Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Budbreak!

Gillian Trimber

I enjoyed a peaceful day of tying at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard yesterday, the quiet punctuated only by the loud snaps of Lemberger canes breaking in my hands as I tried to bend them into position and the roar of buds swelling and opening all around me, occasionally popping and sputtering as they were brushed off by my fingers and the fruiting wire. But, maybe that was just the traffic on Route 14.

The vines are waking up. Nearly all of the *vinifera* varieties and many of the hybrids planted at our teaching vineyard in Dresden have at least a few open buds, with Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Lemberger, and Grüner showing the first signs of budbreak all at once on Monday, May 1st. So far, open buds in those varieties seem limited to the ends of the more precocious canes, representing perhaps ten percent of the nodes, but that number is changing quickly. Catawba and the 2015 planting of Diamond are out as well. Neighboring vineyards with Niagara and Concord seem to have the fuzzy bud tips giving way to leaf edges just in the past few hours. Following Jupiter's early lead on April 22nd, Chenin Blanc and Zweigelt opened a week ago on April 27th, along with Marquette and the seedless table grape Marquis; by now (Wednesday, May 4th) all five varieties are lush with pink clusters of leaf tips.

All of this reverberating growth has left me shaking my head at the paradox of tying the remaining vines and their delicate buds both very, very quickly and very, very carefully. Driving around the area, it's clear that others are in the same boat. Rev the tractors, measure out the twine, and tap the twist ties against your teeth; the growing season is here, and the vines aren't waiting.

IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

April is usually a fairly cool month in the Finger Lakes, when we only average about 65 growing degree days (GDD) for the month. But this past April was the coolest we've seen since 2000, with only 36.5 GDDs. This doesn't necessarily portend anything for the rest of the season – we had only 40 GDDs last April and then had a very warm May after that.

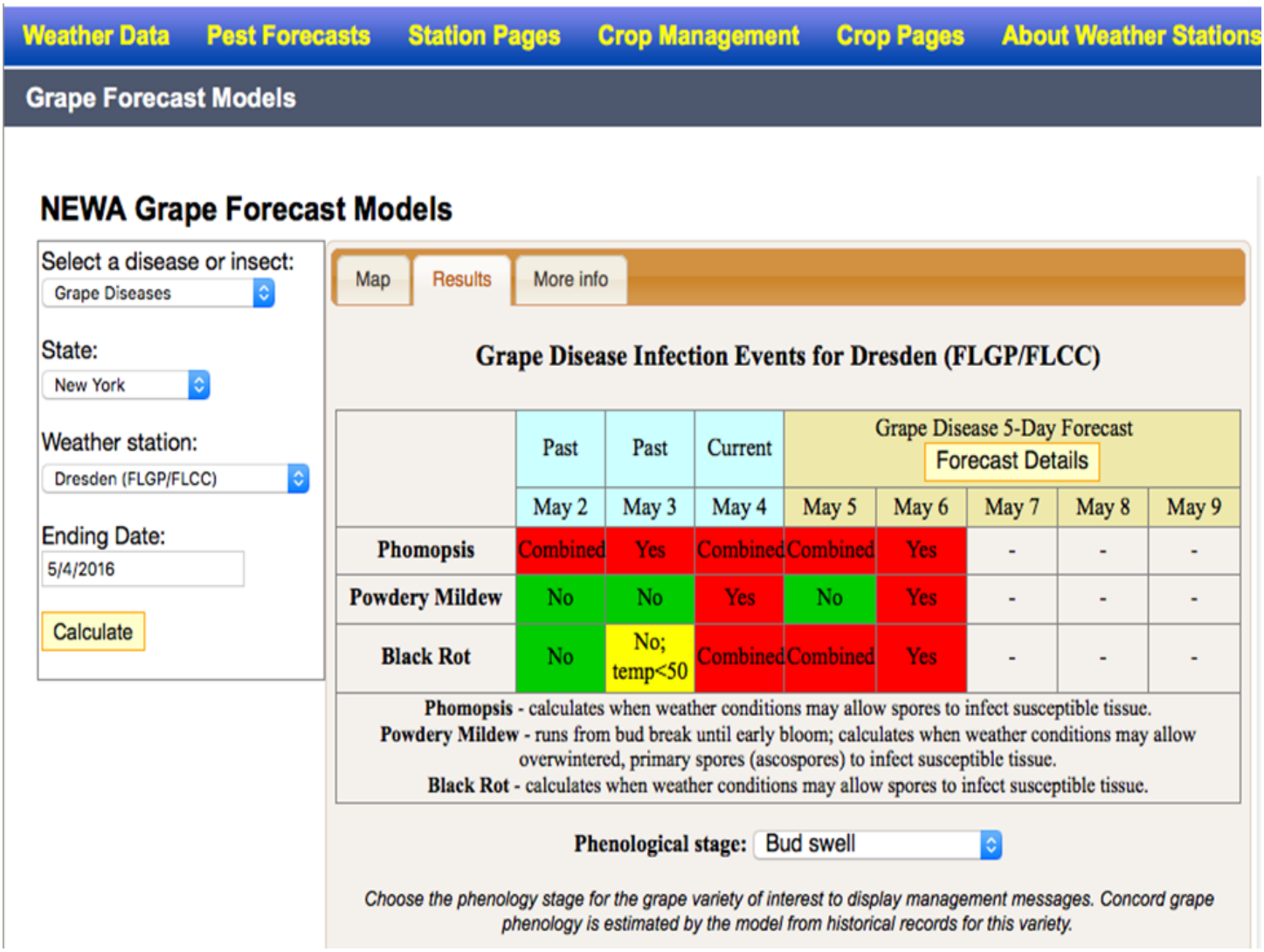
The cool temperatures have put us on pace to have budbreak happen closer to when it normally does in early May. We had been concerned about the potential for an early budbreak after the warm winter we had, but the weather took a turn and has kept early growth pretty minimal at this point. This is a good thing in terms of reducing (not eliminating) the threat of frost injury.

