

LERGP Crop Update

August 18, 2016



Important dates:

See the flyers for more information on the following events:

August 31, 2016- Cornell Vegetable Program Field Day at CLEREL

September 1, 2016-

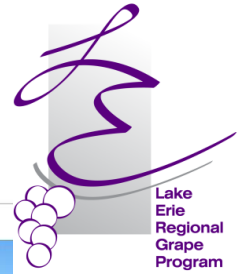
Cover Crop Conference at CLEREL- Register today!



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Cover Crop Workshop and Field Day



September 1, 2016 @ CLEREL

9:00am-4:00pm

6592 West Main Rd.

Portland, NY 14769

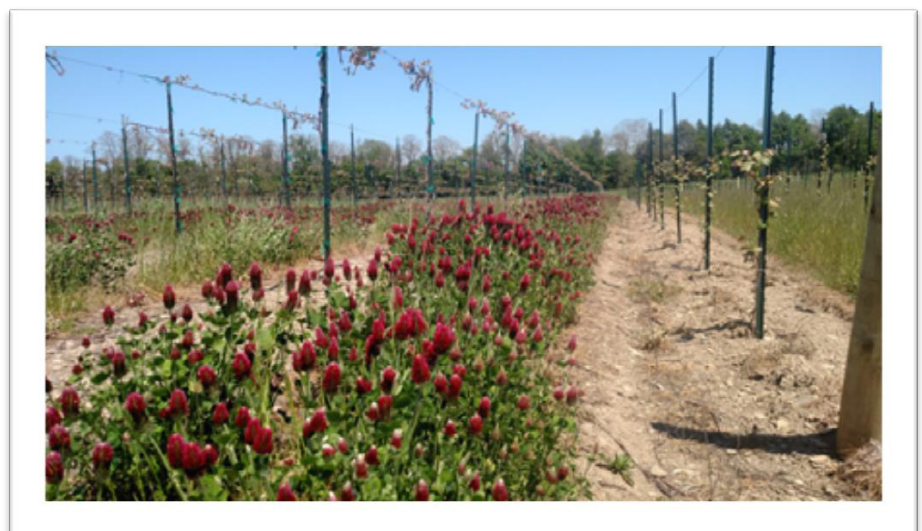
Join the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program for a full day of education surrounding cover crops in Concord vineyards.

- Current research
- Leading scientists in cover crop research
- Tour demonstration plots
- Hear local growers sharing their experience

Fee: \$ 10; includes morning refreshments and lunch



Register by August 25, 2016 at the LERGP web-site [Registration](#) or call Kate at 716-792-2800, e-mail: kjr45@cornell.edu



Come to the Cover Crop Conference and see the root structure of the grapevines in our awesome soil pit!



Dr. Terry Bates educating the audience on soil health and root structure of the Concord Grapevine.

Business Management

Kevin Martin, Penn State University, LERGP, Business Management Educator

Another Year and Another Mixed Bag For Grape Prices

Grape prices are a mixed bag for 2016. A number of cash market processors held the line on price. Much like the market for bulk juice those prices remain relatively low, but not far off of sustainable levels thanks to demand for wine.

Overall, the wine market has really helped the East coast Concord growers. Processors exposed to both markets have fared fairly well, despite their direct exposure to bulk sales. Major wine processors who were struggling to compete on price, have held prices within 90% of peak.

Overall, the Cooperative market trends for the 2014 and 2015 crops remain mostly positive. Prices are holding or recovering in those markets. That price stability does not appear to be based on new debt or financing but revenue generation and cost savings. While it is challenging to group both of our major cooperatives together, so far the trends seem relatively similar based on what we know about current levels of payouts. We should know more once those Cooperatives release annual reports to their membership after harvest.

Frustration really set in for the remaining Cott and Westfield Maid growers as the price illustrates their intentions on reducing or eliminating their involvement in the direct purchase of grapes for processing. The 16.0 brix price announced was the contractually low limit of \$117 per ton.

Growers were told that tonnage would be available for early release, indicating to me an intent to substantially reduce or eliminate their participation in the direct market. While current bulk price levels do indicate that bulk sales would be very profitable at \$117 per ton for Cott, that profitability assumes a few things. It assumes that Cott is able to market at average bulk prices and it assumes that Cott is as efficient as most processors in processing and marketing. It also assumes that this is a business that Cott wants to participate in. Direct purchasing and pressing has always been outside of their expertise and not necessarily a business that many Cott investors signed up for. Cott may be less profitable, in the long run, purchasing grape juice from other processors. However, profits will likely be less volatile, inventories will be less troublesome and the corporation may be more flexible.

