



**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

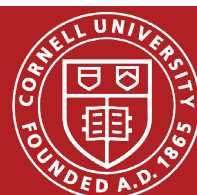


**PennState Extension**

**Crop Update - August 20, 2020**

Concords- August 18, 2020  
Photo: Jennifer Phillips Russo

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*The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara county NY and in Erie County PA.*

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**Joining and Configuring Audio & Video (1 minute):**

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# Business Management

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

## Grape Price Announcements

In NYS price announcements to growers were on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Concord and Niagara prices were good, increases from last year were highly variable but no decreases in price were observed. Concords are solidly above \$250 per ton, average payments will likely exceed \$280 a ton.

As mentioned earlier this year cooperative payments are also up. While the future is largely unknown, they seem on pace to at least equal or exceed most of the cash market for the 2020 concord crop. Obviously this involves some amount of speculation as 2023 market conditions may have some indirect impacts on cooperative prices in the 2020 crop year. The speculation is based mostly on debt levels, current demand reports and 2019 cooperative payments.



Prices, labor supply and the costs of production are often not great news for growers. I've been told that I often rain on the optimism of farmers. For many/most growers this is good news, without reservation. These kind of prices can create the same opportunities for business expansion, sustainability and succession as they did ten years ago.

Unfortunately, for some growers' frost damage will require crop insurance claims to maintain gross revenue. As a whole the crop estimates are assuming an industry wide decline in crop size of just 1.5 tons per acre. Higher Concord prices for most growers will leave gross revenue unchanged or increased for 2020.

The wine market is quite mixed. Pricing announcements did not tell us much. Prices of some natives at some wineries are up. Overall most prices are the same or less as the market deals with carryover and the challenges of COVID-19. More concerning than price data, were anecdotal reports of contract reductions prior to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Where tank space is available and volume is moving, the market can justify current prices. The oversupply and declining demand means that many varieties typically supplied to smaller wineries will be challenging to market.

Generally speaking, larger wineries experienced some growth early this year. That is tempered by the nature of the growth and other business factors. Growth is specific to certain varieties and styles of wine. Growth was mostly limited to distribution through grocery and similar stores. Alcohol sales in PA actually fell, due to the distribution model. The pending merger of Constellation and Gallo continues to add to general market uncertainty. Most of these issues should be resolved over the next 12 months. Long-term over supply of some varieties for smaller wineries could take significantly longer, depending on what consumer behavior looks like after COVID.



# Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

## I See Something...Purple

The cooler temps this past week were welcomed when working in the vines. As I visited farms around the region, I found hints of color in my I Spy game with the clusters. Berries are sizing up and we are fast approaching August 24<sup>th</sup>, the predicted veraison date. It would appear that we are right on track. I am also noticing powdery mildew creeping in on leaves as well.



Photo 1. Concord Grapes beginning to change color photo taken 8/19/2020

Dr. Jim Meyers, my colleague in the Hudson Valley, has been providing the following valuable information this growing season. As of today, August 20, 2020, Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY has a total of 1944 Growing Degree Days and 32 inches of precipitation. NOAA's forecast through Monday is included along with the Grape Berry Moth forecasted GDDs. Our historical growing degree day graph has 2020 behind 2018, but slightly above the five-year average. While our precipitation for 2020 is above the five-year average in inches, but nowhere near the amount that accumulated in 2017.

### **Phenological Resources:**

**(New)** [New York State Announces Confirmed Finding of Spotted Lanternfly on Staten Island](#)

**(Your input requested)** [Grapevine powdery mildew fungicide resistance survey](#) | Nancy Sharma and Tim Miles, Michigan State University

[2016 Organic Production and IPM Guide for Grapes](#) | New York State IPM Program

[Insecticides for control of spotted wing drosophila](#) | Art Agnello, et al., Cornell University

[Grape Insect and Mite Pests-2018 Field Season](#) | Greg Loeb, Cornell University

[Early Season Grape Disease Management](#) | Katie Gold, Cornell University

### **Regional Resources & Activities (3 pesticide recertification credits available):**

**(New)** [Long Island Soil Health Virtual Field Day | Cover crops, Roots and Soil Health](#) | Joseph Amsili, Extension Associate and Soil Health Program Coordinator with New York Soil Health & Debbie Aller, Agricultural Stewardship Specialist with CCE Suffolk | Aug-27

