



Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In The Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

The recurring theme we've been hearing over the past week or so has been "the best September ever." However you might define that, and however you measure it, the month of September was really good for the grape industry in the Finger Lakes.

Growing degree days (GDDs) were about average for the month overall, but it was the sunny and dry conditions that were the main story. On average, we receive our highest monthly rainfall in September with about 3.7" overall (at Geneva). This year, the weather station at Geneva recorded less than 1" of rain, which makes it the driest September since 1973, when our records begin (just FYI, the second driest September over that span was way back in 2013). Disease development continues to remain in check for the most part. While botrytis infections are certainly present in many blocks, we are still not seeing (or smelling) much development of sour rot in these spots. Most of the rot that we do find is in places where heavier canopies or overlapping clusters prevent sprays, sunlight and wind from helping to reduce pressure.

According to results from our Veraison to Harvest samples over the last couple of weeks, it looks like acidity in most varieties and locations has been heading down a little faster than it had been a few weeks earlier. All but one of the Riesling samples taken on September 30 still had pH less than 3.0 and TA numbers above 10 g/L. Brix levels in our Riesling samples were all still below 20° last week, but I think this is less of an issue for most winemakers than what is going on with acidity. We are starting to hear about some early picking of Riesling starting this week, but assuming the fruit remains in good condition I'm guessing much of it will be left to hang a little longer.

Concord harvest is continuing to roll along. Growers have been telling us that tonnage is high again this year, with yields around 10 tons/acre or more not unusual around Branchport and on Bluff Point. The concern now is that, after two years of bearing heavy crops, there would seem to be a good probability that yields will be down significantly next year. Of course, that's what many of us thought after last year's record crop, so who knows what things will look like next year.

Links To

[Events](#) [2](#)

[GDD's](#) [3](#)



Picking Corot Noir at the Teaching Vineyard on Monday, October 6. This fruit will be used by M.S. student Alex Fredrickson (who is somewhere under the canopies in the picture) as part of his research on tannin additions to red hybrid musts.

Upcoming Events

Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference 2014

2014 Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference

Unified Symposium

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

November 11 and 12, 2014

December 9, 2014

January 27—29, 2015

February 26 thru 28, 2015

Upcoming Events

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



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](#).



Unified Symposium

January 27-29, 2015

Sacramento Convention Center

Sacramento, CA

The Unified Symposium will once again feature the largest trade show in North America for the grape and wine industry, along with lots of information sessions on emerging issues, trends and breakthroughs in grapegrowing, winemaking, marketing and business.

Program and housing registration will open on October 28. Visit <http://www.unifiedsymposium.org> for more information.



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

October 8, 2014

2014 GDD Accumulation

2014 GDD & Precipitation

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp	Lo Temp	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
10/1/14	71.9	58.5	0.00"	15.2	2571.9
10/2/14	72.6	55.3	0.00"	14.0	2585.8
10/3/14	70.7	55.5	0.00"	13.1	2598.9
10/4/14	63.5	43.3	0.34"	3.4	2602.3
10/5/14	55.4	34.7	0.00"	0.0	2602.3
10/6/14	68.5	41.6	0.00"	5.1	2607.4
10/7/14	69	56.3	0.01"	12.7	2620.0
Weekly Total			0.35"	63.5	
Season Total			22.86"	2620.0	

GDDs as of October 7, 2013: 2881.6

Rainfall as of October 7, 2013: 21.37"

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)



Growing Degree Days

	2014 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
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	352.7	347.5	-8
October	56.3	104.6	-7
TOTAL	2368.7	2478.1	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for the month.

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

³ 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 3)

Precipitation

	2014 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
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	0.93"	3.69"	-2.76"
October	0.01"	3.26"	
TOTAL	21.44"	23.06"	+1.62"

⁴ Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

⁵ Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

⁶ 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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