



LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

Electronic Crop Update for May 31, 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.

WEATHER FACTS: Edith Byrne

Weather Facts

DATE / YEAR	HIGH	LOW	DAILY PRECIP.	GDDS	TOTAL APRIL GDDS	TOTAL JANUARY GDDS
<i>Week 5/9/12</i>	62	50	0	6	143.5	274
<i>Week 5/16/12</i>	68	50	0	9	202	332.5
<i>Last Week 5/23/12</i>	69	51	0	10	291.5	422
May 30, 2012	69	56	0	12.5	440.5	571
May 30, 2011	82	64	0	23	393.5	402
May 30, 2010	79	56	0	17.5	484	487.5
AVERAGE	71.9	53.3	0.05	12.80	337.31	362.21
<i>GDDs accumulated May 2012 = 383.5</i>				<i>GDDs accumulated April 1012 = 57</i>		
<i>GDDs accumulated May 2011 = 285</i>				<i>GDDs accumulated April 2011 = 70</i>		
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2010</i>			
<i>Average High May</i>	71.33	65.94	67.80			
<i>Average Low May</i>	54.10	50.77	52.00			
<i>This year compared to AVERAGE: JAN. GDD: Ahead 16.28 / APR. GDD: Ahead 8.06</i>						
<i>This year compared to 2011: JAN. GDD: Ahead 13.20 / APR. GDD: Ahead 3.67</i>						
<i>May 2012 Pcp = 1.95" / 2012 Total Precipitation through 5/30 = 13.39"</i>						
<i>Rainfall accumulation week of 5/24 through 5/30 = 0.37"</i>						

FROM NORTH EAST, PA.: Bryan Hed

Weather: We have accumulated 553 growing degree days (gdds) since March 1. This is the warmest May we have had in at least the past 13 years. Our total May precipitation is currently at 1.67 inches (well below average; May of 2005 and 2007 were drier), and we have had only 0.21 inches of precipitation over the past 3 weeks. The short term Skybit forecast for North East PA (Thursday through Saturday) calls for cooler temperatures (highs only in the 60s) with rain on Friday, June 1. The Accuweather forecast over the next week, predicts thunderstorms for Friday *and* Saturday (June 1 and 2) with drier weather next week and high temperatures moving up into the low 70s.

Phenology and disease: Here at the North East lab shoot growth on Concord primaries is averaging about 20 inches with 8-9 leaves per shoot. We are currently just entering bloom in Concord and Niagara here at the lab, with vineyards farther inland being well into bloom already. Over the past 3 weeks, very dry weather has held pressure for all diseases to a minimum: there have been no infection periods for Phomopsis, black rot, or downy mildew and only one primary infection period for powdery mildew (on May 27) since May 8. However, on unsprayed vines, primaries (on canes heavily infected with Phomopsis) have developed Phomopsis lesions on the first three leaves and internodes from the precipitation events that took place during the first week of May. Precipitation predicted for Friday, June 1, has the potential to generate infection periods for all the major diseases. However, growers should have already applied their immediate pre-bloom spray which will provide adequate protection during rains over the next couple of days. This spray, and the first post bloom spray (10-14 days later), should be applied faithfully every season regardless of how dry the weather has been: use best materials, full rates, adequate gallonage to insure good coverage, and spray every row. It's an insurance policy you won't regret paying for.

GRAPE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: Tim Weigle*Grape Berry Moth*

We are also at the point in the season where you should be on the lookout for the presence of wild grape bloom in areas surrounding your vineyard blocks. Wild grape bloom is used to start calculating degree day information for the new Phenology-based degree day model for grape berry moth management found on the NEWA website at <http://newa.cornell.edu/index.php?page=grape-diseases>. **If you spot wild grape bloom near your vineyard blocks, [please send me](#) the date and location, for use in the GBM model I would appreciate it very much!**

IN THE VINEYARD... with Andy Muza

In my travels yesterday afternoon, checking vineyards in the North East, PA area, a few clusters were starting to bloom in blocks along Rt. 5 and along West Middle road.

In blocks south of Middle road bloom was well under way. Bloom this season is at least 15 – 19 days ahead of average.

The Immediate Prebloom fungicide application should have been applied by now and if not then spray NOW – today, or as soon as possible, using fungicides which are **highly effective** against powdery mildew, black rot, downy mildew, and phomopsis (see [2012 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes](#) - pages 37 - 38).

If there is any bloom present in Concord or Niagara vineyard blocks where you will be making applications then fungicides containing mancozeb (e.g., Dithane, Penncozeb) cannot be used. According to the National Weather Service forecast, there is a 90% chance of showers on Friday and 60% chance on Saturday. Temperatures will be in the mid 60's – low 70's through Wednesday.

Application of the first Postbloom fungicide spray should be within 10 – 14 days of the Immediate Prebloom spray. Do not stretch spray interval beyond 14 days for this spray. Spray **every row** and use fungicides which are **highly effective** against powdery mildew, black rot, downy mildew, and phomopsis.