[ASEV Webinar: Lifecycle Modeling and the Impacts of Climate Change](#) | Gwen-Alyn Hoheisel, WA State University | Oct-22

[ASEV Webinar: Invasive Species Response: Lessons from the European Grapevine Moth Collaborative Program](#) | Monica Cooper, UC, Cooperative Extension | Nov-12

[Spotted Lanternfly -- Understanding its Ecology and the Threat](#) | Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center (1 DEC credit)

[Management of Grape Berry Moth](#) | Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center (1 DEC credit)

[Implementing NEWA into a Vineyard IPM Strategy](#) | Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center (1 DEC credit)

### **COVID-Related Resources** (more in email signature below):

[Webinar & Workbook: COVID-19 Harvest Protocols](#) | The Wine Institute, California Association of Winegrape Growers and California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance

[SBA Paycheck Protection Program Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[SBA Paycheck Protection Program](#)

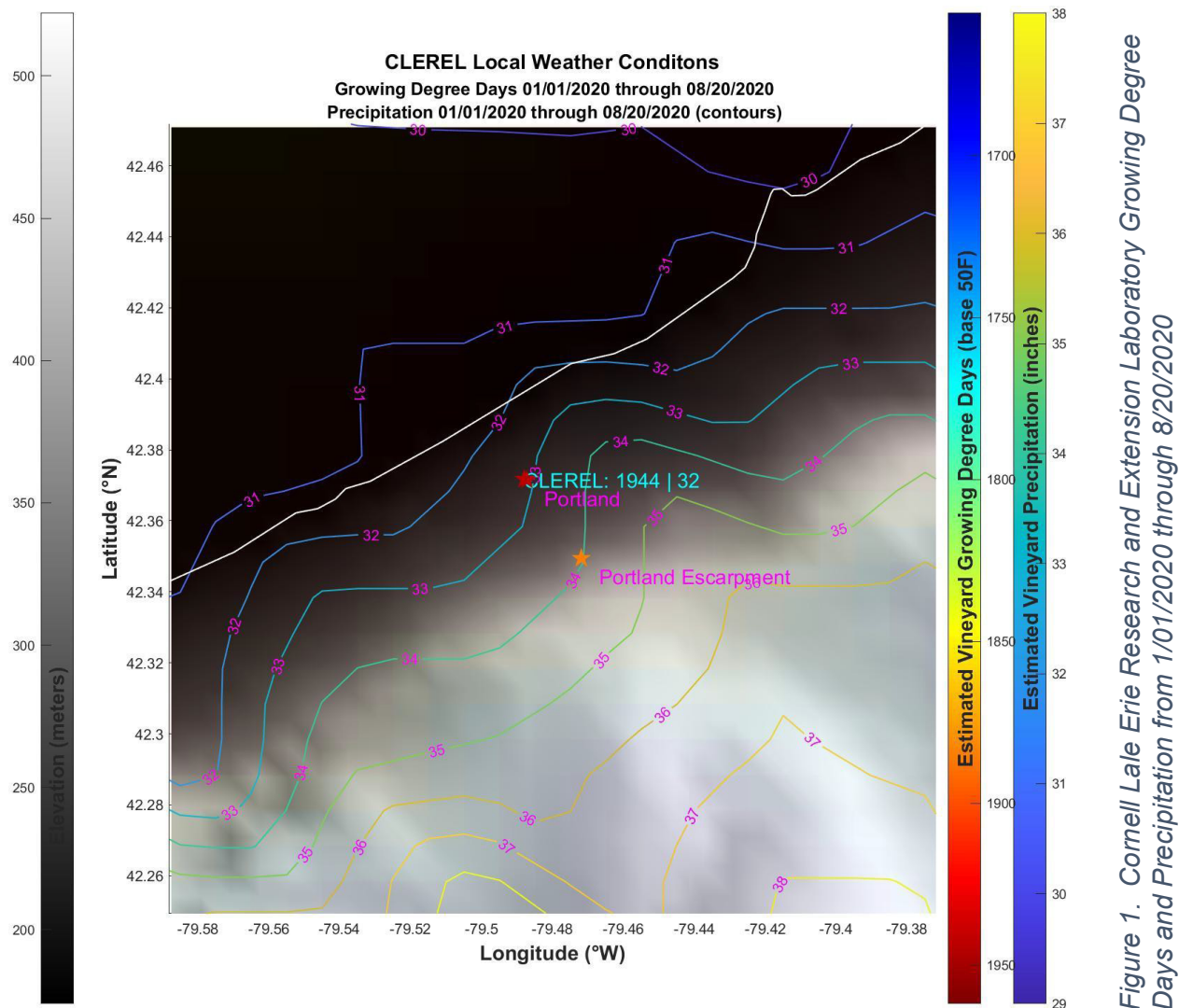


Figure 1. Cornell Lale Erie Research and Extension Laboratory Growing Degree Days and Precipitation from 1/01/2020 through 8/20/2020

Notes: Year-to-date Growing Degree Days (GDDs) are reported as color-coded symbols your vineyard (star), nearby vineyards(circles), and CCE offices (squares). Year-to-date precipitation is reported as color-coded contours. Site symbols are annotated with GDD and precipitation (e.g. 110 | 12 indicates 110 GDDs and 12 inches of rain). Yellow circles are NEWA stations closest to your site. GDDs and precipitation are sourced from Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) high resolution gridded data service which calculates



**GDD using daily high/low temperatures, not hourly.** Elevation data is sourced from United States Geological Survey (USGS) digital elevation model.

## **NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast by 12 Hour Period**

Notes: Weather forecasts are sourced from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service.

