



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

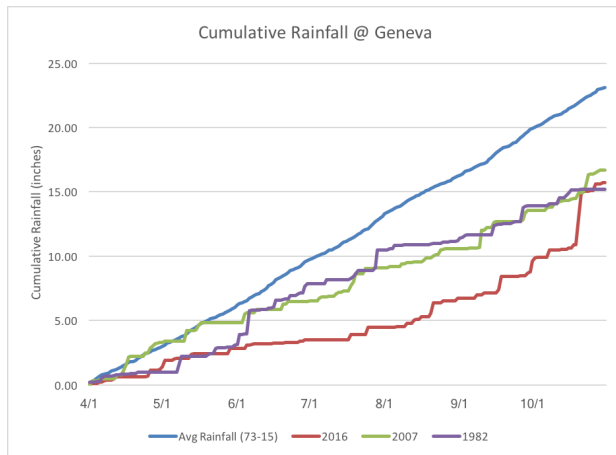
## In the Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

*The Finger Lakes Grape Program will be a one-person show for most of November. I am out of the office November 1 – 16, including some time in Japan where I will be giving a few presentations to growers and winemakers on the northern island of Hokkaido. As soon as I am back, Gillian will be bugging out of town for some well-deserved vacation beginning November 17 through the Thanksgiving holiday. – Hans*

## In the Vineyard

First and foremost, I offer my congratulations to everyone for making it through another harvest. Everything we have heard and seen from growers and winemakers this year has been pretty positive overall (other than yields in some cultivars).

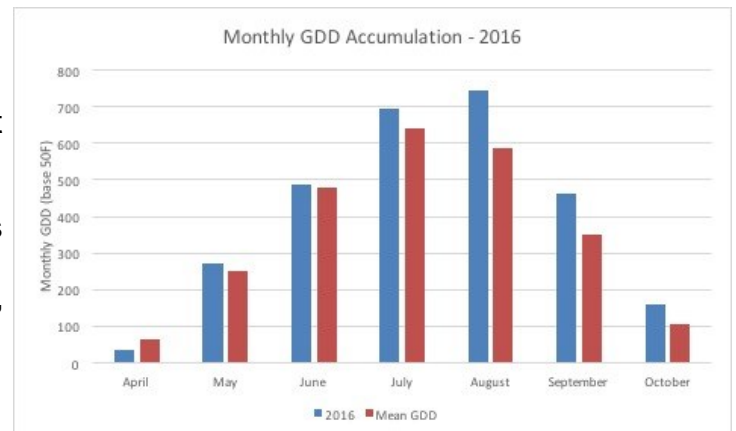


And now, over to the weather desk.

It's official...2016 was 2<sup>nd</sup> driest growing season ever. As my nephew says, "Wait, what?"

If you look at it purely by the numbers, Geneva received about ½" more rain in 2016 than in the driest year in our records, 1982, making it our second driest growing season in our records, which go back to 1973. Of course, that's only because of the fact that 4½" fell in a one-week span in mid-October, so I'm sure we will all still think of 2016 as our driest growing season ever.

In addition to being insanely dry for most of this year, 2016 also ended up being the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest growing season in our records, after 2010 and just barely behind 2012. After a cool start in April, every month this year had higher-than-average growing degree days (see below). Once again this year, temperatures were especially warm during the early and middle portion of the ripening period, which helped to push maturity at a faster clip than normal. This was especially evident when we started to see unusually low titratable acidity



## In the Vineyard (continued from page 1)

Hans Walter-Peterson

values in many of the samples we collected for the Veraison to Harvest project this year.

For all the data geeks out there, here are some of the numbers for 2016 from both Geneva and the Teaching Vineyard at Dresden:

	Geneva				Dresden			
	2016 GDD	Avg GDD	2016 Rain	Avg Rain	2016 GDDs	Avg GDDs*	2016 Rain	Avg Rain*
April	36.1	64.7	1.17	2.85	52.7	64.3	1.21	2.60
May	270.1	252.3	1.66	3.08	289.0	387.2	2.86	4.67
June	489.1	480.6	0.65	3.61	545.2	525.9	0.54	5.12
July	695.9	639.8	1.01	3.36	754.2	665.5	1.82	3.13
August	742.9	588.2	2.22	3.13	799.7	598.7	2.91	3.51
September	461.1	351.0	2.06	3.64	533.1	474.3	2.82	2.86
October	158.7	105.2	6.95	3.22	191.7	170.4	7.10	2.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>2853.8</b>	<b>2481.8</b>	<b>15.72"</b>	<b>23.12</b>	<b>3165.5</b>	<b>2886.2</b>	<b>19.26"</b>	<b>22.86"</b>

