

Frost Damage; Check your Buds!

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I traveled across the majority of the belt today (Friday April 29th) looking for frost damage from the frost event on April 26/27th. I found severe (90%) damage in parts of Cattaraugus, Erie and the north eastern part of Chautauqua counties. Damage in this area **was not confined** to low spots or frost pockets and could be found vineyard wide.

As I move west, most areas were unharmed. However... (a big however), I found frost damage in low spots and frost pockets. Areas I found damage in were along the railroad tracks in Portland and Westfield. Most of the damage in this area **was** confined to low spots and frost pockets.



My Message:

- There are some hard hit areas with 90%+ primary damage.
- Not all areas are damaged! Damage varies across the belt. Many unharmed vineyards.
- The impact on yields will be variable.
- I have not found any secondary bud damage. In some cases the secondary buds are already larger than the damaged primaries. So you need to evaluate your damage within the next week or so, before damage is obscured by the secondary shoots.
- From the road the buds look good, but they may not be. You have to break, cut, or simply pluck off the bud to see the damage. Like winter damage you are looking for brown, black and crunchy buds.
- If you have damage call your crop insurance agent.

