

April 29th, 2020

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

“For the past two years, our official budbreak in Marquette has been around May 5, but given the conditions this past winter (lots of chilling hour accumulation) and early spring (warmer and dry conditions), it seems likely that we will be seeing these vines hit that stage before the end of the month.” – Hans Walter-Peterson, viticulturist and soothsayer, April 8 Vineyard Update



Well that’ll teach me. I wrote that sentence after a warmer than normal March had a lot of us thinking that budbreak was going to be pretty early this year. We have since experienced one of the coolest Aprils (i.e., lowest GDD accumulation) that we’ve had in almost 50 years, which pretty put the brakes on any further development up to this point (see photos). Temperatures are supposed to be getting back to normal for the next several days, so we should be seeing some more buds starting to swell and maybe even begin to break. But we saw how well that kind of statement worked out for me last time, so...who knows.



With budbreak holding off this long, the chances of frost damage are reduced, but we’re certainly not out of the woods by any means. The slowdown in growth has also given many vineyards some more time to get tying finished up before the buds started to push out. Some of the other concerns at this point of the season still remain however, such as feeding damage from steely beetles or climbing cutworm. Prolonged periods where buds remain in the woolly, swollen stage through just past budbreak means the buds remain in this vulnerable state for a longer period of time, and therefore are more susceptible to feeding. In most years these pests do minimal damage that is usually not worth taking any action, but it’s still good to keep an eye open for them.

I have also received a couple of questions about nitrogen applications over the past several days, which gives me the opportunity to remind everyone that the best practice for applying N is to wait until closer to bloom, or even after bloom, to apply any nitrogen fertilizers. The vines’ needs for nitrogen early in the season are being supplied by reserves that are mobilized during the period between budbreak and bloom. The vines have not yet produced the new, fine roots that are mainly responsible for nutrient uptake, therefore any nitrogen that is applied to the soil at this point will be either taken up by cover crops or leached out of the soil profile before the vine’s roots are able to take it up. In a year where growers will likely be trying to minimize expenses in the vineyard, it makes sense to apply nutrients when they will be most effective and most efficiently used, if you’re going to apply any at all this year (more on that topic coming soon).

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NY FarmNet

Nothing about what we're all going through right now is very easy. With uncertainty about markets, finances, and the physical and mental health of ourselves and our families, there's a lot that's weighing on folks in agriculture, and that's in addition to the normal stresses of the growing season. So I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone about [NY FarmNet](#), which is an organization that provides a number of services to farmers at no cost.



FarmNet offers a lot of different services to farms, many of them in the realm of financial and business planning, including:

- Financial analysis
- Business planning
- Retirement and estate planning
- Business transfers

We're still waiting for budbreak in the vineyards, but I know that there are already a lot of questions and uncertainty about what the grape market might be like this fall, given the restrictions in place on tasting rooms and the closure of bars and restaurants, both of which are important sales avenues for wineries in New York. NY FarmNet can work with farmers to help think through some of the questions and possible answers about their business.

Perhaps even more importantly, FarmNet also has experts to help farmers deal with the mental and emotional impacts that stressful situations can have on them and their families. As their [website](#) states, "[t]he pressures and challenges of running a farm can affect every aspect of your life. NY FarmNet's personal consultants can help you manage issues that can disrupt business, family, or personal well-being":

- Stress related emotional issues
- Relationship issues
- Family and/or parent-child concerns
- Domestic violence
- Divorce/separation adjustment
- Alcohol and drug concerns
- Grief/loss
- Depression and anxiety
- Farm conflicts and concerns
- Farm retirement, transfer or exit adjustment
- Health concerns

Even if you don't believe that you are in need of these kinds of services, I hope you will keep them in mind in case you interact with somebody else later on who you might be concerned is struggling with these kinds of issues. NY FarmNet even has a guide on [how to recognize potential signs of stress in farm families](#), and [how farmers can cope with stress](#). There is [short, well-made video](#) on their site describing the organization and what they do for farmers.

If you or somebody you know might need NY FarmNet's services, which are free and confidential, please contact them. This pandemic and the changes that it's imposed on our lives and businesses aren't easy, but organizations like NY FarmNet are available to help New York farmers get through them.

COVID-19 Related Resources

Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Fact Sheet



As of April 27th, the Paycheck Protection Program is back in business with \$310 billion more in appropriated funding. A [new interim final rule](#) was issued by Small Business Association/Department of Treasury on April 24th and the [Treasury Department also issued an updated FAQ](#) as of April 26th.