*\* Averages from Dresden are based on only 3 years of data (2013-15), so take the numbers with a couple of grains of salt.*

As I said in the final summary from the Finger Lakes in the [Veraison to Harvest newsletter a couple of weeks ago](#), the biggest unknown going forward is just what kind of impact this year's extreme drought will have on cold hardiness this winter and vine health and productivity next year. Those vineyards that were able to keep from getting overly stressed because of better water holding capacity in their soils and deeper root systems will probably fare relatively well, but the question is just how many vineyards reached the point of being "overly stressed." Time will tell, ultimately, but we will be trying to do some assessments this winter to see just what kind of impact this year's drought may have on the vines.

## Late Season Weed Management

*Tim Weigle, Grape IPM Specialist-LEGRP*

As harvest comes to a close, it signals the time of year where you can reflect on how the season went. Fall is an excellent time to see how your vineyard weed management program worked, as well as being one of the best times to accurately identify weeds (for weed ID, you cannot beat the book *Weeds of the Northeast* by Uva, et. al.). While it is too late to do anything about the annual grasses and broadleaves that appeared out of nowhere once we actually got rain, it is not too late to look at starting your pre emergence program for next year. Always check the label of potential herbicides to make sure they are labeled to control the weeds (this is where proper weed identification comes in) that you are trying to control. There are two materials that require a good amount of moisture to move them into the soil profile where they can be effective in preventing the germination of weed seeds. Both Alion and Solicam are persistent in the soil and can be applied in the fall. This helps to ensure that the required moisture from rain and snow melt is available to get the herbicides where they need to be.

The Alion label states that best weed control is obtained when Alion herbicide is applied to a dry soil surface followed by 48 hours without rain (or irrigation), and then followed by adequate moisture from rain (or an irrigation event) within 21 days. Both labels (Alion and Solicam) state that weed control activity may be reduced if the herbicide is applied to dense weed growth or to soil covered in heavy crop (shelled berries?) or weed debris that prevent a uniform distribution of the product reaching the soil. So, check out the vineyard floor before making plans on spraying either of these products. If you have a barrier between the application nozzle and the vineyard floor you will have to either come up with a plan to remove weed growth and/or debris or change your weed management strategy to one that does not include a fall application of pre-emergent herbicide.

Alion herbicide should only be used in established vineyards (at least three years after the vines have been planted and exhibiting normal growth and good vigor). Ensure that the grapes have 6 inches of soil barrier between the soil surface and the major portion of the root system prior to using Alion or injury may occur. Alion also should not be used in soils classified as having a texture of sand or those with greater than 20% gravel content. The application rate for Solicam is very dependent on soil texture. Make sure you know the percentage organic matter of your soil (should be available with your last soil test results). Check the label to determine the appropriate rate for your soil. The Solicam label states that the soil should be free of depressions around the grapevines where rain (or snowmelt) can concentrate. Rainfall (or snowmelt) is required to move Solicam DF into the soil profile. Be careful with both products as they have statements that you cannot exceed the maximum rate of application per year (i.e., 12-month period, not in a calendar year like in January – December 2016). If you have made an application in 2016, check the date and ensure that you do not reapply within that 365-day period.

The extended forecast does not look like we will be losing all of our leaves in the near future, but the warmer weather being forecasted has brought some questions about using systemic post emergent products (glyphosate materials) for perennial weed control. Keep in mind that while fall is a great time to use these products, they do not differentiate between the green tissue of a weed and the green tissue of the grapevine. In the fall the vine is moving carbohydrates into the root system so a mistake at this time of year can lead to damage next spring. You can attack perennial weed problems by careful application of a directed spray of your chosen glyphosate material to the weed and avoiding contact with green grapevine tissue. Or, you can wait until the leaves have all fallen from the vine and then apply the herbicide. While post emergent fall herbicide applications can be a great tool under the right conditions, I would recommend that you always err on the side of caution when implementing this practice.

## Labor Roadshow Will Help Clarify Labor Regulations

A stable, well-trained workforce is the lifeblood of agriculture. The Agriculture Workforce Development Council (AWDC) was formed to raise awareness of on-going labor issues and to bring resources to farm operators so they can adopt best practices. Even well managed operations can struggle with understanding and filtering the multitude of legal and regulatory requirements associated with all aspects of managing a workforce.