I would advise growers that market a significant portion of their product through Cott to consider this price in a long-term context and classify it as a strategic risk to their operation. As it has been for the last few years, flexibility for growers is extremely minimal. At this point I am helping some growers talk through an exit strategy. A few others have purchased Welch contracts or found a new market for very small amounts of tonnage. Those growers are the exception, rather than the rule.

These conclusions are based only on grape prices, bulk juice prices and discussions with outsiders trying to draw conclusions about the little we do know. Without specific comments from Cott, obviously we could be way off base. Based on what we do know, for purposes of implementing a plan for a grower's livelihood, these are the assumptions I would recommend making until we do know more. Sometimes you plan for the worst and the worst never comes.

Growers interested in making capital investments may be considering Welch contracts, hops, wine grapes and table grapes. Capital investments drain cash flow very quickly and a five year forecast of available cash should really be considered before making a large capital investment. For the right grower, all of these investments could provide positive return. Individual growers have different expertise, equipment and resources.

Cultural Practices

Luke Haggerty, Viticulture Extension Associate, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Cover Crop Conference, Berry Curve, Projected Veraison, and Precipitations Levels

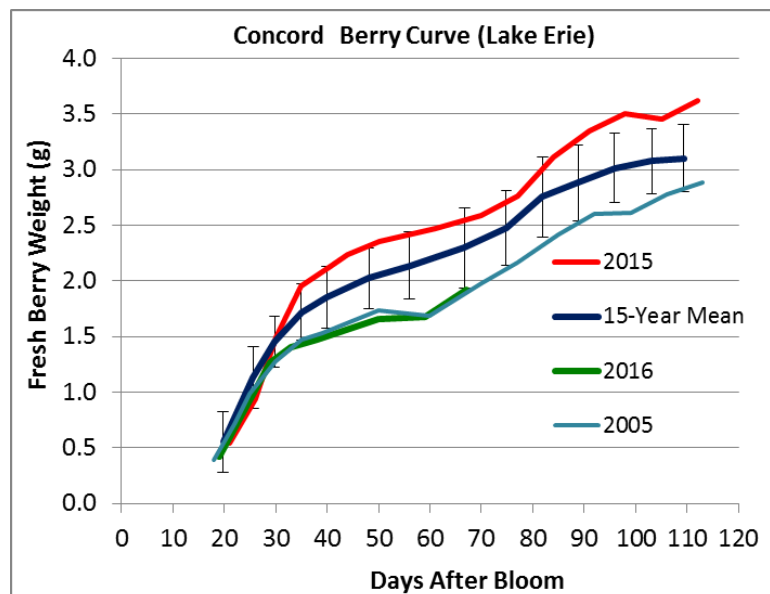
Cover Crops: As the use in cover crops in area vineyards grows in popularity, so does the need for information and education. Through office, site visits and most of the coffee pot meetings, many growers have turned to us for recommendations on what, when and how to plant. Recognizing the need for research-based cover crop recommendations, LERGP applied for, and was awarded, a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute. The funding has been used to measure how different cover crop mixes affect soil and vineyard health and to sponsor a conference to educate interested grape growers.

Although the concept of cover crops in vineyards is not new, the idea of planting multiple species in a mix geared towards a targeted outcome is. To address the many questions fielded from growers, LERGP is hosting a “Cover Cropping in Concord Vineyards” conference on September 1st. Conference participants will have the opportunity to learn about cover crops in a classroom setting and have the opportunity to see test plots and a soil pit in the field located at CLEREL in Portland, NY.

The September 1st conference starts at 9 AM (registration at 8:30) and will run until 4 PM. The CLEREL meeting facilities, 6592 West Main Road, Portland, NY 14769, will be used for the classroom portion of the program. Registration is \$10 to cover refreshments and lunch.