[National Weather Service Forecast \(click to link\)](#)

[NOAA's Disclaimer \(click to link\)](#)

UTC Forecast Time: 2020-08-20T08:37:19+00:00

Today: Sunny, with a high near 75. Southwest wind 5 to 9 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Southwest wind 3 to 8 mph. Friday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64. Southwest wind around 8 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8pm and 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Monday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Monday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

## **Historical Growing Degree Days (base 50)**

Notes: Current season accumulation is reported as the thick blue line from January 1 through date of this report. Historical season data is reported between January 1 and December 31 of each year. The legend indicates how many GDDs had accumulated by the same date in previous years and the final total for the year on December 31.

Data is sourced from Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) high resolution gridded data service.

## **7-Day GDD Forecast**

Future GDD total accumulations are estimated using temperature forecasts sourced from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service. If you report a date (send me an email) for wild grape bloom near you the GBM model will use it, otherwise wild bloom date will be estimated.

Date	Phenology (GDD base 50F)	Grape Berry Moth Model (GDD base 47F, after wild bloom) New Generations (start scouting at 750 and 1470)
8/20/2020	1959	1851
8/21/2020	1980	1875
8/22/2020	2004	1902
8/23/2020	2027	1928
8/24/2020	2050	1954
8/25/2020	2074	1981

*Table 1. 7-Day Growing Degree Day Forecast and Grape Berry Moth Model Growing Degree Day Forecast for Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory 8/20/2020 through 8/25/2020*

