



The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



# *Happy Harvest*



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*Crop Update September 26, 2017*

# Employment Opportunity:

## **Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Viticulture Specialist:**

The job will be posted until Tuesday, October 31st. External applicants will need to apply through the Cornell Careers site; the direct link to the posting is: [http://tiny.cc/Viticulture\\_WDR00012524](http://tiny.cc/Viticulture_WDR00012524). Internal applicants (including Temporary Employees) will need to apply through Workday.



# Business Management

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

## Fertilizer Prices

What is with the fertilizer update in the middle of harvest, you might ask? While fertilizer might not be in your plans for the next 5 weeks, it's certainly in the minds of a lot of growers. We are seeing a great deal of potassium deficiency. In areas where potassium and soil pH levels are low, the black leaf looks dramatic. Even in vineyards with reasonable pH and potassium levels, black leaf is occasionally severe this year. Potash can alleviate symptoms of black leaf and increase brix accumulation. In other words, money. Even for markets not paying a brix premium, potassium deficiency will likely decrease vine size and yields in subsequent years. In order to dial in the level of deficiency, a petiole test will provide the best data, when soil levels appear adequate.

### Potash

Spot market prices for potash has increased by 2% YTD to \$198 per ton. This is some welcome price stability after the price volatility of 2016. For some 2017 potash could be \$50 more per ton than last year. For others, 2017 price per ton could be less. In 2016 timing was everything. For 2017, while the market found a bottom, it still has been unable to push prices reliably upward as it did when the potash market was controlled by cartels. National retail average remains around \$320 per ton, up about 3% YTD. Seasonal constraints on mining potassium will keep retail prices up above \$300, unless agricultural commodity prices drive a shift in fertilizer prices.

### POTASH PRICES



Highcharts.com

### Lime

Muriate prices have been relatively flat, as always. Decreased diesel prices have led to a cost savings for those that haul their own lime. This savings has been fairly modest and has occurred over the last 4 years. Custom hire trucking prices have also declined. This has saved growers about 40 cents per acre, per year.



Tim Weigle, NYSIPM, Cornell University, LERGP Team Leader

Help Protect Your H2a Workers.

Note: While very few vineyard operations in the Lake Erie region use H2a workers, this information is very important for those who do. Please read and share as you see appropriate.

The following message is from Julie Suarez, Associate Dean for Governmental & Community Relations, Cornell University.

## **Critical issue for New York State's Farmworkers Enrolled in the H2a Program**

I wanted to bring your attention to a critical issue for New York State's farmworkers enrolled in the H2a program.

As you may be aware, the Health Care Act allows for certain entities to serve as "navigators" charged with the specific responsibilities of signing up individuals eligible for the health care exchanges.

As you may not be aware, if an individual is a farm worker on an H2a contract, that individual is required to meet certain conditions for entry on an annual basis and is screened in their home country prior to admission in the US on an H2a work visa. One of the questions that will bar an applicant under the H2a program from future entry is whether or not the H2a worker has applied for benefits from a local, state, or national entity in the US. **If so, the H2a worker is denied entry (the goal of the program is to ensure that admission is offered solely to foreign nationals and that while such foreign nationals are in this country, they cannot access US benefits or social services programs).**

A local grower has reported recently that a health care navigator has begun signing up local H2a workers in Western New York for health insurance benefits on the state exchange system. While most likely well intentioned, the most unfortunate effect is that any workers who are signed up for health insurance are now considered to have applied for benefits domestically. This is a screening question and the H2a worker would subsequently be barred from admission next year into the country, despite whatever long history may have been enjoyed in previous years of working on farms during the season in the US.

I am writing this lengthy email to bring this issue to your attention, and to ask you to reach out to H2a employers in your area and ensure that they are familiar with this requirement and talk to their H2a employees. I would suspect strongly that an H2a employee being approached by someone who may have asked would you like health care, would be tempted to sign up without fully realizing the consequences.

Please help spread the word. Thank you, Julie.