AWDC will sponsor the labor roadshow, "Helping Agriculture Employers Stay Current on Employment Rules and Best Practices," at four locations across the state the week of Nov. 15. The full day program is specifically for farm owners and managers to gain tools and information to help their farm business attract and retain skilled workers. Space is limited, therefore prior registration is required. We expect heavy interest and suggest early registration. Register by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**WHEN & WHERE:** All locations will start at 10:00 AM sharp and conclude at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, November 15: Elba Fireman's Rec Hall, 7143 Oak Orchard Rd, Elba

Wednesday, November 16: Hilton Garden Inn, 74 State Street, Auburn

Thursday, November 17: Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs

Friday, November 18: Ramada Watertown, 6300 Arsenal Street, Watertown

Cost: \$45/person or \$40/person for 2 or more from a farm. Please be prepared to pay cash/check at the door. Check in and program payment will be from 9:30-9:50 AM

### To register:

Please email farm name, attendee name(s), and contact email address to [registration@nedpa.org](mailto:registration@nedpa.org)

### Presentations will address 5 key areas:

- Basic rules and best practices for payroll, hours, hiring and termination.
- Workplace policies every business should have in place and follow.
- Housing: what is required and what is offered by your competition.
- Health and Safety: training and reporting rules, preventing injuries.
- Documenting your policies, actions and outcomes.

*Presenters will include members of the AWDC along with three leading experts on labor law:*

- Charles Palmer, Partner, Managing Partner, Waukesha Office, Micheal Best Law Firm
- Leah Ziemba, Partner, Industry Group Chair, Agribusiness, Food and Beverage, Michael Best Law Firm
- Wendel Hall, Hall Law Office, Washington, DC

## GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

### *New Farmers Grant Fund Now Accepting Applications From Farms Of All Sizes*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced \$1 million in funding is available to assist new and early-stage farmers through the New York State New Farmers Grant Fund. Now in its third year, the program builds upon the success of 2015 when more than \$743,000 was awarded to 25 early-stage farms across the state to support the continued growth of New York's agriculture industry. To date, nearly \$1.4 million has been provided to 41 farms throughout New York State to expand their operations and improve their profitability.

"New York's farmers are a rich part of this state's heritage and remain essential to the success of our economy," **Governor Cuomo said.** "This funding will support the expansion of farms as they increase production and help ensure this remains a strong and sustainable industry for generations to come."

The \$1 million New Farmers Grant Fund will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to assist with up to 50 percent of eligible project costs, with the remaining 50 percent being matched by the recipient. All owners of eligible farms must be within the first ten years of ownership and the farm must have a minimum of \$10,000 in income from sales of products grown or raised on the farm. Eligible project costs include the purchase of farm machinery, supplies and equipment, and construction or improvement of farm structures. Empire State Development, in consultation with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, administers the fund.

This year, the program has eliminated the 150 acres or less requirement and is now accepting farm applicants of all sizes. The application and guidelines for the New York State New Farmers Grant Fund are available [online](#). The deadline for submission is January 27, 2017.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture and Markets recently launched a resource page for new farmers interested in starting their own farm and early-stage farmers looking to diversify or expand operations. [Resources for New Farmers](#), located on the Department's website, provides information on state regulations, job training, land ownership, farm financing, marketing and other areas critical to starting a farm operation.

## 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.



### Helping Agriculture Employers Stay Current on Employment Rules and Best Practices

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See announcement in this *Vineyard Update* for program and registration information.

### Unified Wine & Grape Symposium

*January 24-26, 2017; Exhibits open January 25-26*

*Sacramento Convention Center*

Registration and hotel room reservations are now open for the largest grape and wine industry event in North America – the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. If you've never been to Unified, you owe it to yourself to go at least once to experience a trade show with over 650 vendors and that takes up virtually every 10'x10' space in the Sacramento Convention Center. You will likely find companies offering services and products that you didn't even know existed. This year's Keynote Speaker at lunch on the first day of the meeting, Tuesday, January 24), will be the [New York Times wine critic, Eric Asimov](#).

You can find program, registration and lodging information at the [Unified Symposium website \(http://www.unifiedsymposium.org/\)](http://www.unifiedsymposium.org/).

### Save the Date! B.E.V. NY 2017

*Wednesday, March 1 – Friday, March 3 (that's right – we're not taking away part of your weekend!)*

*RIT Inn and Conference Center*

*Rochester, NY*



## 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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### FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

Is published by

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties

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