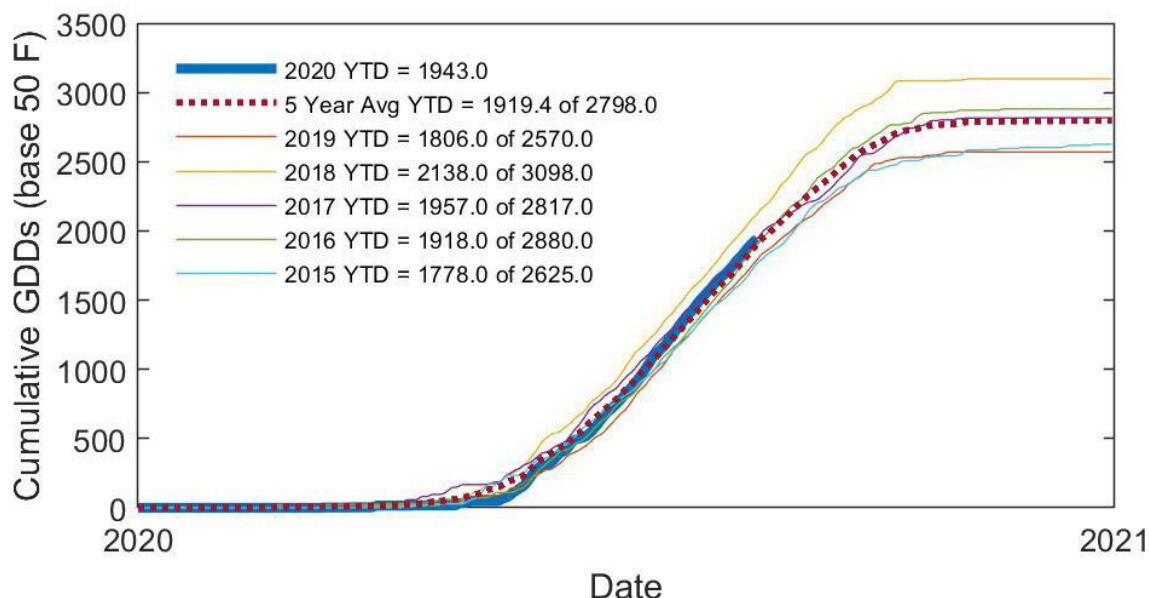


Figure 2. Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory Historical Growing Degree Days (base 50)

## Forecasted Hourly Temperature

This vineyard update now includes a seven-day hourly temperature forecast. The past two nights have been much cooler than we have been used to, the week ahead brings warmer temps.

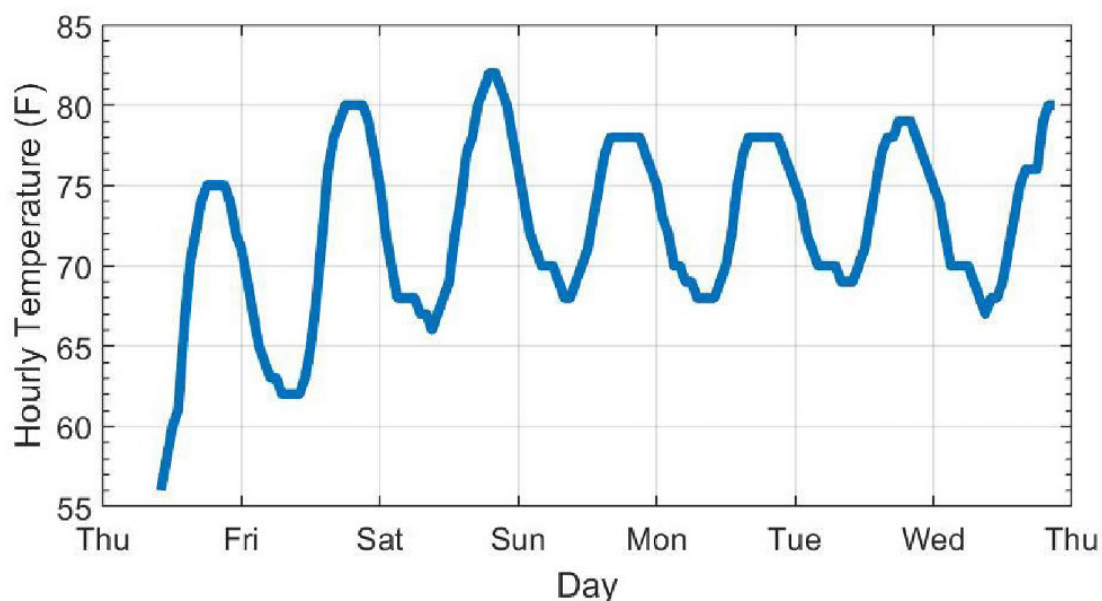


Figure 3. Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory Forecasted Hourly Temperature 8/20/2020 through 8/27/2020

## Historical Precipitation (inches)

Notes: Current season accumulation is reported as the thick blue line from January 1 through date of this report. Historical season data is reported between January 1 and December 31 of each year. The legend indicates how many inches of precipitation had accumulated by the same date in previous years and the final total for the year on December 31. Data is sourced from Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) high resolution gridded data service.



When looking at Figure 4 below, you will see that at the lab we are above the average rainfall for the past five years. Our precipitation accumulation seems to be tracking the rainfall from 2015. I have heard from a few growers that precipitation has been spotty across their blocks, with some getting soaking rain and others barely a drizzle.

