



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In The Vineyard

Mike Colizzi



*Figure 1 A concord vine that has sustained about 90% damage from frost.*

This past Saturday morning most of us were keeping a close eye on the temperature in our vineyards. Some locations experienced temperatures at or below freezing while others hovered around 35 degrees. I made several stops on Tuesday to try and get a better handle on the extent of the damage. From my best judgment we were right on the verge of experiencing significant damage. In the severely affected vineyards we were seeing that 80-

90% of shoots were damaged. These are vineyards planted on flat sites with very poor air drainage. Once you moved away from the flat sites and got onto ground that had more of a slope the damage was substantially less.

Many of the damaged vines I was looking at yesterday were starting to compensate for the frost damage. If just the shoot tip was damaged laterals were already starting to push. In cases where the whole shoot was scorched

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**FLGP Tailgate Meeting**

*June 2, 2015*

**40th Annual American Society for Enology & Viticulture**

*July 23-25, 2015*

**Second International Workshop**

*July 26-29, 2015*

*Vineyard Mechanization and Grape & Wine Quality*

## In The Vineyard (continued from page 1)



*Figure 2 Shoot tip and clusters damaged by frost.*

secondary buds were swelling and should be expected to push in the next week. What could happen now is that we have vines with a crop on primary and secondary shoots. This could extend the bloom period several weeks and make both disease management and harvest logistics challenging.

As far as the potential impact on yield is concerned many vineyards will have to wait and see what emerges from the secondary shoots. In some cases there was no damage to clusters and just the shoot tips were killed, while other vines lost whole shoots. At this point damaged clusters will be brown and the florets will fall off when you touch them. Depending on how severely the cluster was it might result in a total loss of the cluster or just reduced set. Lets hope that was the last cold night until fall.

Labor continues to be an issue for growers. Most vineyards are at least pruned with just a few places needing to finish the follow up in spur pruned natives and hybrids. However, many vineyards are still not tied. Deep snow across our area plus the condensed spring has kept crews very busy and in high demand.

Location	Low Temp (F)
Branchport	31.3
Dresden (FLGP Teaching Vineyard)	35.4
Geneva (Experiment Station)	33.0
Hammondsport	32.9
Hector	30.8
Himrod	32.3
Ovid	35.6
South Bristol	32.9
Watkins Glen	32.2
Williamson	29.1

*Table 1 Morning low temps for 5/23/15*

## IPM

*Mike Colizzi*

For most vineyards at least one if not two sprays have been applied by now. We are at that time where a Phomopsis spray is critical to protect against rachis infections. The forecasts are calling for rain this weekend and some of next week so getting a spray on now could be what it takes to keep your vineyard clean. Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew sprays should not be delayed anymore. Downy mildew organisms typically first become active once shoots reach 10 inches long.

## Winery Benchmarks program kicks off

Allows wineries to measure their business against wine industry peer data

PUBLISHED ON **MAY 26TH, 2015**



*Winery owners throughout the Northeast use the benchmarking program to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their businesses, find strategies to capture the full market value of their products, create marketing that matches the quality of their wine and to find new ways to control costs and gain efficiencies.*

ENFIELD, Conn. — Farm Credit East’s Winery Benchmarks program is currently underway and accepting sign-ups for the 2015 benchmark! This unique program, now in its eighth year, allows wineries to measure their business against wine industry peer data.

“The benchmark program provides an exclusive report on winery business performance unique to our region, comparison reports showing the participants data next to industry data, an annual meeting and one-on-one follow up with a winery business consultant,” said Gregg McConnell, director of the program. “This year, the benchmark program is growing to include several Michigan wineries that will join us as they build their own regional program. Their participation will bring additional data to the benchmark and new ideas as participants enjoy networking at the meeting.”

Winery owners throughout the Northeast use the benchmarking program to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their businesses, find strategies to capture the full market value of their products, create marketing that matches the quality of their wine and to find new ways to control costs and gain efficiencies.

Data collection for this year’s program is currently underway. If you’d like your winery to be included in this year’s benchmark, please contact your local Farm Credit East office, call Kathy Young at 800.929.7102 or email Gregg McConnell at [Gregg.McConnell@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:Gregg.McConnell@farmcrediteast.com).

Results will be compiled in July and individual benchmark reports will be provided to each of this year’s participants in time for the annual meeting to be held at the New York Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua, NY on August 5, 2015. For more information on the Farm Credit East Winery Benchmarks program and to watch a short video about the program, visit the following link: <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/winerybenchmarks.aspx>

—Farm Credit East

## 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, June 2 5:00 – 6:30 PM*

*Smith Brothers Farm*

*9404 Ridge Road*

*North Rose, NY 14516*

Our annual series of tailgate meetings continues on Tuesday, May 19, at Smith Brothers Farm in North Rose. This will be our first grower meeting in Wayne County since they joined the FLGP this year.

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.



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## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual American Society for Enology and Viticulture – Eastern Section Conference

*July 23-25, 2015*

*Clarion Hotel & Conference Center*

*30 Lake Shore Drive E*

*Dunkirk, NY 14048*

Join us for the 40<sup>th</sup> American Society of Enology and Viticulture – Eastern Section (ASEV-ES) conference in Dunkirk, NY on July 23-25, 2015. The host hotel for the ASEV-ES Conference will be the Clarion Hotel Marina and Conference Center in Dunkirk, NY. On Thursday, July 23 there will be a **pre-conference tour** of New York vineyards and wineries. The **conference** will begin with technical presentations on Friday and Saturday, July 24-25 and include Friday's Oenolympics Grazing Dinner with Wines of the East and Saturday's Sparkling Wine Reception and Grand Awards Banquet.



For registration, housing and program information, please visit <http://www.asev-es.org/>.

## **Upcoming Events** (continued from page 4)

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### **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>.



## Additional Information

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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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