



# finger lakes vineyard update

August 22, 2012



## IN THE VINEYARD

Hans Walter-Peterson

### Inside this issue:

**Tailgate Summary** 2

**IPM** 3

**Price List** 5

**Events** 6

**GDD 2012** 8

Harvest is underway in the Finger Lakes this week, with Aurore and Niagara starting to come off this past Monday in some spots. Early indications are that the fruit seems to be ripening quickly this year, similar to what we saw in 2010. We heard one report of Niagara grapes testing near 17 brix when they were picked. Growers at our tailgate meeting last night were saying that Pinot noir and Chardonnay are already at 18-19 brix, and expect to be picking these varieties for sparkling wine early next week. I expect that we'll be seeing early red hybrid varieties like Geneva Red and Leon Millot getting picked later this week or next, and possibly some white hybrids like Cayuga White and Seyval.



*As always, Catawba takes its own sweet time going through veraison.*

As I mentioned last week, we will be starting our annual '[Veraison to Harvest](#)' sampling next Monday, which will give us our first glimpse at overall fruit composition this year (brix, acidity, pH, YAN, etc). This year, we will be collecting samples from the following varieties:

- Catawba
- Chardonnay
- Cayuga White
- Concord
- Lemberger
- Pinot noir
- Riesling
- Traminette
- Vignoles

It will be interesting to see how this season progresses compared with the previous couple of years, both of which were warm like this year, with regard to the pace of ripening and when harvest decisions are made. Much of that will obviously depend on what Mother Nature gives us over the next couple of months, but at this point there is 'cautious optimism' about the quality of this year's crop.

# finger lakes vineyard update

## Tailgate Summary

Mike Colizzi

Well it's hard to believe it but harvest is underway and we held our final tailgate meeting of the year last night at Sheldrake Point Winery. It was a beautiful late summer day and we were once again reminded how lucky we are to live in the Finger Lakes!

As always we have put together our annual version of the grape price list, which we handed out at last night's meeting. If you were not there however don't worry we have included it in this update. This year's price list has some good news; many of the popular varieties are showing an increase in their average price. This could be due somewhat to a shortage of those varieties. For more on the price list please follow this link ([link to price list article](#)).



Figure 1: A Riesling cluster damaged by birds.

The animals seem to be taking advantage of the early ripening this year and are feeding extensively on ripening fruit. While out yesterday I saw a lot of bird, deer and raccoon damage. Animals may be a bigger problem than usual in part because there is less other fruit around for them to feed on. Bird damage seems to be the most common and severe form. Propane cannons, bird squawkers, and flash tape will be a must this year, and perhaps in high-density areas not enough. Open wounds on ripening fruit are ideal locations for botrytis infections to start.

At last night's meeting we talked about pre-harvest IPM and the best ways to go about deciding what to spray and when. While looking at the 10-day forecast it seems relatively dry, this could lend itself to some growers stretching spray intervals and possibly switching to more of a reactionary approach for mildews. While not advised we understand that this is something that could be crossing growers' minds. As always when stretching intervals it is best to increase your scouting efforts and keep an eye on the hot spots in your vineyards. [For more on IPM please see the IPM section of this update.](#)

Mary Jo Dudley from Cornell's Farmworker Program came to last night's again. She talked about the labor meeting we are planning for later this year as well as emergency planning for farms. Mary Jo passed out copies of the Pay Notice/ Work Agreement for Farm Workers last night. We have included the electronic version of this document in both Spanish and English at the bottom of this update. If there are any topics you would like to see addressed at our meeting later this year please feel free to email me at [mac252@cornell.edu](mailto:mac252@cornell.edu).

**We would like to thank Dave Weimann, Bob Madill, and all of the Sheldrake Point staff for hosting our meeting last night. If you are interested in hosting a meeting next year please send us an email.**

# finger lakes vineyard update

## IPM

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

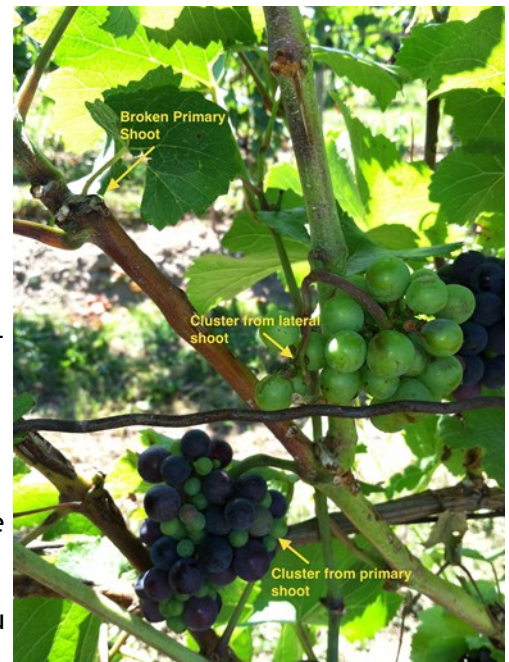
Before each of our tailgate meetings this year, Mike and I would visit several vineyards in the general vicinity of where the meeting would be held to get a better sense of what was happening in that area and give us some ideas of what to discuss with growers based on what we saw. After making stops at vineyards along the east side of Seneca Lake and the west side of Cayuga, we didn't have a whole lot to discuss as far as problems or concerns that we were seeing. Vines continue to look clean for the most part, with little in the way of insect damage from Japanese beetles or grape leafhoppers.

