



Finger Lakes Grape Program

April 27, 2016

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## In the Vineyard

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

The cool conditions in April have slowed the march towards budbreak thus far. At this point, we have only officially called budbreak in Jupiter (on Friday, April 22), one of our seedless table grape varieties at the Teaching Vineyard, but I anticipate that our other table grape, Marquis, and Marquette will be at that stage today or tomorrow. Many other varieties are at various stages of budswell, including Cayuga White, Cabernet Franc and Lemberger. I expect a shot of some warmer weather will push many of these varieties through budbreak soon.

While April has been cooler than normal so far, it has also been significantly drier than normal, as can be seen by anybody driving on a dirt road. We received about 0.5" of rain yesterday around at Geneva, giving us a total of 1.14" for the month – well below the average of about 2.6" that we have by this time of the month. Given the relative lack of moisture we had in March as well (only 1.18" recorded in Geneva), we could probably use some more moisture in the soil profile before the vines begin to develop their canopies .



**Budswell in Concord on Keuka Lake.**



**Budswell on Baco noir near Hammondsport.**



**Orange slime molds on pruning wounds are caused by several types of fungus and yeast feeding on sugars and other nutrients in sap. They are not harmful to the vines.**

## IPM

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

With most varieties still somewhere around budswell, the primary pests of concern right now are [grape flea beetle](#) (a.k.a., steely beetle) and [climbing cutworm](#). Both of these pests feed on swelling buds, and therefore can have a significant impact on productivity with high enough populations. The potential for damage from these pests increases if weather conditions cause buds to swell but then stop further development for a while. So if conditions remain cool for the next several days, there is a longer period of time for these pests to feed on swollen buds. If warmer conditions cause shoots to push through budswell and budbreak, the potential for damage is reduced.

Fortunately, these are generally minor pests in Finger Lakes vineyards in most years. Back in 2012, however, several vineyards saw much larger populations of steely beetle that required spraying for the first time that those growers could remember. We also had a very drawn-out period of time where buds were stuck at the budswell stage, which exacerbated the problem. So even if there has been little to no damage in past years, it is possible for steely beetles to appear under certain conditions.



Source: Tim Weigle, IPM Program



Source: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/cutworm.jpg>



Steely beetles will usually feed on the center of the swollen bud, often leaving a hole through the middle of the bud (see photo). This can either damage or completely kill the bud and young shoot, depending on what tissues the beetle feeds on. Beetles can also feed on leaves and stems later in the spring, but this damage tends to be more cosmetic and less problematic.

Climbing cutworm prefer lighter, sandier soils, hiding under debris on the vineyard floor near the vine, and emerge at night to feed. Cutworm larvae will feed on the entire bud, sometimes leaving a kind of “cup” of bud scales left behind (see photo). This feeding is obviously serious if enough of it takes place.

The recommended damage threshold for both pests is 2% of buds counted. Materials labeled for both pests include Sevin, Danitol, Baythroid and Leverage 360 (a full listing can be found in the Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes).



Source: <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/>

## April 26th Tailgate Meeting Recap

---

*Gillian Trimmer*

Despite the chilly April afternoon, we had a barn full of growers turn out yesterday for our first of the season's [Tailgate Meetings](#). As is only appropriate, the conversation started out with our favorite obsession: the weather and its repercussions. The handful of cold nights scattered across an otherwise mild winter have left some growers counting up dead vines in their vineyard rows once again, leading to a conversation about re-planting and the associated costs. Several people shared their experiences working with the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provided by the USDA Farm Service Agency, which will help pay to replace or rehabilitate ailing vines. Of course, damage to buds and canes after the winter cold events was also discussed.

In Branchport, near to where yesterday's meeting was held, 34.5 Growing Degree Days have been accumulated thus far in the month of April, indicating that it's been a little cooler than average. Concerns regarding the potential for steely beetle feeding were raised, as buds on Concords and many other varieties have reached the wool stage and threaten to remain there for a while. Though steely beetles (also known as grape flea beetles, or *Altica chalybea*) can feed on green tissue after budbreak as well, their bullet hole-like boring through a swollen bud can do a great deal of damage to the tightly packed clusters, leaves, and shoots in a very short amount of time and space. Cutworms can be problematic at this time of year for similar reasons, hollowing out entire buds and the pent-up shoots within. Discussion of these two pests, as well as crown gall and the potential for phomopsis in older wood (particularly on vines that have been mechanically pruned with minimal follow-up) earned attendees their 0.75 DEC pesticide recertification credits.

