



LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Electronic Crop Update for May 17, 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

Weather Facts

DATE / YEAR	HIGH	LOW	DAILY PRECIP.	GDDS	TOTAL APRIL GDDS	TOTAL JANUARY GDDS
<i>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>
<i>WEEK 5/2/12</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>0.08</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>70.5</i>	<i>201</i>
<i>Last Week 5/9/12</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>143.5</i>	<i>274</i>
May 16, 2012	68	50	0	9	202	332.5
May 16, 2011	46	42	0.10	0	151	159.5
May 16, 2010	61	45	0	3	240.5	244
AVERAGE	67.6	48.8	0.11	9.01	191.48	216.39
GDDs accumulated May '12 = 145			GDDs accumulated April '12 = 57			
	2012	2011	2010			
Average High May	66.94	65.94	67.80			
Average Low May	51.19	50.77	52.00			
<i>This year compared to AVERAGE: JAN. GDD: Ahead 12.89 / APR. GDD: Ahead 1.17</i>						
<i>This year compared to 2011: JAN. GDD: Ahead 19.2 / APR. GDD: Ahead 5.66</i>						
May 2012 Pcp = 1.58" / 2012 Total Precipitation through 5/16 = 13.02"						
April 2011 Precipitation = 14.88" / 2011 Total Precipitation through April = 24.23"						

FROM NORTH EAST, PA: Bryan Hed

Here Is A Brief Update From North East PA.

Weather: We have accumulated 318 growing degree days (gdds) since March 1 (we are at least 2 weeks ahead of average on gdds). That change in the weather yesterday morning (May 16) dropped only 0.01” of rain at our location, bumping our total May precipitation to 1.49 inches (a little below average so far). The short term Skybit forecast for North East PA (Thursday through Saturday) calls for calm, dry conditions and highs in the low 60s for today (Thursday May 17) to lower/mid 70s on Friday/Saturday. Wind speeds will remain in the single digits (mph) over the next 3 days. The Accuweather forecast over the next week, predicts mostly dry conditions with above average temperatures.

Phenology and disease: Here at the North East lab shoot growth on Concord primaries is averaging 7-8 inches in length. Though Mother Nature has been cruel to many vineyards in terms of spring frost events, ‘she’ has been *relatively* kind to us over the past week or so in terms of infection periods for [Phomopsis](#); without precipitation, no spores are released, and without adequate duration of leaf and shoot wetness and temperature after precipitation events, infections will be limited. In fact, there has been no infection periods over the past 8 days and none predicted until Thursday of next week. But, we all know the weather can change on a dime. ***That said***, here at the North East lab, Concord shoots and leaves on heavily infected canes are already showing evidence of new lesions of [Phomopsis](#) cane and leaf spot, especially where early mancozeb applications were omitted. Also, potted Concord and Chardonnay vines left outdoors (during precipitation periods in early May) and exposed to natural sources of inoculum of both [Phomopsis](#) (infected canes) and [black rot](#) (fruit mummies) were brought into the greenhouse to ‘speed up’ symptom development. The results: both Concord and Chardonnay leaves and shoots have now (over the past two weeks) developed symptoms of [Phomopsis](#) cane and leaf spot (on the first two leaves and internodes) and Chardonnay (which is extremely susceptible to black rot) has developed [black rot](#) on leaves 1-3. Again, these lesions are likely from infection periods that occurred around the beginning of May, when Concord primaries were 2-3 inches in length. This means that **unprotected primaries on heavily infected canes, will develop [Phomopsis](#) lesions from the precipitation events that took place during early May** (April 26 Crop Update). Although these wetness periods appear to have been marginal in terms of conditions needed for [Phomopsis](#) infection (at least from our sensors here at this location), the severity of these new infections will become more clear over the next couple of weeks.

The early shoot growth spray is recommended in vineyards to control [Phomopsis](#) shoot infections on the first 3-4 internodes, as these can bite off sections of inflorescences, further limiting yields, and will provide inoculum for next year on overwintering canes. Secondary shoots in many damaged vineyards appear to be within the 2-5” shoot stage and can be sprayed anytime now. It doesn’t take much crop loss to make this spray cost effective. *However*, keep a close eye on the forecast for precipitation periods (yesterday’s cloudburst, although not resulting in an infection period *at our location*, appeared to come ‘out of nowhere’), and scout your vineyard blocks carefully to determine *the timing and need* for this spray over the next week for controlling [Phomopsis](#) on those first 3 internodes of secondary shoots.

