



LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Electronic Crop Update for April 26, 2012

Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/EventsCalendar.htm> for a detailed calendar of events including maps via Google calendar! Scroll to the bottom of the page for Google calendar and click on the event. Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one! UPCOMING EVENTS are also listed toward the bottom of this Electronic Update.

Please remember to let us know if you have changed or are in the process of changing your email address so we can keep the Electronic Crop Update coming to your inbox!

[Please email Edith at: emb35@cornell.edu.](mailto:emb35@cornell.edu)

WEATHER FACTS: Edith Byrne

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| DATE / YEAR | HIGH | LOW | DAILY PRECIP. | GDDS | TOTAL APRIL GDDS 4/18 | TOTAL JANUARY GDDS 4/18 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| April 25, 2012 | 54 | 34 | 0.00 | 0 | 53 | 183.5 |
| April 25, 2011 | 56 | 46 | 0.11 | 1 | 45 | 53.5 |
| April 25, 2010 | 70 | 49 | 0.55 | 9.5 | 138.5 | 142 |
| April 25, 2009 | 81 | 64 | 0.00 | 22.5 | 51.5 | 64 |
| April 25, 2008 | 75 | 57 | 0.00 | 16 | 147.5 | 169.5 |
| April 25, 2007 | 57 | 43 | 0.35 | 0 | 50 | 99 |
| April 25, 1998 | 57 | 34 | 0.00 | 0 | 45.5 | 134.5 |
| April 25, 1991 | 65 | 44 | 0.00 | 4.5 | 78.5 | 106.5 |
| AVERAGE | 57.8 | 39.7 | 0.14 | 2.99 | 69.54 | 89.45 |

This year compared to JAN. AVERAGE: Ahead 31.45 / APR. AVERAGE: Behind 5.5

This year compared to 2011 JAN. AVERAGE: Ahead 43.48 / APR. AVERAGE: Ahead 2.68

Precipitation Total thru 4/25 = 2.40" / 2012 Total Precipitation through 4/25 = 10.88"

Precipitation Total thru 4/25/11 = 14.51" / 2011 Total Precipitation through 4/25 = 23.86"

Precipitation Total thru 4/25/10 = 1.71" / 2010 Total Precipitation through 4/25 = 7.32"

FROM NORTH EAST, PA: Bryan Hed

Here Is A Brief Update From North East PA.

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Weather: April continues to be colder than normal with growing degree day (gdd) accumulations totaling only 56 so far. All of the accumulation has taken place on 5 of the past 25 days of April. The forecast predicts that temperatures for the remainder of the month will stay below normal and that gdd accumulation will finish at about half what we accumulated in March...crazy!

The short term Skybit forecast, over the next 3 days, calls for lows in the lower 30s, possibly dipping below freezing over the weekend, with highs only in the 40 and 50s. So, bud and shoot development will remain at a standstill until next week when the longer term Accuweather forecast predicts highs making their way up into the mid to upper 60s throughout next week. April has been very dry and total precipitation for the month is expected to finish out at less than half of our average over the past 10 years. Except for the possibility for rainfall this afternoon (April 26), conditions will remain rather dry with little or no chance for rainfall until about Wednesday of next week (May 2).

Phenology and Disease: Here at the North East lab, shoot growth on Concord falls within 1 to 2.5 inches in length, showing some movement since the last update (we recorded over 16 gdds last Friday). However, the lack of rainfall and cool temperatures has greatly minimized the threat of Phomopsis: although we did have lengthy wetting periods on April 15, 21 and 23, temperatures during wetness generally remained in the upper 30s and inflorescences were still covered. However, Concord inflorescences are now exposed *in vineyards with active primary buds*, and rainfall by mid next week could generate significant wetting periods well within the active temperature range for Phomopsis; 50s and 60s. On primary buds, inflorescences and internodes 1-3 have become exposed and are therefore vulnerable to fungal attack by Phomopsis *during periods of rainfall*. This year, the early shoot growth spray is *highly* recommended as there is abundant inoculum on older wood and year-old canes in the majority of Lake Erie vineyards. Therefore, *I anticipate* being prepared to apply this spray around the end of the month (early next week) before predicted rainfall by mid-next-week. Primary buds in vineyards farther inland are likely to be more vulnerable than vineyards along the lake, but shoot length at this early stage in the season, can be very site/vineyard specific. Over the next few days, keep a close eye on the forecast for precipitation, and scout your vineyard blocks carefully to determine the timing for this spray over the next week. Effective materials are mancozeb (Dithane, Manzate, Penncozeb), Captan, or Ziram. Concentrate the spray on the trellis wire and spray every row with a mid range rate (for example, 3 lbs Penncozeb, Dithane, etc) and enough water to thoroughly cover shoots and wood.

