



# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

## Position Opening with the FLGP

*Hans Walter-Peterson*

The FLGP is going to be hiring a new program assistant/technician in 2018. Gillian Trimmer, our viticulture educator who has been with the Grape Program since September 2015, has decided to pursue some other opportunities, and will be leaving us at the end of December.



The new position will have a greater emphasis on assisting with field work than in the past, including setting up and maintaining field trials and demonstrations, data collection and data entry, and maintenance of the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard. More information about the qualifications and duties of the position, along with information on how to apply, can be found at <http://tiny.cc/ViticultureAideWDR0013103>. The position will be posted until December 17, or until the position is filled. Please pass this information along to anybody that you think might be interested in the position.

Gillian will be helping us to finish up some final projects - including hosting a pruning workshop on Friday, December 8 (see Upcoming Events for more details) - and helping us to prepare for the transition to the new position. Her enthusiasm for Extension and the industry, her upbeat attitude, and her hard work have made her a tremendous asset for the Finger Lakes Grape Program over the past 2 years. I will miss having her as part of our team.

## Extension Support Position with Statewide Viticulture Program

Speaking of open positions, Tim Martinson has posted a position for an Extension Support Specialist working with him on several projects, including the newly-funded VitisGen 2 project. The position will be based at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva.

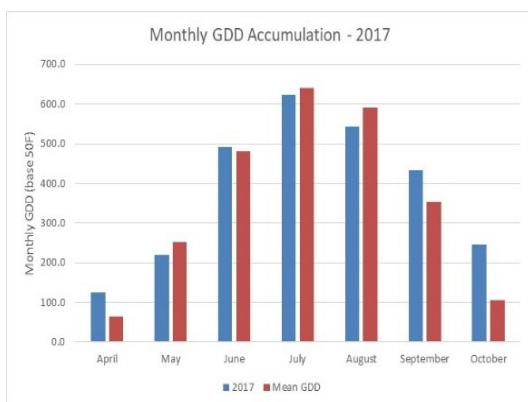
Further information about this position can be found at [https://cornell.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/CornellCareerPage/job/New-York-State-Other/Extension-Support-Specialist-I\\_WDR-00013135](https://cornell.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/CornellCareerPage/job/New-York-State-Other/Extension-Support-Specialist-I_WDR-00013135).

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## The 2017 Growing Season — By the Numbers

As we all know, there is no “average” season in the Finger Lakes. The past two years have been further proof of that. In 2016, we had a season almost more reminiscent of California than New York. This year’s growing season looked almost nothing like last year’s whatsoever.

I’m not going to rehash the whole season here, but seeing as we track growing degree days and precipitation each year, I thought a quick summary of the season via some of the weather data we collected would be appropriate to include here.



### Growing Degree Days

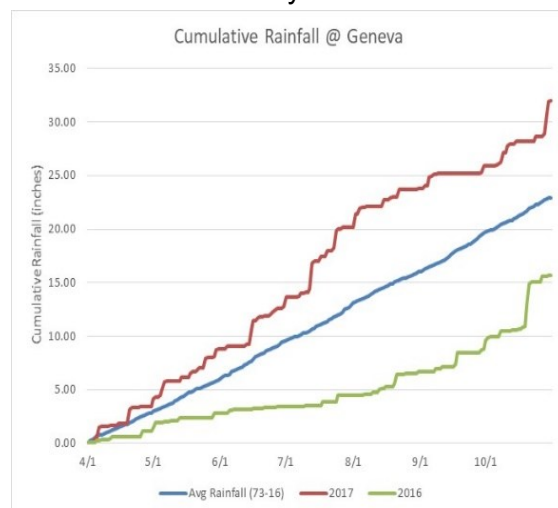
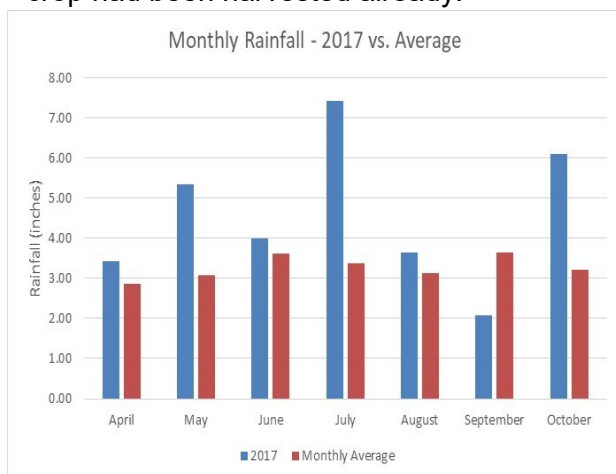
After our second warmest growing season in 40+ years last year, 2017 was closer to our ‘average’ GDD accumulation. The months of May through August were fairly close to our average monthly accumulations, which was causing some concern as we all started to realize how big this year’s crop was looking, and that we would need some more heat to get that large crop sufficiently ripe. Fortunately, conditions changed in the latter half of September, which brought us the warmest stretch of weather in the Finger Lakes for the entire season, and into October. Total GDD accumulation over the last two months of the season exceeded our

