



In The Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

2015: A Mixed Bag in the Finger Lakes

We always say that one of the big differences between growing grapes on the West Coast and in the East is that our growing seasons can be vastly different from one year to the next. Even within a growing season, we can have significant swings between cool and warm, cloudy and sunny, rain-soaked and drought – which pretty much describes the 2015 season in the Finger Lakes.



The impacts of two very cold winters started to become apparent as soon as budbreak got started, and more so as we approached bloom, primarily in *vinifera* varieties. In seeming opposition to last year, when many vineyards had more fruit than they expected after one hard winter, many growers found themselves with less fruit than they expected after last winter. While this past winter was generally colder than the previous one, bud hardiness levels were also

the lowest that we have ever seen in our annual evaluations, giving us hope that the vines would survive the deep freeze. Unfortunately, we ended up seeing significantly more injury to buds, canes and trunks in a number of blocks and varieties (again, mostly *vinifera*) this year than in 2014, which resulted in a shortage of several varieties, including Pinot Gris, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and even Riesling.

Native and most hybrid varieties survived the winter in pretty good shape, for the most part. Concord yields were back to more “normal” levels this year after two very large consecutive crops the past two years. Hybrid varieties performed about the same overall, although a few wineries were unable to get as much Cayuga White and Vidal as they were hoping for this year.

Just before the start of bloom, the rains came – and came, and came and came. In the month of June, the weather station at Geneva recorded 7.28" of rain – twice as much as the monthly average. We saw some instances of early downy and botrytis infections in new clusters, and knew that the potential for bunch rot development after veraison was higher too.

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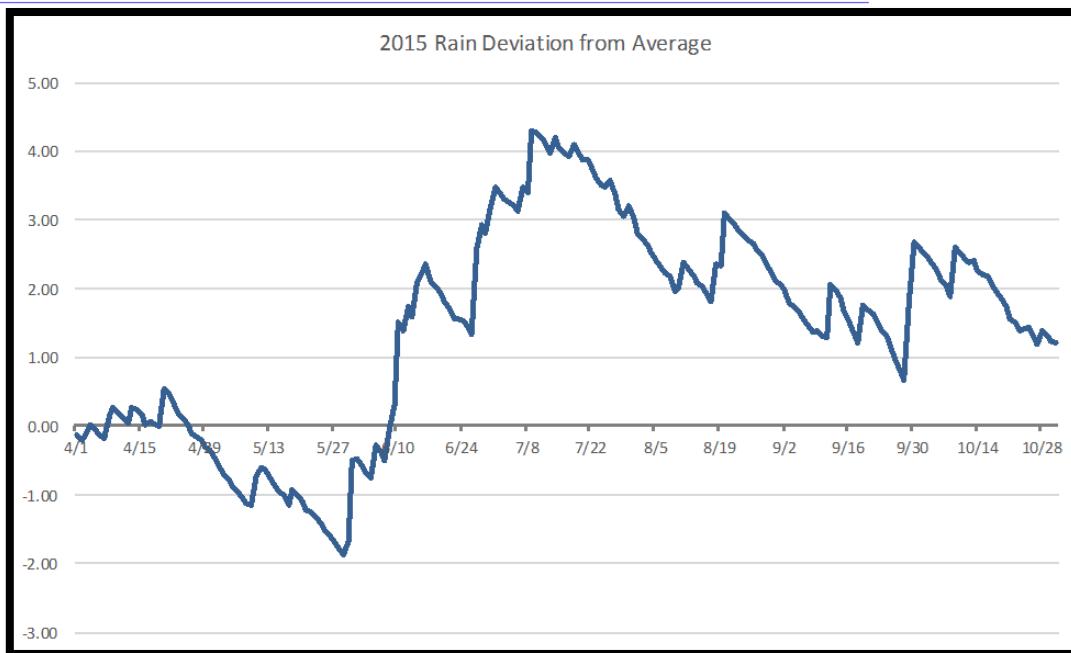


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Finger Lakes Grape Program

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In the Vineyard (continued from page 1)



Deviation of 2015 rainfall at Geneva from the long-term average. Precipitation was more than 6" above normal from late May to early July. We gradually dried out over much of the rest of the season.

Fortunately, the season took a turn after June and got much warmer and drier, including a couple of stretches of 2-3 weeks with almost no rain whatsoever. This helped to keep disease development in check, but on sites with limited rooting depth, vines developed significant drought stress, with basal leaves turning yellow or even losing valuable leaf area.

The rain pattern returned to something closer to normal starting in the latter half of September, waking up the latent bunch rot infections that got established earlier in the year. Varieties that are more susceptible to bunch rot issues – Vignoles and Riesling in particular – had the most trouble staying clean. Some producers struggled with sour rot this year, but in many cases botrytis was creating much of the “snork” on its own.

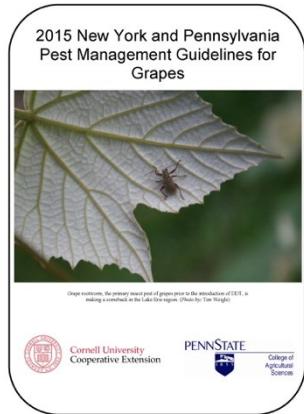
The warm weather after veraison pushed fruit maturity as well. Ripening data collected for our Veraison to Harvest project showed that fruit development was about 7-10 days earlier than 2014 through most of harvest. Titratable acidity in particular was noticeably lower than in past years. As a result, some wineries and growers were able to pick fruit earlier than normal, with a few wineries having one of the earliest ends to their harvest season ever.