The potential downside of having vines linger in the budswell stage is that they are vulnerable to damage from steely beetle and climbing cutworm for a longer period of time. As I mentioned last week, these are usually minor pests and don't cause much damage in most years, but we can have occasional flare-ups in some locations. With more varieties having swollen buds and approaching budbreak, there are more feeding opportunities for them. Once shoots begin to elongate, the amount of damage that these pests do is reduced, although they still can feed on young leaves and shoot tissue. Steely beetles will be more active on warm, sunny days (which we haven't had many of lately), so that will be the time to scout for their presence.

Phomopsis

Once vines reach 1-3" of shoot growth, growers should be considering making their first application to control phomopsis development. I have noticed a lot more blocks of native and hybrid vines that were mechanically hedged/pruned this winter, and while the benefit of doing this is reduced labor costs for winter pruning (and leaving higher bud numbers in case of winter injury or spring frost), a potential side impact of this is increased pressure for diseases like phomopsis that overwinter on older wood. Phomopsis is spread by splashing water and rainfall, so blocks that are trained to high-wire cordon systems have a higher potential for phomopsis infections than cane-pruned or low-wire training systems. This also means that a wet spring will be more conducive to phomopsis problems than a dry one.

But how can you quickly find out if the weather conditions are conducive for infections to occur? Go to the NEWA website (http://newa.cornell.edu) and click on the 'Grape Forecast Models' under the 'Pest Forecasts' tab at the top. Select the weather station you want to use, and the 'Grape Diseases' option in the drop down box, and you will get a graphic report that looks something like this:



The color-coded boxes indicate when conditions were right, and are forecast to be right, for new infections to occur for phomopsis, powdery mildew and black rot (there is another model that will predict downy mildew infection periods). Growers can use this information to decide when to apply materials, or even better, when they may not be needed. This information will become more and more valuable as we approach the pre- and post-bloom periods, when disease management practices can have a major impact on disease development for the rest of the season.

