



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In The Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

The Finger Lakes has undergone a pretty significant cool down over the past week. According to the sample results from [last week's Veraison to Harvest newsletter](#), most varieties in the Finger Lakes are still lagging behind where they stood last year with regard to fruit chemistry. The average high temperature for the period of September 3-9 was 79°F, while the average high from September 10-16 was only about 67°F (this past week, we fell 4 days further behind relative to average GDD accumulation), so we can presume that brix accumulation and acid degradation have slowed down somewhat compared to previous weeks, and therefore harvest may slow down a bit while winemakers and growers wait for the fruit to ripen a bit more.

As the temperatures have transitioned to more of a fall-like feel, harvest has continued to pick up around the region. We have been seeing some early loads of Concord picked, but it sounds like the bulk of the harvest for that variety will still hold off for another week or so. Earlier Niagara and Elvira loads are still being picked this week as well.



We have been picking our Grüner Veltliner at the Teaching Vineyard today. We probably could have let it hang a little bit longer, but apparently the birds decided that it was the next best option once we had netted all of the red-fruited varieties around it, and we were starting to lose a fairly significant amount of fruit. We collected a sample of the fruit yesterday for this week's Veraison to Harvest newsletter, so we will have our final sample numbers in a few days, along with the final data for the overall harvest. Some more Pinot noir and Chardonnay have been harvested for sparkling wine recently, and at least one winery has brought in their first load of Pinot gris.

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### Upcoming Events

**Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference 2014**

**2014 Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference**

**Save the Dates: B.E.V. NY 2015**

**November 11 and 12, 2014**

**December 9, 2014**

**February 26 thru 28, 2015**

## IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

### *Spider Mites*

We have been noticing more bronzing leaves in vineyard blocks lately, which is the primary visual symptom of spider mites. While increased mite pressure is often associated with dry weather conditions, it is not necessarily the case - we have noticed increased mite pressure in both wet and dry years here in the Finger Lakes.

Mite damage is usually found most often in mid-summer, although the warm and sunny stretch of weather that we had until the beginning of last week may have jumpstarted their activity a little later than usual. In any case, by the time there is significant, widespread bronzing of leaves, there could already be an economic impact from their presence. The extent of that impact, if any, will depend on several factors like the size of the crop and the canopy, the value of the varieties being affected, as well as how much longer the crop will be hanging before it is harvested.



*Bronzing along outer leaf surface due to mites.*

From Greg Loeb's most recent update on Insect and Mite Pest Management

([http://nygpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/newsletter\\_notes/pdf24\\_pdf.pdf](http://nygpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/newsletter_notes/pdf24_pdf.pdf)):

“The working threshold for spider mites (TSSM and ERM combined) in our area is 7 to 10 mites per leaf, although this will vary depending on health of the vineyard, crop load, value of the grape, etc. In summer, I suggest sampling at least 50 mid-shoot leaves from both the edge and the interior (25 leaves each) of a vineyard block, examining both sides of the leaf. A hand lens will be necessary to see the mites for most people. Even with a hand lens, it is challenging to count the mites. Thus, we recommend estimating the proportion of leaves infested with mites and use some-thing like 50% infested as a treatment threshold. A leaf is considered infested if it has one or more spider mites. Remember to keep rough track of which species is most common.”

It is important to scout for the presence of mites in blocks showing symptoms. If there are a lot of leaves with bronzing on them, but very few mites on those leaves, the damage has already been done and it's likely that a miticide spray will have little effect at this point. Given the cost of most miticides, it makes sense to scout for them before making an application.

Both European red mites and two-spotted spider mites will overwinter in the vineyard – red mites will overwinter as eggs under the bark on the vine, while the adult females of two-spotted spider mites will survive under ground cover. As a result, high populations in one year are capable of carrying over to the next. If nothing else, make sure to note where damage occurred this year so you can be watching for symptoms next season.

## Bois Slides

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### *Slides from Dr. Benjamin Bois' Presentation "Pinot Noir: Is it home sweet home?"*

We were privileged to have Dr. Benjamin Bois, an associate professor in viticulture and climatology from the University of Burgundy, speak to about 40 growers and winemakers at Fox Run last week. Benjamin spoke about growing and producing Pinot noir in Burgundy, with a special emphasis on how climatic and site conditions ("terroir" in other words) can impact production and characteristics in the variety. He also included a few comparisons of the climate in the Finger Lakes relative to that in Burgundy.

Benjamin was kind enough to share his slides with us. They are available at our website at [http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=77&crumb=cultural%20practices|cultural\\_practices](http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=77&crumb=cultural%20practices|cultural_practices).

We want to thank Dr. Alan Lakso for hosting Dr. Bois and bringing him to the Finger Lakes. We also want to sincerely thank Scott and Ruth Osborn at Fox Run for hosting the event, and all of the producers who brought examples of Finger Lakes Pinot noir wines to share after the presentation.

## Upcoming Events

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Don't forget to check out the calendar on our website (<http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.

### **Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference 2014**

*November 11 - November 12, 2014*

*The Inn on the Lake*

*770 South Main Street*

*Canandaigua, NY 14424*

Information about the program can be found at:

[http://aem.cornell.edu/outreach/strategic\\_marketing\\_conference.php](http://aem.cornell.edu/outreach/strategic_marketing_conference.php)



### **2014 Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference**

*Tuesday, December 9*

*Warren Hall*

*Cornell University, Ithaca NY*

Faculty from the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and other experts will present loads of information about the short and long-term outlook for agriculture and agricultural products at this year's Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference. The conference will highlight critical issues facing agriculture in New York and the Northeast to agribusiness professionals, policymakers, farm managers and other industry leaders. Breakout sessions in the afternoon will focus on the current status and near-term outlook for major New York agricultural commodities, including grapes and wine ([click here to read the 2013 outlook for grapes, wine and ornamental crops from Dr. Miguel Gomez](#)).

More information can be found at the [conference website](#).



### **Save The Dates!**

#### **B.E.V. NY 2015**

*Thursday, February 26 – Saturday, February 28*

*RIT Inn & Conference Center*

*5257 West Henrietta Road*

*Henrietta, NY*

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

September 17, 2014

## 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
9/10/14	75.4	59.0	0.00	17.2	2350.8
9/11/14	72.7	57.8	0.16	15.3	2366.1
9/12/14	57.4	47.5	0.00	2.5	2368.5
9/13/14	66.0	44.8	0.15	5.4	2373.9
9/14/14	59.6	45.2	0.00	2.4	2376.3
9/15/14	70.2	51.2	0.08	10.7	2387.0
9/16/14	65.3	50.9	0.33	8.1	2395.1
Weekly Total			<b>0.72"</b>	<b>61.6</b>	
Season Total			<b>22.30"</b>	<b>2395.1</b>	

GDDs as of September 16, 2013: 2644.6

Rainfall as of September 16, 2013: 18.97"



### 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	519.3	590.3	-3
September	216.2	347.5	-6
October		104.6	
TOTAL	2175.9	2478.1	

<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 5)

### 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	2.93"	3.18"	-0.25"
September	0.88"	3.69"	
October		3.26"	
TOTAL	21.39"	23.06"	

<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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