average by almost 50%. We finished the season with 2685 GDDs at Geneva, and 2973 GDDs at the Teaching Vineyard in Dresden.

### Rainfall

The heavier than normal precipitation this year marked a significant contrast compared to 2016, which might qualify as the understatement of the year (see the graph on the right comparing rainfall during the two seasons and the average accumulation). Rains during the early part of the season were especially problematic because they seemed to come almost constantly. While it made early season field work and disease management more challenging in vineyards, it also meant that field crop growers left many more fields fallow this year because they couldn’t dry out enough to plant them.

In addition to helping us out with some extra heat, September gave us a respite from the rain and ended up being the driest month of the year, which helped to keep botrytis and sour rot infections from flaring up to the extent that they likely could have otherwise. While the monthly total in October ended up being twice our average rainfall, half of that fell in the final 3 days of the month, when most – but certainly not all – of the crop had been harvested already.



## B.E.V. NY Is Coming!



We're in the process of putting the final touches on the program for this year's B.E.V. NY conference, which will be held Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 2 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. This year's viticulture program is shaping up nicely. Here are a few of the confirmed speakers and topics that are on this year's program:

- Dr. Jason Londo (USDA-ARS) and Al Kovaleski (graduate student) will be presenting some more of their findings about the mechanisms of cold hardiness in grapevines, and some implications of that work both in the short and long term.
- Dr. Imed Dami (Ohio State University) will talk about some work that he and his graduate students have done looking at how applications of abscissic acid (ABA), a plant hormone, can influence cold hardiness and fruit characteristics.
- Dr. Belinda Kemp (Brock University) is an expert on the production of sparkling wines. While she primarily works on the enology side of the spectrum, she received her Ph.D. in viticulture, and will be discussing some important viticulture factors in the production of sparkling wine. This talk is part of a sparkling wine "thread" that will be part of each day's program at B.E.V. NY this year, starting with a session on marketing of sparkling wines on Wednesday, followed by a talk by Belinda on Thursday on winemaking issues for sparkling.
- Bryan Brown (NYS IPM Program) is the new weed specialist with the IPM program, based at the Experiment Station in Geneva. We haven't had a speaker discuss weed management at B.E.V. NY for several years, so this will be a great opportunity to get caught up on some recent developments on the topic.
- Bryan Hed (Penn State University) will be speaking on some of the work that he has done looking at organic and "low impact" disease management in vineyards.

There is more still to come as we finish filling out the program. More details will be coming out over the next couple of weeks on the full program, registration and hotel accommodations.

We are also looking for companies and organizations who are interested in being sponsors of this year's conference. If you would like information about the sponsorship opportunities at B.E.V. NY this year, please contact Shelly Vaccaro at [mw69@cornell.edu](mailto:mw69@cornell.edu) and she can give you more details.

## PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR ONLINE NEWA SURVEY – help us build our new website!

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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 is a Partnership of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program and the Northeast Regional Climate Center.



### The Census of Agriculture is a Producer's Voice, Future, and Opportunity

*With the loss of the statewide vineyard acreage survey that used to be conducted by the USDA's Ag Statistics Service, the national Census of Agriculture is the best estimate that we can get right now about vineyard acreage, producers, and other information about the grape industry in New York. I know these kinds of things can be kind of time consuming and not much of a priority, but I hope all grape growers will take the time to complete the Census so that we can have good information about trends and changes in our industry. - Hans*

In December, farmers and ranchers across the nation will receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Producers can mail in their completed census form, or respond online via the improved web questionnaire. The online questionnaire has been revised extensively to make it more convenient for producers. Conducted once every five years, the Census of Agriculture is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them; it is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. Farmers and ranchers, trade associations, government, extension educators, researchers, and many others rely on census of agriculture data when making decisions that shape American agriculture – from creating and funding farm programs to boosting services for communities and the industry. The census of agriculture is a producer's voice, future, and opportunity. For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (800) 727-9540.





### 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.



#### **December Pruning Workshop**

*December 8, 2017*

*1:00 – 4:00 PM*

*Finger Lakes Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard*

*1020 Anthony Road, Penn Yan NY*

Interested in learning how to prune grapevines? You won't want to miss the Finger Lakes Grape Program's pruning class and hands-on demonstration.

There will be a brief indoor session in which we'll introduce proper techniques and answer any questions you may have, followed by ample time outside in our Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard to practice what you've learned. All attendees will have the opportunity to prune vines on two different training systems with guidance from Cooperative Extension educators.

Instruction available in Spanish for portions of the workshop.

Please remember to dress for the weather, and bring your own pruning shears.

Questions? Email Gillian Trimmer at [gmt47@cornell.edu](mailto:gmt47@cornell.edu), or call the Finger Lakes Grape Program office at (315)-536-5134.

Please note that the cost of registration is \$25 per person in advance, \$40 per person at the door. Please register for the workshop by going to [https://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/event\\_preregistration.php?event=336](https://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration.php?event=336) or by calling our office at (315) 536-5134.

#### **2018 Pesticide Training and Recertification Series**

*Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018; Exam Monday, March 5, 2018*

*7:00 pm – 9:30 pm.*

*Exam: 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County*

*480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424*

Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification and meets the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) experience / education requirements **OR** current applicators seeking pesticide recertification credits should attend. 2.5 recertification core credits will be available for each class.

Cost is \$175.00 for certification which includes the training manuals and all 4 classes. This does not include the \$100.00 exam fee. Recertification is \$25.00 per class.

For further information about the classes or registration, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County, 585-394-3977 x 427 or x 436, or email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) or [rw43@cornell.edu](mailto:rw43@cornell.edu). Registration form will be available on the Association's website, [www.cceontario.org](http://www.cceontario.org)

## 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!

*Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service. This program is solely intended to educate consumers about their choices. Contact CCE if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.*

### **Finger Lakes Grape Program Advisory Committee**

**Eric Amberg**- Grafted Grapevine Nursery  
**Bill Dalrymple**- Dalrymple Farm  
**Matt Doyle**- Doyle Vineyard Management  
**Eileen Farnan**- Barrington Cellars  
**Chris Gerling**- Cornell University Extension  
**Mel Goldman**- Keuka Lake Vineyards  
**Luke Haggerty**- Constellation Brands  
**Tina Hazlitt**- Sawmill Creek Vineyards  
**Cameron Hosmer**- Hosmer Winery  
**Harry Humphreys**- Overlook Farms  
**Richard Jerome**- Jerome's U-Pick  
**Gregg McConnell**- Farm Credit East  
**Herm Young**- Young Sommer Winery  
**John Santos**- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards  
**Dave Smith**- Smith Brothers Farms  
**Justine Vanden Heuvel**- Cornell University  
**Derek Wilber**- Swedish Hill Winery



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