Dwindling funding for grape-focused studies without a grower-driven research order, mechanization of pruning operations, and the real costs of labor this year (both with and without mechanization) rounded out our conversation for the evening. As we had hoped, the meeting was driven by the topics and concerns on growers' minds, and those that came were able to not only pick the brains of Hans and myself, but of one another. We're definitely looking forward to the next Tailgate Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Lucas Vineyards!

## 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.



### **Webinar: “Setting the Stage - Developing Outreach and Adoption strategies”**

*Thursday, April 28 11:00 AM*

Join extension staff and researchers from Cornell University, Carnegie Mellon and University of California Davis for this webinar, the first in a series of Showcase webinars for the NIFA SCRI project “Precision Vineyard Management: Collecting and Interpreting Spatial Data for Variable Vineyard Management to Improve Production Efficiency and Product Quality”.



The webinar is free but preregistration is required by emailing Kim at [ksk76@cornell.edu](mailto:ksk76@cornell.edu).

One of the goals of this project is to determine both the preferred learning styles of growers (how do you want the information delivered) as well as the current knowledge base of growers across the country of the technology involved in the project.

Whether you are able to participate in the Webinar or not, please follow the link below and spend 5 – 10 minutes answering our survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EfficientVineyard>

### **Tailgate Meeting #2**

*Tuesday, May 10 4:30 – 6:00 PM*

*Lucas Vineyards*

*3862 County Road 150*

*Interlaken, NY 14847 ([click here to see a map](#))*

Our second Tailgate Meeting of the year will be held at Lucas Vineyards in Interlaken on Tuesday, May 10.

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.

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



## 2016 Growing Degree Days and Rainfall

| FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY |             |             |               |             |            |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Date  | Hi Temp (F) | Lo Temp (F) | Rain (inches) | Daily GDDs  | Total GDDs |
| 4/20/16   | 63.8        | 41.8        | 0.00          | 2.8         | 30.0       |
| 4/21/16   | 74.2        | 41.5        | 0.00          | 7.9         | 37.9       |
| 4/22/16   | 66.9        | 56.7        | 0.02          | 11.8        | 49.7       |
| 4/23/16   | 52.7        | 39.1        | 0.01          | 0.0         | 49.7       |
| 4/24/16   | 55.7        | 34.7        | 0.00          | 0.0         | 49.7       |
| 4/25/16   | 55.0        | 44.4        | 0.01          | 0.0         | 49.7       |
| 4/26/16   | 44.3        | 34.2        | 0.44          | 0.0         | 49.7       |
| Weekly Total  |             |             | <b>0.48"</b>  | <b>22.5</b> |            |
| Season Total  |             |             | <b>1.21"</b>  | <b>49.7</b> |            |

GDDs as of April 26, 2015: 47.9

Rainfall as of April 26, 2015: 2.38"



## Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

### Growing Degree Days

|           | 2016 GDD <sup>1</sup> | Long-term Avg<br>GDD <sup>2</sup> | Cumulative days<br>ahead (+)/behind (-) <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| April     | 34.1                  | 65.2                              | -5   |
| May       |                       | 248.6                             |  |
| June      |                       | 481.5                             |  |
| July      |                       | 640.6                             |  |
| August    |                       | 588.6                             |  |
| September |                       | 347.6                             |  |
| October   |                       | 105.5                             |  |
| TOTAL     | 34.1                  | 2477.6                            |  |

1 Accumulated GDD's 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.

### Precipitation

|           | 2016 Rain <sup>4</sup> | Long-term Avg<br>Rain <sup>5</sup> | Monthly deviation from avg <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| April     | 1.14"                  | 2.89                               |   |
| May       |                        | 3.11                               |   |
| June      |                        | 3.68                               |   |
| July      |                        | 3.42                               |   |
| August    |                        | 3.15                               |   |
| September |                        | 3.64                               |   |
| October   |                        | 3.22                               |   |
| TOTAL     | 1.14"                  | 23.12"                             |   |

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 at <http://flgp.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!

Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service. This program is solely intended to educate consumers about their choices. Contact CCE if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.



### 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