If you would rather get your weather and pest management information in an email instead of having to go to your computer, then be sure to sign up for…

eNEWA for Grapes (Tim Weigle, NYS Grape IPM Specialist)

Would you like to see the current weather and grape pest information found on NEWA (Network for Environment and Weather Applications) http://newa.cornell.edu without having to click through the website? Then *eNEWA* is for you. eNEWA is a daily email that contains current weather and pest model information from a station, or stations, near you. The email will contain:

- high, low and average temperature, rainfall, wind speed and relative humidity
- the 5-day forecast for these weather parameters
- GDD totals (Base 50F)
- 5-day GDD (Base 50F) forecast and,
- model results for powdery mildew, black rot, Phomopsis and grape berry moth.

The weather information is provided for not only the current day but for the past two days as well.

We will continue testing of eNEWA for Grapes in 2016. You can choose from any number of stations located near you for delivery of this information via email each day at a time specified by you. Please keep in mind that you will receive a separate email (approximately 3 pages in length) for each station you choose. Once during the growing season and again after harvest, you will be asked to complete a short survey to assist us in improving the eNEWA for grapes email system. If you would like to be a part of this project just fill out the form found in this newsletter and return to: thw4@cornell.edu or send to me at Tim Weigle, CLEREL, 6592

2016 eNEWA Grape Project Subscription Sign-Up

Subscriber information

Name_____

Email address _____

City_____

Select Location(s) (circle as many as you like, or write in below)

_____

Lake Erie Region

Appleton, North

Appleton, South

Dunkirk

Erie

Harborcreek

North East Escarpment

North East Lab

Portland

Portland Escarpment

Portland Route 5

Ransomville

Ripley

Sheridan

Silver Creek

Versailles

Finger Lakes Region

Aurora

Branchport

Dresden (FLGP/FLCC)

Dundee (Weimer)

Fayette 3 Brothers

Geneva

Geneva (Bejo)

Hector

Interlaken (Airy Acres)

Lakemont

Lansing

Lodi (Lamoreaux)

Lodi (Shalestone)

Lodi (Standing Stone)

Penn Yan

Romulus (B. wood Grove)

Romulus (Thirsty Owl)

Varick (Swedish Hill)

Watkins Glen

Watkins Glen (Lakewood)

Select eNEWA Delivery Times (write in times below) Delivery requests should be on the hour.

_____

Mail to: Tim Weigle, CLEREL, 6592 West Main Road, Portland, NY 14769 or scan and email to thw4@cornell.edu

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.

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.

Tailgate Meeting #3
Tuesday, May 24 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Gene Stanbro Farm
5895 Route 21
Naples, NY 14512 (click here to see a map)

Hops Production in the Lake Erie Region
June 11, 2016 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Cornell Lake Erie Research & Extension Lab
6592 West Main Road
Portland, NY 14769
This workshop is designed to provide some background information related to hops production as well as tackling some of the techniques that will help you to become profitable with your hops production. Topics include choosing the right plants, site selection, trellis layout and nutrition. Also covered will be how to work with a brewery to give them the hops they are looking for, and in what form. There will be in-field opportunities to interact with speakers in the CLEREL hopyards.

To register, or for more information, please visit http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=252.

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**
4/27/16	56.6	30.0	0.00	0.0	49.7
4/28/16	52.7	37.1	0.00	0.0	49.7
4/29/16	52.2	39.9	0.00	0.0	49.7
4/30/16	61.5	44.5	0.00	3.0	52.7
5/1/16	58.8	46.1	0.37	2.5	55.1
5/2/16	51.2	45.4	0.64	0.0	55.1
5/3/16	56.5	39.5	0.00	0.0	55.1
Weekly Total			**1.01”**	**5.5**	
Season Total			**2.22”**	**55.1**	

GDDs as of May 3, 2015: 90.7

Rainfall as of May 3, 2015: 2.39”

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2016 GDD [1]	Long-term Avg GDD [2]	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) [3]
April	36.1	65.2	-9
May	0.0	248.6	-12
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 [4]	Long-term Avg Rain [5]	Monthly deviation from avg [6]
April	1.17"	2.89"	-1.72"
May	0.76"	3.11"	
June		3.68"	
July		3.42"	
August		3.15"	
September		3.64	
October		3.22	
TOTAL	0.61"	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!

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