Also, over the next week, primaries will be entering the period of growth (10-12” shoots) to scout for [Eutypa](#). Infected cordons can easily be identified at this time; shoots on infected arms will appear stunted and yellow with cupped leaves. Remove infected sections of the vine at least 6 inches beyond the discolored wood (the classic wedge shaped discoloration in cross section). Many growers, will also be considering this as a good

time to apply a mancozeb spray (in relatively undamaged vineyards) before the immediate pre-bloom fungicide application for all diseases (which we anticipate around the end of May/early June).

GRAPE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: Tim Weigle

Weed Management in 2012

The 2012 growing season is shaping up to be an extreme test of a grower's vineyard management skills as there are very few operations with uniform frost damage throughout the blocks. The one thing that should be uniform this year is that all vineyard acres should have a weed management program applied to them. A standard weed management program is called for in vineyards where you expect a full- or decent-sized crop.

Although it is difficult to think about spending money in a vineyard where there are few, if any, grapes, weed management is critical in maintaining vine health for next year. Terry Bates made an excellent observation at a Coffee Pot meeting the other day. The most critical component that is holding back increasing average yields in the Lake Erie grape belt is vine size. For vineyards that have limited crop due to the freeze, the 2012 growing season would be an excellent time to focus on growing vine size. A larger vine should translate into higher crop potential next year so good weed management will be critical in these vineyards as well.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

Required Production Practices

A few years ago my predecessor, Barry Shaffer, put together a hierarchy of production practices. With cash flow problems in the industry, growers were looking to reduce operating expenses. The list of the top ten practices, in order, were as follows:

1. Under-the-trellis weed management
2. Immediate prebloom fungicide spray
3. First postbloom fungicide spray
4. Insecticide spray for high-risk GBM vineyards (scout!)
5. Potash, if needed by petiole analysis recommendations
6. First 50 lbs. of actual N fertilizer (preferably split application)
7. Row-middle weed management (dry year)
8. Early season fungicide spray (more important in wet years)
9. Lime, if needed
10. Row-middle weed management (wet year)
11. Insecticide spray for low-risk GBM vineyards (take the time to scout!)
12. August fungicide spray (difficult to get good coverage)
13. Additional N fertilizer

Cash flow issues should not be a problem, following this frost event until 2013. For some growers, looking forward, there could be a serious strain on finances. While I hope that is not the case, for below average sites carrying operating debt this may be the harsh reality. Prices have continued to push upward but a serious frost set back may not be something easily survivable for all growers. Consider this approach for a short-term sustainable reduction in costs:

1. Immediate pre-bloom fungicide spray
2. Under-the-trellis weed management
3. First post-bloom fungicide spray
4. Lime, if needed
5. Insecticide spray for high-risk GBM vineyards (scout!)
6. Row-middle weed management (dry year)
7. Potash, if needed by petiole analysis recommendations
8. First 20 lbs. of actual N fertilizer
9. Additional actual N as required by soil test
10. Row-middle weed management

Without these practices future yields (2013 and beyond) can easily be reduced by 30%, or more. If these investments cannot be made all other investments will likely be in vein. If the operation cannot find a way to finance these types of practices, an exit strategy should be considered. Due to the way crop payments are structured careful budgeting should really allow growers to know whether or not they'll be able to make these investments in 2012 and 2013. To help with cash flow budgeting, please give me a call.

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

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.

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COFFEE POT MEETING



DATE: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

TIME: 10:00am – 12Noon

LOCATION: Harry Raby vineyard, Diller Raby Farm, 2055 Ridge Rd., Lewiston, NY 14092

Coffee Pot Meetings are free and no RSVP is required. Come join us and your colleagues for timely discussions about what is happening in our local vineyards!

COFFEE POT MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 30, 2012

TIME: 10:00am – 12Noon

LOCATION: Dan Sprague vineyard, 12435 Versailles Rd., Irving, NY 14081

COFFEE POT MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 6, 2012

TIME: 10:00am – 12Noon

LOCATION: Jim Pratz vineyard, 9210 Lake Rd., North East, PA 16428

COFFEE POT MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

TIME: 10am – 12noon

LOCATION: James & Linda Corell vineyard, 6571 W Lakeshore Rd Portland Ny 14769

*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 24, 2012

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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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