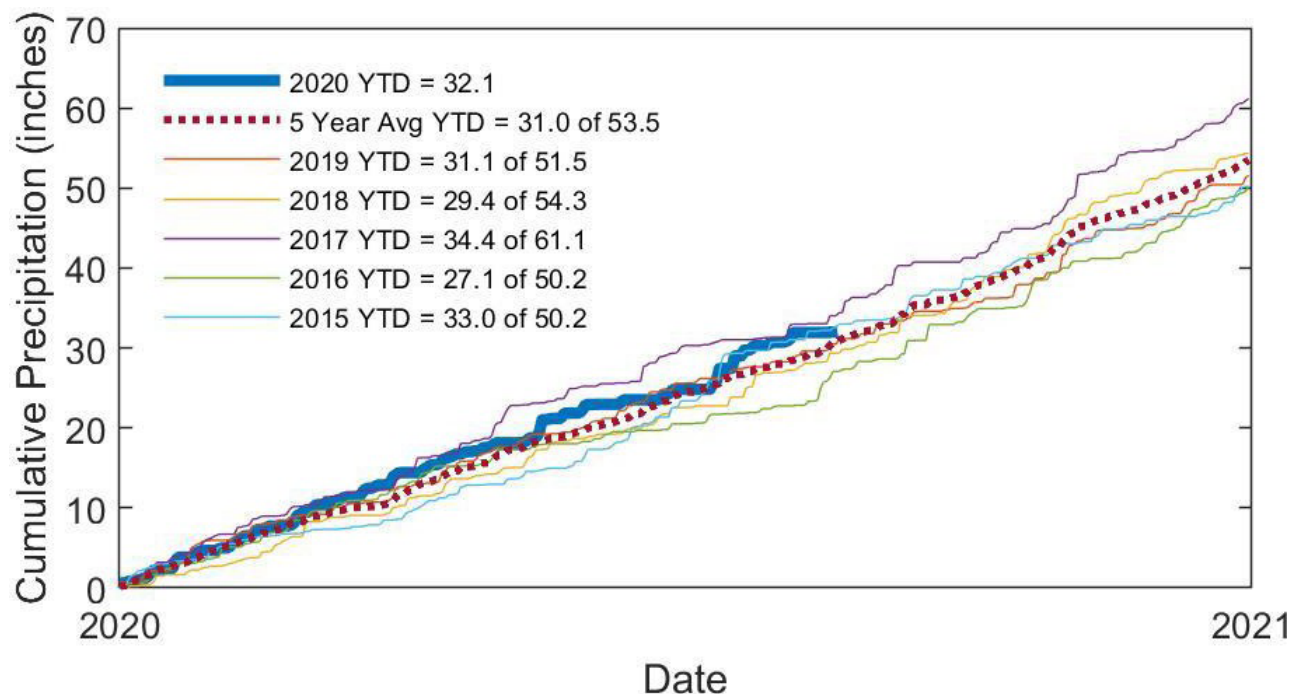


Figure 4. Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory Historical Precipitation (inches) from 2015 to 2020

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# PA Update

Andy Muza, LERGP Extension Team & Penn State Extension- Erie County

## In the Vineyard (8-20-20) –

Grape Berry Moth (GBM) - On Monday (8/17) I checked 6 High – Severe Risk areas. At all sites examined I was still finding GBM eggs (Figure 1). By now, all High/Severe Risk areas should have received an insecticide application for the third generation of GBM. Low and Intermediate risk sites should also have received an insecticide application **IF** your scouting indicated 15% GBM injured clusters in these areas.

**NOTE:** A second insecticide application, using a material in a different chemical class (i.e., different IRAC #), is highly recommended at High/Severe risk sites.



*Figure 1. Two grape berry moth eggs on Concord berry.*

*Photo – Andy Muza, Penn State.*

If you timed your first insecticide application to coincide with 1620 GBM DD and used an insecticide that must be ingested, [e.g. Intrepid (IRAC 18); Altacor (IRAC 28); Verdepryn (IRAC 28), Delegate (IRAC 5)], then the second spray should be applied 10–14 days later. However, if you timed your first insecticide application to coincide closer to 1710 – 1720 GBM DD and used a contact insecticide, then the second spray should be applied 7–10 days later. Contact insecticides include: pyrethroids (IRAC 3A) such as Baythroid, Brigade, Sniper, Danitol, etc.; carbamates (IRAC 1A) such as Sevin/carbaryl; and organophosphates (IRAC 1B) such as Imidan.

