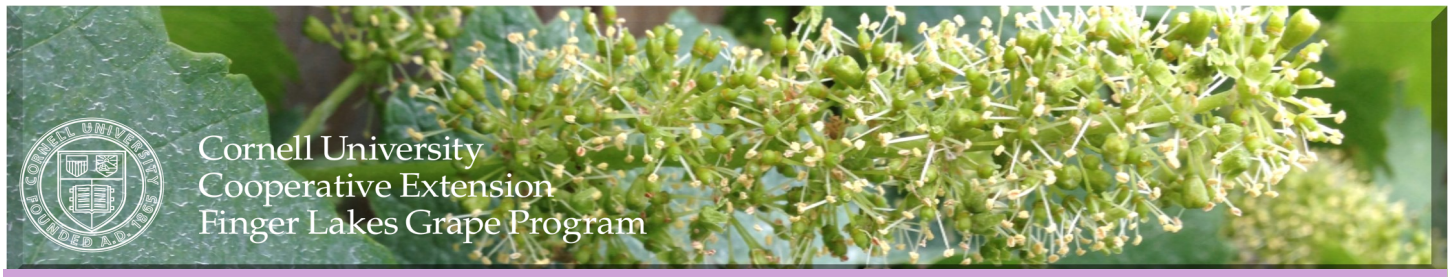

Finger Lakes Grape Program June 21, 2017

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

In This Issue:

Riesling near the end of bloom at the Teaching

Marquette berries approaching pea-size (6/21/17)

Bloom continued to progress fairly quickly over the past week. At the Teaching Vineyard, all of our varieties are now at least partway through bloom, including Riesling, Chenin Blanc and Vidal, which tend to lag behind most of the others. We should have a better idea of how fruit set is looking during the next week or so. Cluster numbers appear to be up in many cases this year, thanks to last year's warm and sunny weather during the post-bloom period when this year's clusters were being formed inside the buds. If fruit set ends up being decent, there is the potential for growers to have normal to above normal yields this year, which some haven't seen in two or three years.

USDA Ag Census 2017

Every 5 years, the USDA conducts the Census of Agriculture. The census serves a lot of purposes, providing data to farmers, industry associations, educational and advocacy organizations (like Cornell Cooperative Extension), and many others about the status of agriculture in America. Any operation that produces and sold at least $1,000 (or normally would have) of fruit in 2017 would qualify for inclusion in this year's census.

We know that farmers are asked to respond to a lot of surveys, but I encourage all of the grape growers in the Finger Lakes to be sure that they are included in the census this year. The Ag Statistics Service office in New York will no longer be conducting the New York Vineyard and Tree Fruit acreage survey due to funding cutbacks, so the National Ag Census is the best opportunity for grape growers in New York to ensure that they are accurately represented in the census.

In order to be sure that you are included in the Census, go to https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/legacy0/cgi-bin/counts and fill out your information, or contact your local USDA office to ask how to be sure that you are signed up to participate.

IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

Despite the wet spring we have had this year, canopies that we have seen this week look to be in good shape with regard to disease development. A few black rot and downy mildew lesions can be spotted once in a great while – the most prevalent thing we see is phomopsis (I know – shocking), but we are almost to the point where we don't have to worry about that one (from a spray point of view, at least).

I mentioned at the Tailgate meeting yesterday that, once we get about 4-6 weeks past bloom and set, most of our disease management is about protecting leaves and shoots rather than fruit (with the obvious exception of botrytis and sour rot). But during those first several weeks after bloom, the berries are susceptible to infection and this is one of the main reasons why it's so important to use strong, effective materials during this critical period. As the new berries grow after set, they begin to develop resistance to new infections by pathogens. The amount of time it takes for that resistance to develop primarily depends on the disease and the genetic makeup of the cultivar. In general, native varieties usually develop this resistance a little faster than *vinifera,* with most hybrids probably falling somewhere between those two ends of the spectrum, again depending on their genetic background.

Black Rot: Berries are very susceptible to infection for about 2-3 weeks after capfall (i.e., now). They become resistant to further infections anywhere from 5-8 weeks after bloom, depending on variety. Concords and the like will develop this resistance 1-2 weeks before *vinifera* varieties.

Downy Mildew: Resistance to this disease *on the berries* develops by about 4 weeks after bloom, even on very sensitive varieties. You all know how destructive downy can be to the foliage, however, so this is often the bigger management challenge with the disease.

Phomopsis: Berries remain susceptible through approximately the pea-size stage of development, but by then there are very few spores floating around to cause infection. Most phomopsis fruit infections make their way into the berry through the pedicel – the point of attachment to the stem – and don't become visible until later in the season. These infections mostly happened prior to bloom, when the spore population was much higher.