To help you navigate the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan processes, a fact sheet has been developed by our regional ag teams in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County. To view the fact sheet, follow the link below:

[PPP and EIDL Fact Sheet](#)

This fact sheet was developed by Elizabeth Higgins, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, Nicole Tommell, Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program and Myron Thurston, CCE Madison County.

COVID-19 and Your Produce Farm Webinar Recording



The COVID-19 and Your Produce Farm webinar, recorded on April 3, provides steps that produce farm managers and individuals working with fruit and vegetable farms should consider to protect their workforce, their business, and their markets. Topics include why prevention of the coronavirus/COVID-19 is important, steps that employers should take to protect employees, how to manage cleaning and disinfection in the workplace and employee housing, state and federal sick leave and workforce reduction policies, and disaster contingency planning to manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 on-farm. See links below to learn more:

[COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) and Your Produce Farm webinar recording](#)

[Link to COVID-19 and Your Produce Farm pdf of webinar presentation](#) - the PDF file contains active links that users can click to access the resources online.

By Richard Stup, PhD, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development, Elizabeth Bihn, PhD, Director of Produce Safety Alliance at Cornell, and Anu Rangarajan, PhD, Director of the Cornell Small Farms Program.

A Few Links to Other Ag-Related Resources:

NY Department of Ag & Markets COVID-19 Information: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development COVID-19 Information: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

COVID-19 Reliable Resources for Farmworkers – English: <https://cornell.box.com/s/ac5hhk7bnfiq3nrxi8pctyqm0ae4yr5z>

COVID-19 Reliable Resources for Farmworkers – Spanish: <https://cornell.box.com/s/5qpchzethwwu9c5edypg7y5dnxsuzklj>

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.



“Virtual” Spring Grape IPM Meeting

Tuesday, May 5 4:30 – 6:00 PM

On a computer screen near you

Have no fear, the spring IPM meeting is still on. While we won't be able to gather in person for this year's meeting and dinner afterwards, this year's meeting will still feature some of our local experts to give growers information as they prepare to begin the 2020 season. The DEC has approved the meeting for 1.5 recertification credits, and we have worked out a process by which we can confirm attendees presence and participation in the meeting in order to award them.

Whether you want to receive recertification credits or not, you must pre-register for the webinar using the following link:

https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6Qw99YrDROmoyCY_MyfWIQ

Further instructions for those who wish to receive credits will be emailed on Monday, May 4, the day before the meeting. This is the first time that we have run an online webinar with these procedures in place, so please be patient with us if there are any hiccups along the way. Please contact Brittany Griffin at bg393@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

2020 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
4/22/2020	39.6	28.6	0.00	0.0	5.6
4/23/2020	40.3	28.6	0.03	0.0	5.6
4/24/2020	51.5	37.5	0.00	0.0	5.6
4/25/2020	59.6	38.3	0.00	0.0	5.6
4/26/2020	49.8	40.7	0.86	0.0	5.6
4/27/2020	48.8	35.7	0.04	0.0	5.6
4/28/2020	56.9	32.9	0.00	0.0	5.6
Weekly Total			0.93"	0.0	
Season Total			1.63"	5.6	

GDDs as of April 8, 2019: 11.4

Rainfall as of April 8, 2019: 0.44"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2020 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	3.1	63.8	
May		254.4	
June		480.2	
July		643.6	
August		592.2	
September		358.3	
October		110.0	
TOTAL	3.1	2502.6	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for each month.

² The long-term average (1973-2019) 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

Precipitation

	2020 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ₅	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	1.48"	2.83	
May		3.16	
June		3.60	
July		3.42	
August		3.23	
September		3.53	
October		3.42	
TOTAL	1.48"	23.19	

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!

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

Luke Haggerty- Constellation Brands

Tina Hazlitt- Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Cameron Hosmer- Hosmer Winery

T.J. Brahm – Randall Standish Vineyards

Harry Humphreys- Overlook Farms

Gregg McConnell- Farm Credit East

Herm Young– Young Sommer Winery

John Santos- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards

Steve Sklenar– Sklenar Vineyards

Justine Vanden Heuvel- Cornell University

Peter Weis – Weis Vineyards

Kim Marconi – Three Brothers Wineries & Estates

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

Hans Walter-Peterson—Team Leader

Donald Caldwell—Viticulture Technician

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

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