Guideline Revisions

Your Help Needed to Revise the 2016 NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes

Tim Weigle, Grape IPM Specialist



It is that time of year when Greg Loeb, Wayne Wilcox, Andrew Landers and the rest of the grape research and extension staff in New York and Pennsylvania start working to get the latest and greatest research-based information into next year's grape guidelines, and we could use your help.

Think back over the year(s) when you have been using the guidelines – has there ever been a time when you have wished you could find a specific type of information, or that the information that was there was presented in a different format? If so, now is your chance to have input on what you can find and how it is displayed.

If you have any suggestions on what's missing, what isn't needed, or how what is there could be better presented, please send them to Tim Weigle at thw4@cornell.edu. I will then make sure they get to the correct section authors and editors.

CRAVE Conference

CRAVE Conference

Cornell Recent Advances in Viticulture and Enology

November 4, 2015

8:30 – 3:30 PM

ILR Conference Center and WebEx webinar

The annual CRAVE (Cornell Recent Advances in Viticulture and Enology) conference features 15 minute presentations by Cornell faculty, extension associates, and graduate students on current extension and research topics of their choice. For this year's conference, we would like to invite members of the industry to log on for as little or as much time as you want to hear cutting-edge presentations about viticulture, enology, economics and more. Find out what Cornell Research and Extension faculty and staff have been up to this past year.

To Attend:

The entire program will be broadcast as a webinar that you can access through your computer. To join the webinar, simply click on this link: [Join CRAVE](https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/j.php?MTID=m9c2a3a53417a9ea90d708d06846c0c4b) or:

<https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/j.php?MTID=m9c2a3a53417a9ea90d708d06846c0c4b>

Meeting number: 317 586 442

And type in the password: **Grapes2015**

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CRAVE Conference (continued from page 3)

Then follow instructions to join the ‘audio conference’. You will hear the speakers’ audio and see their slides. You may also ask questions by typing them in at the ‘Chat bar’.

Schedule:

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Production and establishment costs for cold-hardy grapes in the North Country (Gomez Program)
Grapevine Red Blotch Disease – Economics and Potential Spread (Gomez and Fuchs Program)
Winter and spring frost injury impact to Marquette and Frontenac (Martinson Program)
Spatial ‘precision viticulture’ vineyard management project (Bates Program)
Genetics of Black Rot resistance (Reisch Program)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Grape rootworm in the Lake Erie Region (Weigle & Loeb Program)
Floor management impact on microbes in Riesling (Vanden Heuvel Program)
Market developments and the future of the Bulk wine and juice industry (Martin, LERGP)
Mechanical Thinning in 2013 and its effect on Concord productivity in ’14 (Haggerty/LERGP)
Limits to tannin extraction and retention (Sacks Program)
Adjusting air volume while spraying (Landers Program)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Microbial terroir: Wild yeast and bacteria and spontaneous fermentations (Mansfield Program)
Understanding Sour Rot Etiology and Developing Management Techniques (Wilcox Program)
YAN requirements for Riesling in spontaneous and inoculated fermentations (Mansfield Program)
Trends in grape maturity from 7 years of *Véraison to Harvest* (Gerling/Martinson Programs)
Leaf removal and shoot tipping at bloom: Impact on cluster compactness and *Botrytis*. (Martinson Program)

For a detailed Program Agenda and topics, click on:

[CRAVE Schedule 2015](#)

International Cool Climate Wine Symposium

International Cool Climate Wine Symposium

May 26-28, 2016



The 2016 International Cool Climate Wine Symposium is being held next spring in Brighton, on the southern coast of England, directly south of London. If this seems like an odd place to hold a grape and wine symposium, I can tell you from visiting there a couple of years ago that the area is quickly developing a reputation for high-quality wine production, especially for some really excellent sparkling wines.

Past versions of this conference have been held in Tasmania, Seattle, Australia, and in Rochester NY back in 1996. The three-day conference will feature talks by experts in viticulture, enology, sales and marketing, and other aspects of producing and selling wines from cool-climate regions around the world. You can read more about the conference and the program at the event's website, <http://www.iccws2016.com/>.

If anybody is interested in possibly going to the ICCWS next spring, please let me know. A couple of growers have told me that they are considering it, and if there is enough interest, we may try to organize something to travel as a group.

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2015 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
10/22/15	67.0	51.1	0.15	9.1	2937.0
10/23/15	50.8	35.6	0.00	0.0	2937.0
10/24/15	52.3	35.0	0.12	0.0	2937.0
10/25/15	53.8	45.0	0.13	0.0	2937.0
10/26/15	49.9	34.1	0.00	0.0	2937.0
10/27/15	58.5	33.5	0.00	0.0	2937.0
10/28/15	61.3	47.1	0.30	4.2	2941.2
Weekly Total			0.70"	13.3	
Season Total			25.22"	2941.2	

GDDs as of October 28, 2014: 2725.8



Rainfall as of October 28, 2014: 24.13"

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2015 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	40.8	65.2	-7
May	408.4	248.6	+8
June	444.9	481.5	+5
July	606.8	640.6	+3
August	572.0	588.6	+3
September	492.0	347.6	+34*
October	90.4	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.

* As of September 23, we surpassed our average GDD accumulation for April 1 – October 31.

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2015 GDD & Precipitation (continued from page 4)

Precipitation

	2015 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	2.54"	2.90	-0.31"
May	2.97"	3.11	-0.14"
June	7.28"	3.60	+3.68"
July	3.27"	3.42	-0.15"
August	2.25"	3.17	-0.92"
September	4.20"	3.63	+0.57"
October	1.78"	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)

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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>.

FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

Is published by

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527

315.536.5134



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