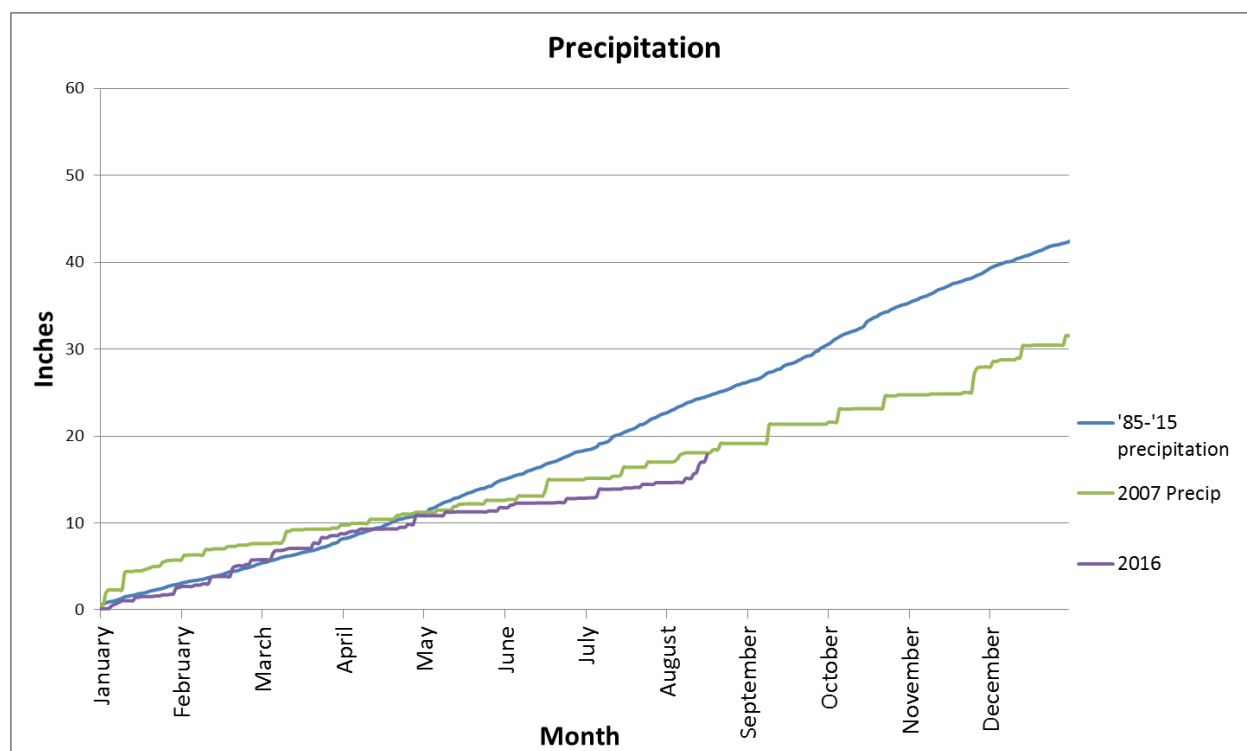
To register for the conference, visit the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program website at <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu> or in person at CLEREL. Deadline for registration is August 25th (Don't wait to signup!). If you have questions please contact Kate at (716) 792-2800.

Berry Curve: Following the berry curve we can see that the berry weight has taken a big jump since last week. At this point, the berry curve is still tracking very close to 2005 where the growing season was also hot and dry followed by rain after veraison. With the recent rain events I anticipate a continued increased berry size.



Veraison: Finding color in the vineyard is getting easier by the minute. Based off of the phenology data veraison occurs 69 days after bloom +/- three days. This year we call bloom June 12th and that puts veraison projections to fall on August 20th. I predict that we will be close to average and see veraison over the weekend.

Precipitation: We finally started to decrease the rain fall deficit. Here at CLEREL we are now 6.3 inches below average (last week we were 8.5 inches below average). I have included two columns in the NEWA table on the next page to include weekly precipitation and accumulated precipitation totals from May to present (Aug 18). Most areas in the belt received between 1.5 and 2.75 inches of rain in the past week. The precipitation chart below reflects the precipitation increase.