Powdery Mildew: Berries are very susceptible until about 2-3 weeks after set, although in more susceptible cultivars it might take a bit longer, like until bunch closure.

Information taken from the 2017 New York & Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes.

June 20th Tailgate Meeting Recap

Gillian Trimber

Yesterday's tailgate meeting was set along the west side of Canandaigua Lake at Len Barron's farm, and we were glad for the chance to chat with a bunch of Ontario and Wayne County growers. With most grape varieties in full bloom or already moving on to set, we had plenty to say about disease management, with Hans advising growers to control for all five of the major diseases until the berries toughen up a bit in a few weeks. Resistance management, tank mixes, and choosing the appropriate spray materials for the time of year were also discussed.

As if taking care of IPM weren't enough, we also talked about doing cluster counts for crop estimates at this time of year, before the canopy gets too thick to see through. Some good research has been done in Concord vines to allow for accurate estimates, but for other varieties it's hard to get estimates within 15-25% of the actual harvest. Keeping data on cluster counts, cluster weights, and (if you have the patience) berry weights from your own vineyard blocks over multiple years can really go a long way toward getting accurate crop estimates. Beyond allowing you to plan for harvest and avoid over- or under-selling your crop, knowing what you have hanging out there at this point in the season can also allow you to take advantage of bumper years and adjust for lean years—any dropping of clusters should be done no later than a month from now in order to realize good results. That being said, even given the drought stress some vineyards experienced last year, most of the vines we're seeing have big, healthy canopies that can likely ripen a full crop of fruit. Those at last night's meeting agreed that set looks pretty good in their vineyards, so we may be seeing plenty of grapes this fall.

We were also happy to have Joann Rogers of the USDA Farm Service Agency at the meeting to let growers know about services that they offer, and which are offered by their partner agency, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In particular, Joann encouraged growers to participate in annual crop and acreage reporting in order to streamline applications for disaster assistance and other programs. She also discussed the importance of participating in the 2017 Census of Agriculture, which can be found at https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/. Tim Davis, of Ontario County CCE, also came to the meeting to chat with growers and participate in the conversation.

Finally, we discussed the upcoming hearings for the New York State grape research order and what that order would entail if passed. There was also time for general questions on any grape-related topic, which we try to build in to every tailgate meeting.
Many thanks to Len Barron for hosting us at his vineyard, and to all that came to the meeting. Our next Tailgate will be on **Wednesday, July 5th, 2017** at Atwater Estate Vineyard in Hector. See you there!

Name that Tasty Table Grape, New from Cornell

Photo by Bruce Reisch/CALS.

ITHACA, N.Y. – Big on flavor, aroma and size, Cornell University's newest grape lacks one defining feature: a name. Grape breeder Bruce Reisch spent years developing the grape, and now he's offering the public the chance to name it.

Currently dubbed NY98.0228.02, the grape is a seedless, flavorful berry with the attractive blue coloring of a Concord at nearly double the size. Reisch, professor of grapevine breeding and genetics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said the new variety is well adapted to the Northeast, with good cold tolerance for most of the Eastern states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey.

"This grape is the first truly seedless Concord-type and has naturally large, attractive berries," said Reisch. The Concord has long been an American favorite, known best for its use in grape juice, jellies and jams.

"Our new grapes weigh 5 or 6 grams per berry, almost twice the weight of a traditional Concord," said Reisch. "It's pretty rare to find a grape that size, especially with such full flavor."

Reisch hopes the contest will inspire a name as inviting as the grape. Submissions can be made online or by emailing nameit@cornell.edu until July 31. Reisch and his collaborators at Double A Vineyards will decide on their favorites, then present the choices to the public for a final vote in September.

In 2012, a contest to name two new wine grapes resulted in more than 1,100 suggestions from around the world. Of the contenders, Reisch and his team chose Arandell and Aromella, names that combine the "ell" in Cornell with qualities of the grapes themselves. A wine enthusiast as a student at Cornell, Reisch belonged to a wine-tasting group hosted in his college dorm. After studying plant breeding and genetics as a graduate student, he said he was thrilled to find a grape breeding opportunity at his alma mater. Since joining the faculty in 1980, Reisch has led the team that released 14 of Cornell's 58 grape varieties.

Reisch's team planted the seed giving rise to NY98.0228.02 in 1999 at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva. The vine first fruited around 2001 and has been field-tested since then.
"I expect it will be very popular with home gardeners who are looking for an easy-to-grow grape that produces large, tasty, attractive fruit," Reisch said.

And because it is best eaten fresh, it will most likely be found in local markets, farmers' markets and u-pick farms. The Cornell grape breeding program has released 58 cultivars since 1888. Cayuga White, released in 1972 as the program's first wine grape, now accounts for more than $20 million of wine production annually in New York. The new grape is the first table grape to be released by Cornell since 1996.

