harvest' series of weekly updates from around New York. The "V2H" updates will once again include ripening data for a number of different varieties from various locations around the Finger Lakes and other grape growing regions in New York, updates from each area on how the ripening and harvest season is progressing, and one or two other articles focused on projects or topics relevant to the time of year. These updates will be sent out each Friday for the next 8 or 9 weeks. You can see examples of Veraison to Harvest from previous seasons at project's website, <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/newsletters/veraison-harvest>.

### Grape Price List

We are still trying to get some more price lists from producers, so we are holding off on publishing the price list for a couple more days. Once we hear from a few more producers and get their information included in the list, we will send it out to everyone and post it on our website. Thanks for your patience.

## IPM

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*Hans Walter-Peterson*

The relatively dry conditions over the past couple of weeks seem to have slowed down the steady march of downy mildew that we were seeing through vineyards earlier in the year. Active infections that I saw yesterday were in the upper portions of canopies, and did not appear to be as significant as they were earlier in the year. However, with the level of inoculum that has been out there this year, foliar infections could become more severe again under the right conditions (free water on leaves from rain or high humidity, temperatures in the 60s and 70s).

With the onset of veraison, it's time to start giving serious consideration to botrytis management. Many growers have started to put out veraison applications of botrytis materials. For some more information about the different material options for botrytis, take another look at the article from Alice Wise that we included in the [August 6, 2014 issue of the Vineyard Update](#).

We are past the point where further treatment should be necessary for Grape Berry Moth management this year. In very warm years (e.g., 2010), we could have a fourth generation of GBM develop before the season ends, but all indications are that this isn't one of those years.

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

August 27, 2014

## IPM (continue from page 2)

### NEWA Grape Forecast Models

Select a disease or insect:

Grape Berry Moth

Weather Station:

Dresden (FLGP/FLCC)

Date of Interest:

8/27/2014

Calculate

Map

Results

More info

#### Grape Berry Moth Results for Dresden (FLGP/FLCC)

Wild Grape Bloom: 5/31/2014

Wild Grape Bloom date above is estimated based on degree day accumulations or user input. Enter the actual date for blocks of interest and the model will calculate the results more accurately.

Accumulated degree days (base 47.14°F) wild grape bloom through 8/27/2014: 1917 (0 days missing)

#### Daily Degree Days for Dresden (FLGP/FLCC)

Base Temp	Past	Past	Current	5-Day Forecast		Forecast Details		
	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1
47.14F - GBM	23	25	24	16	17	23	23	20
Accumulation	1877	1902	1926	1942	1959	1981	2004	2024

NA - not available

Download Time: 8/27/2014 14:00

Pest Status	Pest Management
Reduced egg-laying after this time, most pupae enter diapause (overwintering stage) after 1700 DD.	With the exception of extremely warm years no further action is required.

**Disclaimer:** These are theoretical predictions and forecasts. The theoretical models predicting pest development or disease risk use the weather data collected (or forecasted) from the weather station location. These results should not be substituted for actual observations of plant growth stage, pest presence, and disease occurrence determined through scouting or insect pheromone traps.



## Viticulture in Germany and Alsace: A Few Highlights

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

Earlier this month, Anna Katharine Mansfield (assistant professor of enology at Cornell), Justine Vanden Heuvel (associate professor of viticulture at Cornell) and I traveled to Germany (the Pfalz region) and Alsace for a week to visit vineyards, wineries and a few research stations to learn about grape and wine production where the focus has been on Riesling (and other aromatic white varieties) for a lot longer than it has been here in the Finger Lakes. It was a tremendous experience to be able to visit these places and speak with winemakers, growers and scientists about what they do and how they do it.

I'm working on writing up a summary of what we saw during our visit there, but I thought I would include a few highlights in the Update this week.

### Geisenheim



We visited some vineyards that are used for research blocks by the institute, looking at different aspects of vineyard management on steep slopes. And I do mean STEEP! The slopes that some of these vineyards are planted on are ridiculous – we were a little nervous about taking a few steps down the slope to take a closer look for fear of losing our footing and falling all the way down to the Rhein.



What looked a bit like an alien ship at first turns out to be a very important research project looking at the impacts of higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on grapevines. The towers in this picture all emit carbon dioxide into the air around a set of grapevines. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is maintained 50 ppm higher than the ambient air outside of these rings (there are 6 or 8 of these rings altogether), and the researchers are going to be measuring impacts on productivity, fruit composition, and many other aspects as well, I'm sure. They will also be using a similar approach looking at vegetables as well. It was an absolutely fascinating approach to trying to understand the impacts of climate change on agricultural production.