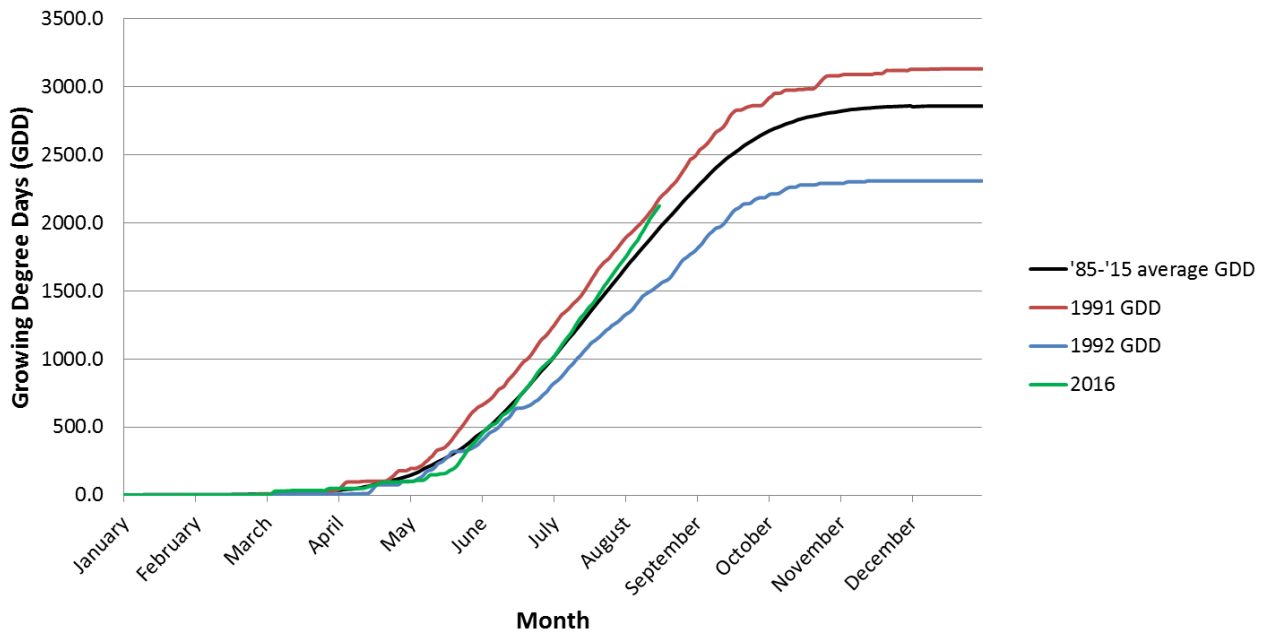


Lake Erie Grape Region NEWA Weather Data

Location	Past week Precip	Precip Aug total	Precip July total	Precip June total	Precip May total	May-8/18 total	Total March GDD
North East Lab, PA	2.86	3.66	2.68	1.92	2.13	10.39	2031
Harborcreek, PA	1.68	3.28	2.04	1.74	1.68	8.74	1992
North East Escarpment	1.24	3	2.81	2.37	1.52	9.70	1856
Ripley	2.21	3.13	1.20	3.86	1.50	9.69	2022
Portland CLEREL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1753
Portland Escarpment	3.08	3.93	1.43	1.24	1.56	8.16	2046
Dunkirk	1.22	2.51	1.52	2.16	1.13	7.32	1880
Silver Creek	2.52	3.09	2.20	NA	1.78		1917
Sheridan	1.9	3.02	1.83	2.23	1.85	8.93	1994
Versailles	1.62	2.3	2.35	1.47	1.72	7.84	1873
Appleton North	1.89	1.89	1.18	1.41	0.71	5.19	1794
Somerset	2.72	2.74	4.76	1.53	0.94	9.97	1930
Ransomville	1.49	1.5	1.45	0.93	0.92	4.80	2070

Note: All Weather data reported as of 8/18/2016 NA=Sensor Malfunction.
Precip in inches.

GDD Averages Comparison Chart



NY Drought Farmer Survey 2016

Are You Experiencing Drought Issues on Your Farm?

Please Help Us Collect Regional Information so We Can Help You Be Better Prepared in the Future

As you know, this summer we have experienced a period of lower than average rainfall combined with higher than average temperatures that has led to a drought of moderate to unprecedented severity in New York and much of the Northeast

A 2016 NY drought survey is being conducted and we need your input.

Please go to the following link: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9FDNwygyIV07kXP

The survey is an attempt to capture at this critical time information on regional impacts and how you are coping with this situation, so that farmers and those institutions and industries that support farmers will be better prepared in the future. This is associated with research being conducted by NatureNet Science Postdoctoral Fellow, Shannan Sweet, working with Professor David Wolfe on a project focused on NYS water resources and agriculture.

Thanks for your help!

Questions or comments? Contact: Shannan Sweet (sks289@cornell.edu; 607-255-8641) or David Wolfe (dww5@cornell.edu; 607-255-7888)

For more details on the drought see: <http://climatechange.cornell.edu/drought-takes-its-toll/>

IPM

Tim Weigle, NYSIPM, Cornell University, LERGP Team Leader

Too Late for the Third...