"We have great potential to continue improving grapes," Reisch said. "With many species that have yet to be tapped for breeding, we're in a position to develop new cultivars that are not only larger and tastier but also healthier for the planet. Hardier, more disease-resistant and cold-tolerant grapes are easier to grow under environmentally friendly conditions."

NY98.0228.02 will be exclusively licensed to Double A Vineyards, Fredonia, New York for 10 years in the U.S., then it will be non-exclusively available for licensing. For information on licensing Cornell grape varieties, email Jessica Lyga of the Cornell Center for Technology Licensing at JML73@cornell.edu or call 607-255-0270.

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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.

Tailgate Meeting
*Wednesday July 5th 4:30 – 6:00 PM (**Note the Date Change**)*
Atwater Estate Vineyards
5055 Route 414
Hector, NY 14841

Our fifth Tailgate Meeting of the year will be held at Atwater Estate Vineyards, on Wednesday July 5th, 2017.

These meetings are held every other week at various grape farms around the Finger Lakes, and are intended to be informal, small-group meetings where FLGP staff and growers can ask questions and discuss issues about vineyard management, IPM strategies or other topics appropriate for that point in the growing season. 0.75 DEC recertification credits will be available.

Public Hearing on Petition for NY Grape Research Order
Wednesday, July 12 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
NYS Agricultural Experiment Station - Jordan Hall
630 W North Street
Geneva, NY

The purpose of this hearing is to determine if a vote should be scheduled among the grape growers of New York State on the establishment of a research order to support research and extension activities that benefit the industry. You can read the petition that requests the establishment of the order, along with the proposed rules for it, at http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/admin.html. If you did not receive a letter from the Department of Ag & Markets with a form requesting a ballot for the upcoming vote, contact the Marketing Orders Program at (518) 457-4383.

ASEV –Eastern Section Annual Conference
July 10-12, 2017
Charlottesville, VA

Join us for the 42nd American Society of Enology and Viticulture-Eastern Section (ASEV-ES) Conference in Charlottesville, VA on July 10-12, 2017.

On Monday, July 10 there will be a **preconference tour** of Virginia vineyards and wineries. The **conference** will begin with technical/research presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 11-12 and include Tuesday's Oenolympics with Wines of the East Reception and Wednesday's Sparkling Wine Reception and Grand Awards Banquet.

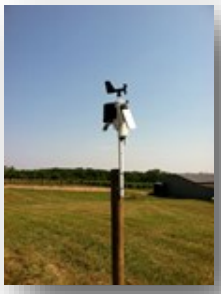
New this Year: Industry Workshop on Wednesday, July 12 to feature invited speakers to discuss "**Pioneering Wine Grape Varieties Adapted to the Challenges of the East".**
Further information is available at the ASEV-Eastern Section website. Information on the program and registration costs is available in the conference registration packet, or register for the meeting online at http://www.asev-es.org/regform1.php.

2017 Growing Degree Days and Rain Fall

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	**Hi Temp (F)**	**Lo Temp (F)**	**Rain (inches)**	**Daily GDDs**	**Total GDDs**
6/14/17	77.0	57.7	0.00	17.4	634.7
6/15/17	79.9	55.7	0.65	17.8	652.5
6/16/17	80.1	63.9	0.00	22.0	674.5
6/17/17	86.0	64.2	0.00	25.1	699.6
6/18/17	90.7	70.1	0.25	30.4	730.0
6/19/17	75.4	66.0	0.22	20.7	750.7
6/20/17	76.3	61.4	0.01	18.9	769.6
Weekly Total			**1.13”**	**152.2**	
Season Total			**10.47”**	**769.6**	

GDDs as of June 20, 2016: 677.7

Rainfall as of June 20, 2016: 4.46”



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Day

	2017 GDD [1]	Long-term Avg GDD [2]	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) [3]
April	125.8	64.0	+12
May	219.1	252.7	+3
June	324.2	480.8	+3
July		641.1	
August		591.7	
September		353.5	
October		106.4	
TOTAL	669.0	2490.3	

[1] Accumulated GDDs for each month.
[2] The long-term average (1973-2016) GDD accumulation for that month.
[3] Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year’s GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. The most recent number represents the current status.

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2017 Growing Degree Days and Rain Fall

Precipitation

	2017 Rain [4]	Long-term Avg Rain [5]	Monthly deviation from avg [6]
April	3.42”	2.85	+0.57”
May	5.35”	3.08	+2.27”
June	3.06”	3.61	
July		3.36	
August		3.13	
September		3.64	
October		3.22	
TOTAL	11.83”	22.95”	

[4] Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

[5] Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

[6] Monthly deviation from average (calculated at the end of the month)

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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