## Viticulture in Germany and Alsace: A Few Highlights (continue from page 4)

### Pinot Blanc

While Riesling is very much the ‘workhorse’ variety for wineries in Germany, we visited one winery which has become known for its Pinot blanc wines as much as for its Rieslings. After touring the facility and some of their vineyards, we tasted several examples of their Pinot blanc, including one from 2002, which were all extremely good. While anything with the word ‘Pinot’ in it can be difficult to grow, I think it could be interesting to see a few more producers try making this variety in the Finger Lakes.



A few vineyard observations:

### *It's all about the soil*



One thing that struck both me and Justine was the heavy emphasis of the growers and winemakers about the influence of the soils on the fruit. Not that soils are not important and have a lot to do with vineyard production, of course, but the impression I got was that there seems to be more emphasis on the role of soils in all aspects of production (including disease development) than we might put on it here in the United States.

### *Row spacing and trellis height*

The vast majority of vineyard rows are spaced pretty close together – anywhere from three to five feet apart. The vines, however, are still allowed to grow over six feet tall, violating the premise that we discuss a lot with new growers about making sure that the vines are no taller than the row width in order to prevent shading of the fruit zone. This doesn't seem to be as much of a concern to the growers there. In the Champagne region, however, they take care of the problem by hedging their vines to only about 4-5 feet high.

### *Mechanical shoot positioning*



When we visited Alsace, we walked through vineyards with Laura Sipp of Sipp Mack winery in Hunawihr. We kept seeing blue twine being used to shoot position instead of wire, and we finally asked Laura why the twine was used. She took us to their barn and showed us the mechanical shoot positioner that they, and many other vineyards in that area, use for that task. The trellises have a fruiting wire and one more wire about 6-8" above that to support the young shoots. Later in the season, they will use the mechanical shoot positioner to lift up the shoots and use the blue twine to hold them in



## **Viticulture in Germany and Alsace: A Few Highlights** (continue from page 5)

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

place. Depending on the vigor of the vines and the trellis height, a second pass might be done to place a second level of twine to further secure the shoots.

There will be some more in the summary that I put together, but thought I would just share a few things that we saw and learned during our trip. It's a great place to visit and to see different ways of doing things in the vineyards and the winery, and I highly recommend getting over there to see it for yourself if you can.

## 2014 GDD Accumulation

### 2014 GDD & Precipitation

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
8/20/14	75.8	64.0	0.30	19.9	1934.9
8/21/14	80.9	65.7	0.08	23.3	1958.2
8/22/14	79.3	64.4	0.01	21.9	1980.1
8/23/14	71.9	65.0	0.00	18.5	1998.5
8/24/14	80.2	58.5	0.00	19.4	2017.9
8/25/14	81.8	60.3	0.00	21.1	2038.9
8/26/14	84.2	57.6	0.00	20.9	2059.8
Weekly Total			0.39"	144.8	
Season Total			20.41"	2059.8	

GDDs as of August 26, 2013: 2177.0

Rainfall as of August 26, 2013: 17.23"

### Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)



### Growing Degree Days

	2014 GDD <sup>1</sup>	Long-term Avg GDD <sup>2</sup>	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) <sup>3</sup>
April	52.1	65.6	-3
May	298.3	247.3	+3
June	516.9	480.6	+4
July	573.3	642.3	+1
August	437.3	590.3	-3
September		347.5	
October		104.6	

<sup>1</sup> Accumulated GDDs for the month.

<sup>2</sup> The long-term average (1973-2013) GDD accumulation for that month, or up to the most recent records in the current month.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year's GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. For example, at the end of April 2014, we were 3 days behind average accumulation. The most recent number represents the current status.



## 2014 GDD Accumulation (continued from page 7)

### Precipitation

	2014 Rain <sup>4</sup>	Long-term Avg Rain <sup>5</sup>	Monthly deviation from avg <sup>6</sup>
April	2.90"	2.90"	0.00"
May	3.64"	3.11"	+0.53"
June	3.23"	3.60"	-0.37"
July	7.81"	3.31"	+4.50"
August	2.42"	3.18"	
September		3.69"	
October		3.26"	

<sup>4</sup> Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

<sup>5</sup> Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

<sup>6</sup> Monthly deviation from average (calculated at the end of the month)



## Additional Information



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

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

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### FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

Is published by

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben and Yates Counties

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