



## The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



### *Crop Update for October 23, 2014*

*The LERGP Crop Update will be going to a biweekly distribution.*

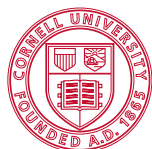
*Look for your next Crop Update in 2 weeks on November 6, 2014.*

*Hopefully, everyone's harvest season is going well.*



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# Business Management

Kevin Martin  
Penn State University, LERGP,  
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## Harvest Home Stretch

Take a look at the other articles in this crop update and you will see from a phenological perspective, this season is just about wrapped up. Economically, we do have a ways to go. Processors are between 75% and 50% complete. Processors have been receiving ripe Concords for 26 days. Due to the size of the crop and variability of processor start dates; the season will extend for another 10 to 14 days.

Most anecdotal evidence indicates the bulk of Concord production was meeting minimum standards by week two. Vineyards that were not over-cropped, particularly thinned vineyards, were reaching 16 brix in the first days of harvest. It appears, for the third time in three years, cancelled loads due to brix lead to significant economic damage.

When harvest extends well into November by the time loads are rescheduled there is a potential for significant loss through shelling. Currently shelling appears to be highly variable. Cold sites did see a light frost but most shelling appears to be related to disease and insect pressure.

There are significant differences between growers when comparing the percentages of tons removed thus far. Many growers that were able to pick early and in the rain, will likely wrap up by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Low brix, low crop estimates and processing capacity have left other harvesters playing catch-up. Another week or so of mild weather will be critical for these growers to maximize harvested yields.

As we have seen in the past, anecdotal results of commercial growers mostly replicate years of thinning research. In other words, we are seeing high yields for growers that thinned over cropped vineyards. Unlike in past years, the widespread thinning in 2013 has likely increased average yields for 2014. Historically thinning was much more site and grower specific. Furthermore, the thinning allowed growers to avoid a cyclical yield. While demand for grape juice is presently soft, a cyclical yield would only have exacerbated the problem. Most growers will have the ability to prepare for a normal sized crop in 2015 as well; rather than facing the threat of severely over cropped vineyards.

With the large Washington State crop, it is likely that a normal sized crop or above will be necessary to break even in 2015. Growers with markets remain relatively fortunate but downward price pressure is likely to continue for another year, as it seems likely to do with many basic agricultural commodities and indirect competitors.

Some growers have voiced concerns related to late season harvest and fruit quality. Even with fruit reaching maturity on schedule, late season harvest is going to be a concern. Shelling and secondary rots may also be a concern. From a viticulture perspective, these may be valid concerns. However, we all understand the concept of maximizing production. Any sustainable level of production will require harvest times to be at least four or five weeks long. In doing so, grapes beyond mature will be harvested. The good news is, most processors compensate growers for water lost during dehydration. Further, processors seem far less concerned about manipulating flavor and quality during processing late season grapes, as long as brix and color are high.



# Cultural Practices

Luke Haggerty  
Viticulture Extension Associate  
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

## Soil Tests

As we are nearing the end of harvest most of you have had a chance to see your vines up close and personal. If you noticed symptoms of nutrient deficiencies or it has been a while since you tested your soil, bring samples into the lab. Turnaround time has been less than 10 days and I usually complete application recommendations a couple days after the results come in. Soil tests help determine what nutrients are available in your soils and guide decisions on which and how much nutrients you need to apply back to your soils. The procedure for submitting soil samples is as follows.



- Check a soil survey map to get an idea of how many samples are needed for good representation of your vineyard blocks.
  - If needed, Rhiann or Kim, our GIS specialists, can print soil survey maps of your property here at the extension lab.
- For surface samples dig a hole 8 inches deep and collect **~1.5 cups of soil**.
- For sub-surface samples dig a hole from 8 to 24 inches deep and collect **~1.5 cups of soil**.
- Let soil samples dry and place them in labeled plastic or paper bag.
  - Label should include location and soil type for example, Rout 5 vineyard block 3; Chenango Gravely Loam.
- Bring soil samples to 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY 14769.

The cost of a soil sample is \$17 per sample, and only \$15 if you are submitting 5 or more samples. We have been getting results back within seven to ten days after submission. Upon receiving results we **provide a consult and detailed nutrient recommendations** over the phone, email, at your location, or here at the extension lab. If you have questions about taking a soil sample or if you would like to set up a site visit where I can assist in taking samples please get ahold of me. Call me at (716) 792-2800 Ext. 204 or email me at [llh85@cornell.edu](mailto:llh85@cornell.edu)





# Weather Data

DATE/YEAR	HIGH	LOW	DAILY PRECIP	GDDs	TOTAL APRIL GDDs	TOTAL JAN GDDs
Week of 09/25/2014	69.3	50.30	0.05	68.5	2504.5	2504.5
Week of 10/1/2014	71.3	52.60	0.00	83.5	2588	2588
Week of 10/8/2014	66.4	50.90	0.30	64	2652	2652
Week of 10/15/2014	65.3	47.00	0.12	49.5	2701.5	2701.5
Week of 10/22/2014	57	47.60	0.25	24	2725.5	2725.5
Average(from 1964)	59.5	43.50	0.20	27.6	2683.5	2683.5
Oct Precip- Wk 1= .30" Wk 2=.84" Wk 3= 1.78"						
Total Precip: June = 5.05" July = 4.47" Aug= 2.58" Sept= 2.77"						



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](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!





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Contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

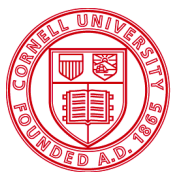
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THE LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM at CLEREL

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