Pest Management and Crop Insurance

With Crop Insurance, or the next round of sub 30 degree weather being forecasted for this weekend being the hot topics lately, it is difficult to get anyone too excited about pest management this spring.

However, vineyard pest management and its affect on your crop insurance claim can be extremely important. Contact your crop insurance agent immediately to let them know of the potential for damage that you are seeing and to find out *what their minimum requirements are as far as vineyard maintenance are concerned*. All too often we have seen where growers become discouraged after a freeze or frost event and severely limit the inputs into an affected vineyard, only to find out at the end of the year that the crop that is present (usually at a tonnage higher than expected) has been ravaged by disease, grape berry moth, and weed competition. It is at this point where the crop insurance adjuster (some from out of the area with limited experience with grapes) comes in and starts to question the production practices used.

We have already heard the stories of claims being denied because even minimal vineyard weed, disease and insect management practices were not applied to affected blocks. Do not let this happen to you.

The take home messages are:

1. Contact your crop insurance adjuster after each event that you feel has caused injury to your crop.
2. Document the loss with written statements, a diary of sorts, and photos. If you need documentation of the low temperatures over the course of this spring they can be found for the 11 NEWA weather instruments in the Lake Erie region on the NEWA website at <http://newa.cornell.edu/>
3. DO NOT WALK AWAY from your vineyards. Grapes are a perennial crop and need at least minimal weed, disease and insect management so you do not increase your pest problems for future years. No matter what the damage from freeze or frost, weed management should be accomplished this year.

Phenology data for Wednesday, April 25, 2012:

(Thanks to Kelly Link for her efforts to collect this data)

PERCENT BUDS AT EACH STAGE

| Location/ Pruning level | Phenology rating at stage >4.0 | Phenology rating at stage 4.5 | Phenology Rating at stage 4.8 | Phenology Rating at stage 5.1 | Phenology Rating at stage 5.2 | BUD BREAK |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fredonia/ Balance 30+10 | 10% | 22% | 23% | 2% | No data | 57% |
| Portland/120 nodes | 13% | 15% | 18% | 10% | 1% | 58% |
| Portland/ Balanced 20+20 | 8% | 17% | 18% | 5% | No data | 49% |
| Portland/80 nodes | 16% | 10% | 13% | 9% | <1% | 50% |

BUD DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS FOR PORTLAND AND FREDONIA LABS.

| Location/Pruning level | Frozen (Crispy) | Potentially Damaged (browning) |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Fredonia/ Balance 30+10 | 14% | 75% |
| Portland/120 nodes | 21% | 66% |
| Portland/ Balanced 20+20 | 27% | 67% |
| Portland/80 nodes | 26% | 63% |

PHENOLOGY RATING:

- 4.0 = Half or more of leaf edge exposed (Bud Break)
- 4.5 = all of first leaf edge exposed & most of leaf blade
- 4.8 = All of first leaf exposed, but not perpendicular to shoot
- 5.1 = one leaf blade perpendicular to shoot
- 5.2 = two leaf blades perpendicular to shoot

Kelly called 50% BUD BREAK Wednesday, APRIL 25th for both sites

The 34 year average for 50% Bud Break in the Fredonia Historical Vines is May 5th. The earliest 50% Bud Break at Fredonia was April 19, 2002.

AS FOR THE BUD DAMAGE...

...it might be worse than we thought. Now that primary and some secondary buds are pushing, vineyards with obvious damage are more apparent (Image 1). We originally estimated primary bud damage to be around 20-30% across the belt, but that number may be higher, depending on your location within the belt. Many vineyards in the North East/Harborcreek area and even into Ripley and Westfield have obvious damage to primary buds with more smooth, mahogany canes than canes disrupted by pink/green/brown shoots.

Again, before we write off any possibility of a crop for 2012, we must keep in mind that secondary shoots will carry anywhere from 1/3 to 1/2 the size of a crop from the primary bud. We had a great growing season in 2011, and buds should have been fruitful with (possibly) an average to slightly above average

crop. Say your primary buds were set to ripen an 8-ton/acre crop this year – based on your average crop size in a particular block. If the primary buds have been damaged, the crop potential might be around 3-4 tons/acre, which, while not super-huge, is a crop worth saving.



Image 1. Although these two images came from the same vineyard, the idea is to demonstrate that damage is readily apparent at this time in many vineyards.

Left – View of a less-damaged vineyard. Shoots from primary buds are actively growing, some singeing has occurred on outer leaves, but shoots appear okay overall.

Right – View of a greater-damaged vineyard. Primary buds are dead, and secondary buds are just losing scales or may be at bud swell, depending on location in the belt.

And finally...

I will be out of the office on maternity leave until the first week of August. In the meantime, please be sure to continue to submit samples for petiole and soil sampling through our office.