The Degree Day Phenology model on NEWA shows that with the exception of North Appleton we are past the point in time where GBM larvae are susceptible to any management strategies available to us. In order to have a 4th generation we will need to get to 2430 DD. Current model results show we are approximately 400 – 500 DD away from that amount. In other words, at 20 DD a day it will be another 25 days before we reach 2430 DD. However, the only vineyards that would need treatment at that time would be vineyards that have a history of late season grape berry moth damage.

As always, keep checking the NEWA website often and use the date of wild grape bloom that you recorded for your location. This will provide you with the most accurate information to assist with your management decision.

NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD Total on August 17
Versailles	May 30	1890
Dunkirk Airport	June 3	1854
Sheridan	May 31	1967
Silver Creek	June 3	1863
Portland Escarp.	May 31	1949
Portland	June 1	1921
Ripley	May 31	1975
North East Escarp	June 2	1780
Harborcreek	May 31	1961
North East Lab	June 2	1946
Erie Airport	May 30	2096
Ransomville	June 1	1985
Somerset	June 3	1871
North Appleton	June 10	1674
* Estimated date provided by NEWA website		

For North Appleton only –

Pest Status – Egg-laying continues.

Pest Management – For materials that are contact insecticides, e.g. pyrethroids and carbamates, apply between 1621-1710 DD in vineyards where scouting found more than 15% damaged clusters. Low risk vineyards rarely require this treatment.

1720 DD and later

Pest Status – Third generation larvae are protected within berries and completing their development.

Pest Management – The most effective time for treatment of third generation grape berry moth is over. With the exception of extremely warm years, egg-laying is reduced and most pupae enter diapause (overwinter stage after 1700 DD).

1800 DD and later

Pest Status – Reduced egg-laying after this time, most pupae enter diapause (overwintering stage) after 1700 DD.

Pest Management – With the exception of extremely warm years no further action is required.

In the Vineyards, PA

Andy Muza, County Extension Educator, Penn State, LERGP

Diseases

Downy Mildew – Rainfall events that occurred over the last week have triggered Downy Mildew Infection Risk Warnings in the DMCast model at NEWA sites throughout the region. (Check the Grapevine Downy Mildew model at the NEWA site closest to your vineyard block).

I would not be surprised if some DM starts to show up soon on leaves in vineyards. (Figures 1 & 2).

However, I don't expect any major problems in Concord vineyards. But keep in mind, severe DM outbreaks

can cause premature leaf defoliation. As a precaution, varieties with a high susceptibility to DM (e.g., Niagara, Catawba, Delaware, Chancellor, Cabernet sauvignon, etc.) should be monitored during the remainder of the season.

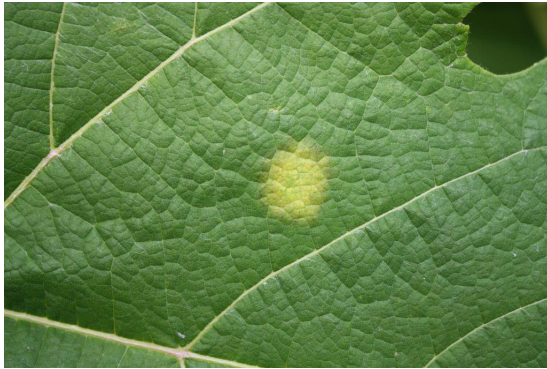


Figure 1. Downy Mildew lesion on Niagara leaf



Figure 2. Downy Mildew sporulation on underside of Niagara

Insects

Grape Berry Moth – the amount of GBM injury in High Risk sites examined this week was lower than usual at this point in the season. However, some GBM eggs were still found at these sites (Figure 3). High risk sites should continue to be scouted (**at least weekly**), throughout August – early September, to determine if GBM injury levels are increasing.

As expected, in Severe Risk sites the percentage of clusters with GBM injury was high with a greater number of eggs found at these locations. If you have vineyard blocks categorized as Severe Risk then consider an additional insecticide treatment this week in these areas. If you decide to apply an additional insecticide then **good coverage is critical**.