One of the discussion points at the meeting yesterday was whether or not growers could stretch their 14-day spray intervals a few days further, given clean conditions in the vineyard and dry weather predicted for the next few days - a legitimate question for sure. We talked about how important it is to be even more vigilant with regard to scouting if growers are going to stretch intervals, knowing that diseases like botrytis and downy mildew can spread rapidly through a vineyard once they get a foothold and conditions are right. Another thing to consider is just basic management logistics. As harvest approaches, things can get a little chaotic on the farm and something like spraying might not get done before the next rainfall. The basic take-home message is, if you're going to stretch your spray intervals (not that we recommend it), be sure that you have the time to properly and thoroughly scout potential problems areas, and are able to make applications quickly when it's time to do so because of emerging disease problems or the weather dictates it.

### ***Powdery Mildew***

In general, we are still seeing very little powdery mildew developing on leaves in canopies. One instance of where we noticed some was on secondary clusters that emerged from laterals that grew due to hedging or hail damage that broke primary shoots earlier this summer. These clusters are still early in their development, and have not developed resistance to infections. While clusters from primary shoots are resistant to further infection now, these secondary clusters can be a jumping off point for spores to still infect leaves and shoots.

If there are a significant number of these clusters in the canopy, it might be worth taking some time to remove them from the vines. Otherwise, make sure that you are getting coverage on these clusters with late-season sprays.



[To enlarge photo click here](#)

# finger lakes vineyard update

## IPM (cont.)

If sulfur is no longer an option for powdery mildew control due to concerns about  $H_2S$  development during fermentation (see last week's Update for information on this), potassium salts like Nutrol, Armicarb and Kaligreen can still be used for some post-infection powdery mildew control if raging infections aren't present (which they aren't, in general).

### *Botrytis*

Botrytis infections seem to be fairly well under control at this point in most vineyards we saw this week, with most cases seeming to be due to berries on tight clusters getting pushed off the rachis. Birds and other critters are starting to make their presence known by feeding on fruit in some spots. Bird pecks are great places for botrytis and other bunch rot organisms to get established in ripening fruit.





# finger lakes vineyard update

## 2012 Finger Lakes Grape Price List

Hans Walter-Peterson

Attached at the end of this article is the list of grape prices for the Finger Lakes that we have received so far. We are still in the process of following up with some wineries to try to fill out the list a bit more, so the list will change some over the next several days. *So for now, consider this list a 'draft' of the final version.* Even so, there are a couple of things that are worth noting from the information that we have received so far:

- The average price for Concord has increased by 4.4% overall, but the large processors listed (Constellation, Cott, and Royal) have significantly increased their prices, likely in reaction to the lower crop that is expected from the eastern U.S. this year.

	2011 (\$/ton)	2012 (\$/ton)	% change
Constellation	255	280	+9.8%
Cott (formerly Cliffstar)	258	290	+12.4%
Royal	275	335	+21.8%

- The two most widely planted white vinifera varieties, Riesling and Chardonnay, have both seen healthy increases in their average prices this year (9.0% and 8.9%, respectively), after a few years of flat or declining prices.
- The average price for Cabernet Franc bumped up a little bit this year, but the spread of prices for the variety is fairly wide. This year's average price of \$1,293/ton is 3.4% higher than last year's average of \$1,250/ton. In other red vinifera news, the average price for Lemberger jumped 7.5% this year.

As I mentioned, we are still trying to get some more price lists from other wineries to include in this year's table, so a couple of these preliminary observations might shift a little bit with more data. At this point though, it seems that there are a few more bright spots in this year's list for growers than there have been over the past couple of years.

[Click here to view the list of grape prices for the Finger Lakes that we have received so far.](#)

# finger lakes vineyard update

## UPCOMING EVENTS

You can also check out our [Calendar](#) on the [FLGP website](#) for information about upcoming events.