**Julie C. Suarez**

Associate Dean for Governmental & Community Relations

Office of the Dean

126 State Street Suite 200

Albany, NY 12207



# PA Update

Andy Muza, Extension Educator, Penn State

**In the Vineyard (9-28-17) – Andy Muza**

## Phomopsis

In Concord vineyards checked this week I am seeing more browning and shriveling of rachises, browning and drying of berry stems (pedicels) and some shelling which are due to phomopsis infections (Figures 1 & 2). This is not surprising since we have been talking about potential crop loss due to phomopsis throughout the season. So far, I have not seen any extensive shelling but would not rule out the possibility in some blocks considering the amount of shoot lesions observed throughout the season at every site scouted. Hopefully, shelling will be minimal in the majority of vineyards in our area but every block will have some level of berry loss due to phomopsis infections. If you don't believe it then check your vineyards and look for shriveling rachises and brown berry stems. I guarantee you will find at least some.



*Figure 1. Browning/shriveling of Concord rachis due to phomopsis infection. Photo: Andy Muza, Penn State.*

## Honeyvine Milkweed

**Final reminder** - Growers in Erie County, PA. that have vineyards where honeyvine milkweed (HvM) has been found in the past should check these sites before harvest. As I mentioned in the 8/17 Crop

Update, "If found, remove HvM from the trellis and spray these weeds with a high rate of a postemergent herbicide (e.g., glyphosate, or glufosinate). Flag and map HvM locations for future reference".

Some growers have spot sprayed for HvM and have killed this weedy vine in the trellis but I have seen new growth at the base of sprayed plants (Figures 3 & 4). Take the time to return to areas that have been spot sprayed and check for any new HvM vines. Spray any new growth again before the end of the season. Once established this perennial weed will not be easily eliminated from a vineyard. Management attempts to eliminate HvM from a vineyard will require a concentrated effort over a number of seasons which involves both persistence in monitoring and consistency in spot spraying.



*Figure 2. Browning of berry stems due to phomopsis infection. Photo: Andy Muza, Penn State.*



*Figure 3. Dead honeyvine milkweed in trellis as a result of spot spraying. Photo: Andy Muza, Penn State.*



*Figure 4. New growth of honeyvine milkweed (HvM) near base of previously sprayed HvM. Photo: Andy Muza, Penn State.*

# North East PA Update

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

**Weather:** At our location by the lake, we have not recorded any precipitation since the 14th (two weeks ago) and only 0.14" precipitation since the 8th (almost three weeks ago). Our September rainfall total is still 2.6", well below our 20 year average of 4.3". We might get some rainfall tomorrow (Sep 29) along with the cooler weather that has set in for a few days. However, dry weather will prevail over the weekend and as far as the eye can see next week, as temperatures warm back up into the 70s on Monday. Considering our seasonal rainfall average from May 1 to September 30, we are nearly 3" below normal. We have now accumulated 455 growing degree days (gdds) during September (a bit warmer than average) and 2690 gdds since April 1 (well above average).

**Diseases:** As we near the end of the season, a walk down our rows of Concord vines here at the lab reveals some shelling of fruit and portions of clusters, with Phomopsis-like lesions on the cluster stems. It's hard to say just how much damage the rain events of the first week of May have done in terms of crop loss from Phomopsis nearly 5 months later, but its at least the cost of a 3 lb per acre application of mancozeb (a loss of about 1 to 2 clusters of berries per vine?). The damage does not appear to be widespread or large scale at our location, and a detailed examination of shelling berries suggests that Phomopsis is certainly not the only reason for the crop loss here; there's a little bit of shelling from berry moth too.

However, those horrendous rain events in early May and their associated wetting periods, extending for days at very cool temperatures, left the belt with a boatload of Phomopsis lesions on shoots and cluster stems at the very start of the season. Most of us had not yet made that first fungicide application at 3-5" shoots, because we figured we weren't there yet (and we weren't). But 2020 hindsight tells us that we don't need to (shouldn't) wait until 3-5" when rain is forecast at say 1" or 2" of shoot growth, especially when the forecast predicts extended wetting periods. Fortunately, a look back through our records indicates that, although early May is frequently wet, we don't see these kinds of extended wetting periods every year. For example, similar rain events occurred just after bud break way back in 2002 when six inches of cold rain fell in the two weeks following bud break. The result was plenty of early Phomopsis shoot lesions. It will be important to remember this as we head into bud break next spring.



# INSURING GRAPES

NY, 2017

**Crop insurance** is a safety net for farmers that helps you **manage risk**. If you have a crop failure, crop insurance can help you farm again next year.