Figure 3. Grape berry moth egg on Concord berry

North East, PA Update

Bryan Hed, Research Technologist, Lake Erie Grape Research and Extension Center

Weather: The latest storm system came through this morning and added another 1.14" rainfall to our August total (3.67") at the North East lab. More rain has fallen over the past 9 days than during the previous 9 weeks (since the beginning of bloom)! According to NEWA, it looks like most areas of the Lake Erie Grape Belt are now reporting at least 3 inches of precipitation in August. Needless to say, this has helped to alleviate some of the effects of the dry conditions that have been so firmly entrenched since the beginning of the season. More rain is in the forecast for the weekend. Growing degree day accumulations since April 1 are about 1989, definitely ahead of average. Temperatures look to be heading down more to average for next week.

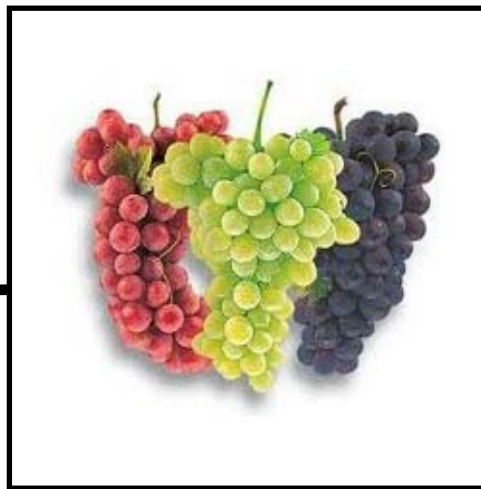
With the return of more frequent rainfall comes the threat of developing downy mildew. The DMCast model in NEWA has reported 5 downy mildew infection periods at our location since rains resumed on August 10 (8 days ago). It generally takes about 5 or more days for infections to manifest themselves, however scouting at our location has not yet revealed any new downy mildew infections/sporulating lesions on leaves near the ground (where we would expect to see it first). At this point, I don't think there is as much concern regarding Concords, but growers of more susceptible varieties will need to keep their eyes open, look for new leaf lesions, and be ready to respond with fungicides to keep canopies healthy. The DMCast model can tend to over-predict infection risk after a long dry period (this latest bout of wet weather was preceded by 10 hot, bone dry days, which was preceded by 2 months of relatively dry weather since the first infection period on May 27). For this reason, disease may not develop after an infection period is generated by the model. However, having 3-4 inches of rain fall on 6 of the last 9 days can reactivate the pathogen and jump start new disease cycles. So, the message here is to **combine** DMCast predictions with real-world scouting. Scout your vineyards for downy mildew on leaves, especially if wet weather persists. As PA has generally been receiving more rainfall lately than NY, I suspect PA is more at risk. This is the first time in 17 years of working with grapes that I have gone through an entire season without seeing a single lesion of downy mildew on our 32 acres of grapes here. In all his travels, Andy Muza found but one cluster with downy mildew this season. And that was many weeks ago. But, as Mother Nature would have it, I don't expect the season to end quite that way. The much needed rain has been of great benefit toward a successful end to this season. But, it always comes with a price. Keep scouting and the price will be relatively small (or not at all).

Seedless Table Grape Variety Field Day at Double A Vineyards

When: August 29th, 2016

Where: Double A Vineyards
10317 Christy Road Fredonia, NY 14063

Starting at 1:00pm Double A Vineyards Owner, Dennis Rak and Viticulturist, Rick Dunst will be hosting a field day at the warehouse location on Christy Road. We hope this will give our customers and aspiring growers an opportunity to look at existing and up and coming seedless table grape varieties. Come taste a handful of different varieties and learn about their production and marketing opportunities as well as a take a look at how they grow in the vineyard!





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North East Lab

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Sheridan

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Versailles

Finger Lakes Region

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LERGP Website Links of Interest:



Check out our new Facebook page!!

Cornell Lake Erie Research & Extension Laboratory Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Cornell-Lake-Erie-Research-and-Extension-Laboratory-678754995584587/?fref=ts>

Table for: Insecticides for use in NY and PA:

<http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=69&crumb=ipm|ipm>

Crop Estimation and Thinning Table:

http://nygpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/submission/pdf65_pdf.pdf

Appellation Cornell Newsletter Index:

<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/appellation-cc----->

Veraison to Harvest newsletters:

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

Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar of events, registration, membership, and to view past and current Crop Updates and Newsletters.



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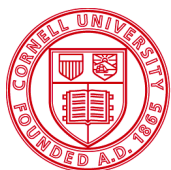
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CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.

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