



Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

My apologies that this week's abbreviated Update is coming out on Thursday, rather than Wednesday. Much like many of you, we're a little behind and trying to get ourselves closer to being caught up. We'll be back on our regular schedule next week.

I also want to once again offer our thanks to Morten and Lisa Hallgren at Ravines Wine Cellars for hosting our Spring IPM Meeting on Tuesday, as well as our speakers and sponsors for the meeting. We had our largest crowd ever, but fortunately the barn at Ravines was able to accommodate us all to keep us out of the wind. - Hans

In The Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

Amazing what a little heat will do. Over the past week, we are at or past budbreak in all varieties – even late ones like Vidal and Cabernet Sauvignon – in most areas. Shoots in natives and early hybrid varieties are generally at about 2-5" of growth, meaning it's time to be thinking about that first phomopsis spray of the season in these blocks (if you can get around to it). Early vinifera cultivars like Chardonnay are generally around 2-3" of growth as well. Budbreak in several Riesling blocks that I have seen over the past few days looks less uniform than for other varieties. Some of this erratic budbreak is likely due to winter injury and vines are waiting to push out secondary shoots, but we'll learn more soon as the return of some warm temperatures later this weekend and next week should give some more encouragement of the remaining buds to begin to push.

I hesitate to even mention another reminder about timing for an important practice – between finishing pruning and tying, hilling down, weed spraying

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May 19 2015

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Vineyard Mechanization and Grape & Wine Quality

July 26-29, 2015

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and early disease control sprays, we're also entering the optimal window for shoot thinning. For a few years now, we have been summarizing what we have been learning about the viticulture impacts of shoot thinning – better disease control and improved potential bud fruitfulness thanks to reducing shading and crowding – but the results are mixed about whether shoot thinning has any benefit to final fruit and wine quality. We know, for example, that improving sun exposure to fruit earlier in the season (soon after fruit set) can reduce methoxypyrazine levels in certain red *vinifera* cultivars like Cabernet Franc. However, I think most growers are achieving this primarily by pulling leaves after fruit set is done, rather than through shoot removal. This will probably be especially true this year, given how many other tasks need finishing in the vineyard before this one.



Early shoots of Cayuga White (above) and other varieties at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard in Dresden took a little bit of hail damage from the recent storms.



Shoots on Marquette are at 4-7" already.



Budbreak in some Riesling blocks has been uneven so far, with some shoots at 1-3" and others still at budswell.

IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

Phomopsis

As I mentioned above, natives and hybrids are at, or near, the 3-5" stage of shoot growth, which is the window for the first spray for phomopsis control. With the dry weather we had until a few days ago, pressure was minimal but that certainly changed with three straight days with more than 0.1" of rain. If phomopsis pressure has been light in past years, or there is not much older wood high up in the trellis to provide early inoculum, you could consider delaying the first application for a little bit – the cooler weather will slow growth down to some extent, extending the window for treatment a little bit. There is obviously a lot to do in the vineyard right now, but we know that this early spray can easily pay for itself at harvest by protecting the newly exposed clusters, stems and shoots from infection.

Steely/Grape Flea Beetles

Buds on most varieties are past the point where feeding by flea beetles could have significant impacts. We have also hardly seen any of them over this past week.

As shoots continue to develop over the next couple of weeks, insect pests like [banded grape bug](#) and grape plume moth will start to appear, but damage from these insects is usually minor and not worth the expense of a spray application. Still, it's always important to be keeping an eye out for their presence while out doing other work in the vineyard.

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.

FLGP Tailgate Meetings

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Wickham's Tango Oaks Farm

5557 Route 414, Hector NY

Our annual series of tailgate meetings continues on Tuesday, May 19, at Wickham's Tango Oaks Farm in Hector.

These meetings are held every other week at various grape farms around the Finger Lakes, and are intended to be informal, small-group meetings where FLGP staff and growers can ask questions and discuss issues about vineyard management, IPM strategies or other topics appropriate for that point in the growing season. The DEC has approved 1.0 pesticide recertification credits for each Tailgate Meeting this year.

Dates and locations for the rest of this year's Tailgate Meetings can be found under the '[Events](#)' section of our website.



Second International Workshop on Vineyard Mechanization and Grape and Wine Quality

July 26-29, 2015

SUNY-Fredonia Campus

Fredonia, NY

The Second International Workshop on Vineyard Mechanization and Grape and Wine Quality will be held July 26 to July 29, 2015, in Fredonia New York. The event is sponsored by the International Society for Horticulture Science, in conjunction with the Eastern Section of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, and follows the successful inaugural event held in Italy in 2012. The workshop brings together international experts in grape mechanization and grape producers to report and discuss the latest research on grapevine mechanization, precision viticulture and the use of mechanization and technology to improve grape and wine quality. Technical focus areas will include engineering advancements and mechanized tools for vineyard operations, the application of remote and proximal sensing technologies for monitoring vine performance, variable rate and zonal vineyard management for improving vineyard productivity and the economic impact of mechanized systems on fruit yield and quality. This is the first time that the workshop will be held in the US. Scientists and grape growers from over 20 countries are expected to participate in the event.

Registration and program details can be found by visiting <http://events.cals.cornell.edu/ishs>.

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

May 14, 2015

2015 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
5/6/15	71.7	53.7	0.00	12.7	135.5
5/7/15	79.8	50.3	0.00	15.1	150.5
5/8/15	87.4	58.4	0.00	22.9	173.4
5/9/15	85.1	63.6	0.05	24.4	197.8
5/10/15	81.8	65.4	0.90	23.6	221.4
5/11/15	82.7	64.6	1.32	23.7	245.0
5/12/15	71.3	53	0.29	12.2	257.2
Weekly Total			2.56"	134.6	
Season Total			4.95"	257.2	

GDDs as of May 12, 2014: 152.5

Rainfall as of May 12, 2014: 4.46"

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days



	2015 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days
April	40.8	65.2	-7
May	185.5	248.6	+12
June		481.5	
July		640.6	
August		588.6	
September		347.6	
October		105.5	
TOTAL		2477.6	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for the month.

² The long-term average (1973-2014) GDD accumulation for that month.

³ Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year's GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. The most recent number represents the current status.

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

May 14, 2015

2015 GDD & Precipitation (continued from page 4)

Precipitation

	2014 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	2.54"	2.90	-0.31"
May	0.98"	3.11	
June		3.60	
July		3.42	
August		3.17	
September		3.63	
October		3.25	
TOTAL		23.08"	

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

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>.

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