Insects

- **Rose Chafer** – A small number of Rose chafers were found in clusters in a vineyard block along Rt.5 in North East, PA. If you have had problems with rose chafers in the past or have areas in your blocks with sandy soil then scout **now** for these insects. Large numbers of flower clusters can be consumed in the infested areas. A fact sheet on Rose Chafer from Ohio State (http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeipm/rose_chafer.htm) recommends an insecticide application if a threshold of 2 beetles per vine is reached. Insecticides listed as effective for rose chafer are listed on pages 47-48 of the [2012 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes](#).
- **Grape Flea Beetle (steely beetle)** - this season I have seen more grape flea beetles in vineyards than in a number of years. This is probably due to the mild winter. The biggest problem with this insect is feeding from the adult beetles during the bud swell stage so we are well past the point of concern. Only 1 adult beetle was observed but larvae could be found along border rows feeding on leaves and a few were found in the clusters.
- **Banded Grape Bug** – only adult banded grape bugs were found so the threat from nymphal feeding in flower clusters should be over for the season.
- **Leafhoppers** – a few adult grape leafhoppers (GLH) and 1 adult potato leafhopper were observed with a minimal amount of leaf speckling due to GLH occurring.
- **Grape Berry Moth** – only 1 GBM larva was found in a Concord cluster.

Diseases

- **Phomopsis** – lesions evident on leaves 1–3 in blocks examined. No lesions were seen on cluster stems. Although leaf symptoms observed are not economically important this should serve as a warning that phomopsis infections are still a threat and clusters need to be protected at least through the first Postbloom application.
- **Black Rot (BR)** – no black rot was seen in vineyard blocks examined where conventional fungicides for black rot have been used. However, a minimal input vineyard (i.e., no or very few effective fungicides used for BR management in the last few seasons) already had numerous leaves plastered with black rot lesions.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

Cluster counts from the nine sites are becoming available, with Tim, Kate, Rhiann and Kim doing the bulk of the counting. That data will be the first step toward an update of the damage assessment map. The preliminary results show a high probability of an increase in damage in New York.

At this point, damage was significant enough for most growers that modifications in planned production practices (past/present) have already been maximized. The value of this information is limited to planning for harvest and business expenses and financing in future years.

It is possible, as growers are beginning to theorize, that site conditions and weather characteristics appear to be evolving. Warmer lake temperatures, in particular, may result in an increased likelihood of frost. Decreasing variable costs, perhaps as a result of capital investment, can allow growers much more flexible financing. Technology adaptation may lower variable costs, while keeping total costs less than or equal to previous levels.

These types of investments are best left for periods when production and prices are at more sustainable levels. At those times, one can position the operation to sustain through greater challenges. In the meantime, we may likely see more machine pruning. Mechanized pruning with rigorous hand follow-up, even with a leased or custom hire arrangement can substantially reduce variable costs. Economic pressure and labor supplies will likely push more growers in that direction in 2013.

With that in mind, taking some time to network with growers and learn more about making a transition to mechanization will be particularly important. Cyclical crop size and maintaining vine size, while avoiding the temptation of minimal pruning can all be challenging. A successful transition, however, will lower variable costs by \$120 per acre.

With bloom already underway at some sites and weather reports indicating a relatively short bloom period, we should start to know more about total crop size soon.

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!

**COFFEE POT MEETING**

DATE: *Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

TIME: *10:00am - 12Noon*

LOCATION: *Archer-Pratz vineyard, 9210 Lake Rd., North East, PA 16428*

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, June 13, 2012*

TIME: *10am - 12noon*

LOCATION: *James & Linda Corell vineyard, 6571 W Lakeshore Rd., Portland NY 14769*

COFFEE POT MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 20, 2012

TIME: 10am – 12noon

LOCATION: JJ Bencal vineyard, 4616 Simmons Rd., Ransomville, NY 14131

COFFEE POT MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

TIME: 10am – 12Noon

LOCATION: Rick Walker vineyard, 2860 Rt. 39, Forestville, NY 14062

**2012 LERGP
Summer Growers
Conference**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SAVE THE DATE!

2012 LERGP Summer Growers Conference!

Information will be forthcoming as it becomes available - STAY TUNED!

Next Electronic Crop Update will be: Thursday, June 7, 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.

For any questions or comments on the format of this update please contact Tim Weigle at: thw4@cornell.edu.

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Team Members:

[Andy Muza](#), Extension Educator, Erie County, PA Cooperative Extension, 814.825.0900

[Tim Weigle](#), Grape IPM Extension Associate, NYSIPM, 716.792.2800 ext. 203

[Jodi Creasap Gee](#), Viticulture Extension Associate, CCE, 716. 792.2800 ext. 204

[Kevin Martin](#), Business Management Educator, 716. 792.2800 ext. 205

Subscribe to Appellation Cornell Newsletter:

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

[2011 Appellation Cornell Newsletter Index:](#)

<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/appellation-cornell/2011-index.cfm>

[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
716-792-2800**