### **“At-Home” Renewable Energy Options Workshop & Tour**

Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Town of Jerusalem’s Conservation & Renewable Energy Committee are hosting **two** opportunities for residents to learn more about implementation of renewable energy at the home, farm or business. A workshop will be held at the Branchport Fire Hall on September 18, 2012 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. A field day renewable energy tour will launch from Brookside Farm, 2944 Corwin Rd., Branchport, NY and visit four farms on September 22, 2012 from 9:00am-1:00pm. **It is not a requirement to attend both events. Please feel free to attend one or both.**

### **“At-Home” Renewable Energy Options Workshop**

*Tuesday: September 18, 2012*

*6:00pm - Registration with light supper*

*6:30pm - 8:30pm - Event*

*Branchport Fire Hall, Branchport, NY*

*Municipal Credits Available*

Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Town of Jerusalem’s Conservation & Renewable Energy Committee present a workshop devoted to the economics, performance expectations, and availability of installation and maintenance requirements of non-commercial, at-home renewable energy projects.

Jeffrey Stevens, Assistant Professor at Alfred State College, will focus on what residents need to know to make decisions about implementing renewable energy at their home, business, or farm. He will address the concerns that individual’s face every day when trying to decide which renewable energy system best fits their needs.

A detailed overview of solar, wind and geothermal renewable energy systems will provide attendees with practical knowledge to apply when making individual decisions about changes to their source of energy. Attendees will also have an opportunity to have their questions answered.

Please take the opportunity to arrive early in order to visit with vendors at the Branchport Farmers’ Market, which takes place outside the Branchport Fire Hall from 4:00pm - 6:30pm. Many of the vendors use some form of renewable energy and practice sustainable agriculture.

**Registration Fee: \$5.00**

*Please call with questions and pre-registration:*

*Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension 315-536-5123*

# finger lakes vineyard update

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

### **“At-Home” Renewable Energy Options Tour**

*Saturday: September 22, 2012*

*8:30am - Registration with coffee and muffins*

*9:00am - 1:00pm - Tour*

*Brookside Farm, 2944 Corwin Rd., Branchport, NY*

*Municipal Credits Available*

Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Town of Jerusalem's Conservation & Renewable Energy Committee present a guided tour through the implementation of renewable energy at four different farms in the Town of Branchport.

The tour will include on-site visits of farm and home installation of solar, wind, and geothermal renewable energy systems. The owners at the sites will focus discussion on planning, costs, implementation, and functionality of their systems. Attendees will have an opportunity to see, first-hand, how renewable energy systems work from day to day at a home and farm. During this tour, attendees are encouraged to ask specific questions about the decision-making process, implementation, and operation of renewable energy systems.

Please be sure to wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Some amount of walking will be expected. No smoking since the tour will be around hay and other flammable materials.

**Registration Fee: \$5.00**

*Please call with questions and pre-registration:*

*Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension 315-536-5123*

### ***Note from Hans and Mike:***

The New York State Grape and Wine Classifieds website has been having a minor issue lately and some verification emails are not being sent. If you suspect this has happened to your ad let us know and we will fix it as soon as possible. You can email Mike Colizzi at [mac252@cornell.edu](mailto:mac252@cornell.edu) for help.

# finger lakes vineyard update

## 2012 GROWING DEGREE DAY (GDD) ACCUMULATION

### New Weather Station at the Finger Lakes Teaching Vineyard



As of August 8, we have a new NEWA weather station located at the Finger Lakes Teaching Vineyard at Anthony Road. The station is called '[Dresden \(FLGP/FLCC\)](#)' on the NEWA website. Starting next year, we will primarily be using this station to track growing degree days and rainfall, insect and disease modeling, and other weather information for the program. We will continue to track the information gathered at the Geneva weather station as well, primarily for the ability to compare and contrast growing seasons.

### 2012 Growing Degree Day (GDD) Accumulation

We are once again tracking GDD accumulation for the Finger Lakes region beginning on April 1. While it isn't any kind of measure of the "quality" of a growing season, it gives us a way to compare heat accumulation between years, which can have some impact on fruit maturity, and pest development. If you are interested in the results from a different location, you can go to the '[Station Pages](#)' portion of the NEWA website and choose the location you are interested in.

	Geneva	Geneva <sup>#</sup>	Branchport*	Lodi*
8/21/12	2150.1	2269.7	2150.3	2208.9
Long-term average GDD	1849.6			
Days ahead/behind avg (+/-)	+19			
GDD on Aug. 21, 2011	2131.2			
GDD on Aug. 21, 2010	2242.0			

\* We do not have long-term average data for Branchport and Ovid, so we cannot report how far or behind these two locations are in GDD accumulation.

<sup>#</sup> We have had a few people ask about tracking GDDs starting in March because of the initial growth that many vineyards had before April 1, so we will include this information in our GDD tracking for the remainder of the growing season.



# finger lakes vineyard update

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>.

*Finger Lakes Vineyard Update* is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Finger Lakes Grape Program and sent out by subscription. For subscription information, please call us at 315-536-5134 or look for subscription forms at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/flgp/enroll/>.

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New York State Department of Labor—***Pay Notice & Work Agreement for Farmworkers***

[For English—Click here](#)

[For Spanish—Click here](#)