A viticulture specialist from the Finger Lakes Regional Grape Program will be providing the recommendations for tests completed during my absence.

A few seasonal practices to keep in mind:

- ❖ Nutrition Management – Hold back on N if severe spring freeze damage. Soil testing is still a great idea!
- ❖ Shoot thinning in wine grapes at 5” shoot growth – IF no severe spring freeze damage, thin to 4 to 5 shoots/foot of row.
- ❖ Map blocks for soil testing
- ❖ Petiole testing – at bloom or 70-100 days after bloom
- ❖ Crop Estimation at 30 days after bloom: This will be absolutely critical this year, especially after these spring freezes. Maintain vine health and productivity with weed and pest management and reduction or elimination of fertilizer.
- ❖ Shoot Positioning – Mechanical, to manage vine vigor for the current season and to decrease time spent on pruning.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

Pesticide Container Disposal Law

With the statewide ban on burning residential waste in New York, agriculture burning was given significant leeway to continue burning “organic” agricultural waste. Other materials, such as plastic, join tires on the list of forbidden item. Plastic cannot be burned whether it is residential waste or agricultural waste.

“Any waste from naturally grown products such as vines, trees and branches from orchards, leaves and stubble. In addition, any fully organic waste either grown or generated on the premises, including but not limited to paper feed bags, wood shavings used for livestock bedding, baling twine, and other non-plastic materials. *Agricultural waste* does not include pesticide containers, fertilizer bags, large plastic storage bags (including bags commonly known as "Ag bags"), offal, tires, plastic feed bags, and other plastic or synthetic materials”. 6 NYCRR §215.1

Agricultural waste cannot be hauled from one vineyard to another. It must also be at least five contiguous acres actively devoted to agriculture.

This new legal regulation emphasizes the importance of managing empty pesticide containers. The most effective management of empty pesticide containers is recycling. Manufacturers, along with New York State have funded a recycling program that is available in 37 other states. The specific contractor for New York and Pennsylvania is:

USAg Recycling Inc.
18330 Penick Road
Waller, TX 77484
800-654-3145
936-372-5428

Additional information in NY:

Kelly Wilder
Tri-Valley Crop Center
337 State Highway 162
Sprakers, NY 12166
518-673-5336



For more information take a look at the [Ag Container Recycling Council](#) website. Videos showing acceptable rinsing techniques for drums or jugs, are particularly helpful. In general to participate in a recycling program, all of your containers need to be triple rinsed.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND MONEY DUE: PESTICIDE TRAINING AND EXAM (Below)

Please register by Friday, April 23, 2012

PESTICIDE TRAINING AND EXAM

DATE: Thursday, May 3, 2012

TIME: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Chautauqua County, Frank Bratt Agricultural Center, 3542 Turner Rd., Jamestown, NY 14701

COST: The cost of the morning training is \$15.00 and must be received by Monday, April 23, 2012. This fee **does not** cover the cost of exams or manuals.

SPACE IS LIMITED: PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! COFFEE POT MEETINGS ARE STARTING NEXT WEEK FOR 2012!



Wednesday CLEREL
May 2, 2012 6592 W Main Rd. Portland NY 14769

Wednesday Jordan's 21 Brix
 May 9, 2012 6654 W Main Rd. Portland NY 14769

Wednesday Tom Meehl, Clover Hill Farms
 May 16, 2012 10401 Sidehill Rd North East PA 16428

Wednesday Harry Raby vineyard
 May 23, 2012 Diller Raby Farm 2055 Ridge Rd Lewiston NY 14092

Wednesday Dan Sprague vineyard
 May 30, 2012 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081

**2012 LERGP
 Summer Growers
 Conference**

*Please mark your calendars and HOLD July 25 open for
 the 2012 LERGP Summer Growers Conference!*
**Information will be forthcoming as it becomes available -
 STAY TUNED!**

Next Electronic Crop Update will be: Thursday, May 3, 2012

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Crop Update is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and sent out by subscription only. For subscription information, please call us at 716.792.2800 ext 201, or look for subscription forms at http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/Join_Lergp.htm.

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For any questions or comments on the format of this update please contact Tim Weigle at:

thw4@cornell.edu.

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[Veraison to Harvest newsletters](#):

<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/veraison-to-harvest/index.cfm>

[NY Grape & Wine Classifieds](#) – New Address! - <http://flgclassifieds.cce.cornell.edu/>

This publication may contain pesticide recommendations.

Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may not be registered in all states, may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use should be directed to the appropriate extension agent or state regulatory agency.

Read the label before applying any pesticide.

Cornell and Penn State Cooperative Extensions, and their employees, assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage.

No endorsements of products are made or implied.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.

**The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program at CLEREL
6592 West Main Road, Portland, NY 14769**