



LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Electronic Crop Update for May 3, 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	TOTAL JANUARY GDDS
<i>LAST WEEK 4/25/12</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>183.5</i>
May 2, 2012	78	48	0.08	13	70.5	201
May 2, 2011	59	45	0.30	2	104	112.5
May 2, 2010	80	65	0	22.5	105.5	199
<i>AVERAGE</i>	63.0	43.2	0.13	5.07	94.09	120.84
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2010</i>			
<i>Average High April</i>	53.4	54.17	61.07			
<i>Average Low April</i>	35.8	38.07	42.17			
<i>This year compared to AVERAGE: JAN. GDD: Ahead 15.81 / APR. GDD: Behind 4.74</i>						
<i>This year compared to 2011: JAN. GDD: Ahead 17.46 / APR. GDD: Behind 6.70</i>						
<i>May Pcp thru 5/2 = 0.61" / 2012 Total Precipitation through 5/2 = 12.05"</i>						
<i>April 2011 Precipitation = 14.88" / 2011 Total Precipitation through April = 24.23"</i>						

Here Is A Brief Update From North East PA.

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Weather: April finished out colder and drier than normal with 59 growing degree days (gdds) and 1.82 inches of precipitation (28 and 35 % below average, respectively, over the past 10 years). In contrast, 1.21 inches of rain have fallen over the past 3 days. The short term Skybit forecast, over the next 3 days, calls for highs in the mid to upper 70s on May 3 and 4 (with a chance of rain on both days), cooling down into the mid 60s by Saturday, May 5. Lows will dip only into the 50s and 60s. The Accuweather forecast predicts above average temperatures for the next week, which will jump start vine shoot growth.

Phenology and disease: Here at the North East lab shoot growth on Concord falls within 2-3 inches in length. Freezing temperatures during last Sunday morning (April 29) have eliminated yet another portion of the primary shoots remaining in Lake Erie vineyards. Here at the North East lab, the temperature bottomed out at 28-29 F and damage was minimal on Concord (1-3% or so (?)), but a bit heavier on our Niagara. However, it's hard to tell the extent of the damage in some vineyards at this point, as shoots are just now beginning to resume growth (we finally recorded 11 gdds yesterday (5/2), after nearly two weeks of cold weather). Damage on primaries ranges from 'outright cooked' to marginal leaf burn to a slight browning of tightly balled inflorescences. The next few warm days should help area growers get a better handle on the extent of the damage to primaries and, in some cases, secondaries.

Rainfall at the very end of April/1st of May likely generated infections of Phomopsis, and inflorescences are now exposed *in vineyards with active primary buds*. A sample of diseased year-old canes placed in a moist chamber resulted in oozing of spores of Phomopsis from the wood, demonstrating that this fungus is ready to initiate new infections on green shoot material during periods of rainfall. This year, the early shoot growth spray is *highly* recommended in vineyards with adequate primary buds as there is abundant inoculum on older wood and year-old canes in the majority of Lake Erie vineyards; keep a close eye on the forecast for precipitation, and scout your vineyard blocks carefully to determine the timing and need for this spray over the next week.

GRAPE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: Tim Weigle

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Last weekend's freeze event caused more damage to buds and growing shoots around the Lake Erie region and significant damage appears to have reached as far as vineyards in the Finger Lakes. Once again, damage from the freeze, while widespread, was not all-inclusive.

From the discussion at our Coffee Pot meeting yesterday it appears that there is a potential for a crop on primaries and secondaries in some vineyard blocks while others appear to have been reduced to tertiary buds which are not fruitful.

The take home message of the discussion yesterday was it is more important than ever to get out into your vineyards and map out the crop potential in the various areas of your vineyard. It is probably still too early to get a great idea of what the health of the clusters is (at least those that look like they are still

holding on), but it is the perfect time to get a start on getting your block maps put together.

Rhiann, while an intern with LERGP last summer developed GIS maps of all the vineyard blocks in the Lake Erie grape belt and is willing to work with you to develop block maps of your vineyard operation AT NO COST TO YOU. If you have always wanted accurate block maps but didn't know where to start, contact Rhiann at our office and schedule an appointment to start the process (which is typically done during a single short visit).

We will continue to assess freeze damage across the belt and report it but it is extremely important for you to get into your vineyards on a regular basis this year to get the information you need to manage your vineyards.

GRAPE CULTURAL PRACTICES: Jodi Creasap-Gee, Ph.D.

From Kelly Link:

Bud Damage Assessments for Portland and Fredonia Labs as of April 30, 2012.

<i>Location/Pruning level</i>	<i>Frozen Primary (Crispy)</i>	<i>Potentially Damaged (browning)</i>	<i># Nodes with Secondary Bud Pushed</i>	<i>Percent of Secondary Frozen</i>
Fredonia/ Balance 30+10	28%	64%	21%	14%
Portland/120 nodes	39%	53%	33%	4%
Portland/ Balanced 20+20	49%	45%	28%	34%
Portland/80 nodes	48%	42%	31%	21%

More Bud and Shoot Damage.

After yet another couple of nights with freezing temperatures, primary shoots that looked good Friday are now brown and crispy or have fallen from the canes by now. Damage at the Cornell vineyards is obvious, as is damage around the region, with the east end of the belt (Sheridan, Silver Creek, Versailles) again reaching colder temperatures 24-26°F than the west end (Harborcreek, North East) at 29-31°F. The Ransomville, NY weather station recorded temperatures on both Saturday and Sunday mornings between 24-29°F – for several hours. No doubt, what primary shoots were pink and green on Friday are likely now



Image 1. Undamaged (left) and damaged (right) shoots from a Concord vineyard in Harborcreek, PA. Damage from Saturday and Sunday mornings' lows was obvious very quickly and can be somewhat spotty in some locations.

somewhat- to mostly-brown (see Image 1, left), again reducing the crop potential for 2012.

Areas where double buds (primary and secondary buds pushed – see Image 2, above right) were common can expect to see a severe reduction in crop this year, with tertiary buds being the last lifeline for crop potential for



Image 2. Areas where double buds were common can expect to see a severe reduction in crop this year, with tertiary buds being the last lifeline for crop potential for 2013.

2013. In these vineyards, it is especially critical to make management decisions with the 2012 AND 2013 crops in mind. Depending on organic matter and soil health, you may want to consider cutting back on or (possibly skipping, ONLY if you're *really* trying to cut costs) the fertilizer and spending money on soil tests instead.

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.



Wednesday May 9, 2012	Jordan's 21 Brix 6654 W Main Rd. Portland NY 14769
Wednesday May 16, 2012	Tom Meehl, Clover Hill Farms 10401 Sidehill Rd North East PA 16428
Wednesday May 23, 2012	Harry Raby vineyard Diller Raby Farm 2055 Ridge Rd Lewiston NY 14092
Wednesday May 30, 2012	Dan Sprague vineyard 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 10, 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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[NY Grape & Wine Classifieds](#) – New Address! - <http://flgclassifieds.cce.cornell.edu/>

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

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