## Important Insurance Deadlines

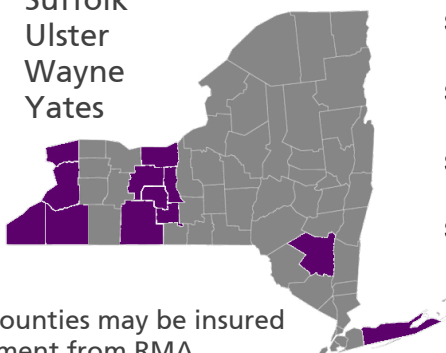
- **Aug. 15, 2017:** Premium Billing Date
- **Nov. 20, 2017:** Sales Closing, Policy Change, Cancellation, Termination Date
- **Nov. 20, 2017:** End of Insurance Period
- **Jan. 15, 2018:** Acreage / Production Report Date



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Grapes in other counties may be insured by written agreement from RMA

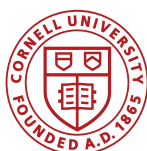
## NYS Grape Crop Insurance Performance



**for every \$1** grape producers spent on crop insurance premiums from 2012 to 2016, **they received \$2.07** in losses paid, on average

## Learn more & sign up:

Explore your personalized crop insurance costs and loss payments under different yield outcomes at [ag-analytics.org](http://ag-analytics.org). To sign up, contact a crop insurance agent. Find an agent using the Agent Locator tool at [rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html)





## PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE NEWA SURVEY

**EDITORS NOTE:** NEWA provides weather and pest model information for a large number of commodities across an ever increasing number of states. It is important for grape growers in New York and Pennsylvania to provide your input into this survey so any improvements to the NEWA website are made with the grape industry in mind. While this is a busy time of year, I encourage you to take the 10 minutes out of your busy day to complete this survey.

The Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA) wants you to take our online survey — it'll only take about 10 minutes of your time.

### Take the survey now:

[https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0GRihOIDI5HwbR3](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0GRihOIDI5HwbR3)

Whether you've used NEWA's online pest forecast models for years or have never used NEWA at all, we will benefit from your responses. Why? Because we are building a new website at [newa.cornell.edu](http://newa.cornell.edu), one that'll be as easy to use on your smart phone as on your desktop, and we want to build it the way you want it to be.

NEWA is an online agricultural decision support system that uses real time weather data, streamed over the internet from 573 weather stations throughout the Northeast, Midwest and mid-Atlantic. NEWA provides insect and plant disease pest management tools, degree days, and weather information for growers, consultants, Extension educators, faculty, and others.

NEWA models and resources are available free of charge, and are used to make informed localized crop management decisions. The NEWA website will be upgraded soon and we want to know what users', new and old, want and need out of the new website.

All responses are anonymous and confidential and will not be shared with any outside group.

Thank you for participating!

### For more information:

Dan Olmstead  
315.787.2207  
[dlo6@cornell.edu](mailto:dlo6@cornell.edu)

NEWA Coordinator, New York State IPM Program  
Cornell University, NYSAES  
630 West North Street  
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NEWA is a Partnership of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program and the Northeast Regional Climate Center.



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## LERGP Links of Interest:

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.

LERGP Web-site:

<http://lergp.com/>

Cornell Lake Erie Research & Extension Laboratory Facebook page

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

Efficient Vineyard Web-site:

<https://www.efficientvineyard.com/>

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](http://nygpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/submission/pdf65_pdf.pdf)

Appellation Cornell Newsletter Index:

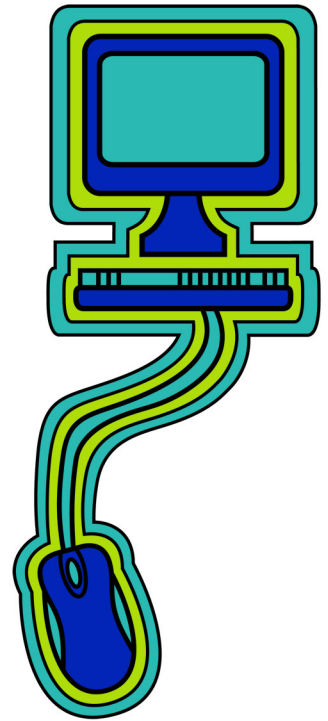
<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/appellation-cornell/>

Veraison to Harvest newsletters:

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

NEWA:

<http://newa.cornell.edu/>







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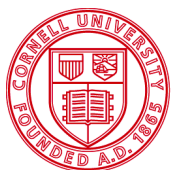
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