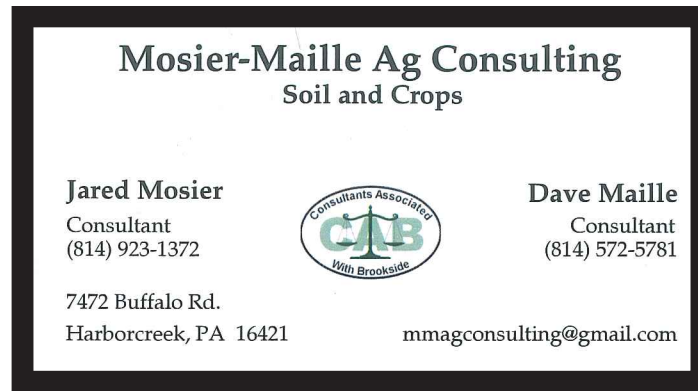
Downy Mildew – two weeks ago (8/5), downy mildew leaf lesions were starting to appear in a Niagara vineyard (Figure 2). A week later there was a slight increase in the number of leaf lesions in this vineyard, although still not at a level to cause concern. This week I also revisited a Delaware block where downy mildew was first



*Figure 2. Downy mildew lesions on Niagara leaf. Photo – Andy Muza, Penn State.*

reported in this season (Crop Update – July 23, 2020). At this site, downy mildew was still hanging in there with fresh lesions showing on some leaves, despite weather conditions that have not been particularly favorable for this disease over the last 2 weeks. I am pointing this out to remind growers to continue to scout Niagara, Catawba and other susceptible wine varieties for the presence of this disease. Although downy mildew is at low levels in our region, if present this disease has the potential to increase rapidly under favorable weather conditions (e.g., frequent thunderstorms/rain showers, elevated dew levels).





## Announcements

### Safe Harvest 2020: COVID-19 Office Hours for Agricultural Producers and Packers

August 25, 2020  
September 1, 2020  
September 8, 2020  
September 15, 2020  
September 22, 2020  
September 29, 2020

Beginning on Tuesday, August 25th at 4:00 PM EST, Cornell CALS and CCE will host office hours for farmers and packers to answer any questions they might have about managing and responding to protect the farm workforce during COVID-19. Participants will be able to log in from a computer or call in from a phone to ask questions or just to listen. A panel of experts will be available to answer questions immediately, questions that the experts cannot answer right away will be recorded, studied and answered later. The next 6 weeks are a critical time for the farm workforce as seasonal harvest ramps up, so the office hours will repeat every Tuesday at 4:00 PM EST through the end of September. Look for log in information and phone numbers in coming news releases and watch this website: [www.agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu](http://www.agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu).

### Hand Sanitizer and Face Masks Still Available

It's not too late! If you haven't picked up your free NYS Clean hand sanitizer and washable Hanes masks, you still can. All farms in New York are eligible to request supplies. Click on this [link](http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/resources/hand-sanitizer-and-face-mask-request) (<http://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/resources/hand-sanitizer-and-face-mask-request>) to make the request. We will set up a time for you to come pick up the supplies at CLEREL in Portland.

# PA Update

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

Weather: At our location by the lake, our August rainfall to date is still at 1.3", which is the same as last week and the week before; no rain for the past 15 days. Growing degree accumulations for August are at 407, and we have accumulated 2016.5 gdds since April 1. Our short-term forecast is dry except for a chance for rain on Saturday afternoon, with temp highs hovering around just above average over the next 3 days.

Here by the lake, we are seeing color in Concord, but it is NOT at the 5% level yet. I suspect we'll reach 5% color by Friday or Saturday (8/21-22).

Diseases: Dry weather over the past 15 days has helped shut down downy mildew in most places. Nevertheless, continue to scout your susceptible vineyards regularly for symptoms of this disease, because Andy Muza is still seeing signs of the pathogen in hotspots. Heavy overnight dews can keep this disease hanging on in places where it has established a foothold, despite the lack of rainfall.

For powdery mildew on natives, it's all about keeping canopies functional to the point where the crop will get ripe on time and I doubt there are many (if any?) cases where continued protection of Concord (and especially Niagara) leaves from powdery is still needed. I'm seeing very little mildew on leaves at this point and I'm more concerned about potassium and other nutrient deficiencies, especially where large crops are hanging and soil continues to dry down.

In wine varieties, especially those that produce tight clusters, a Botrytis specific fungicide spray at veraison and about 2-3 weeks later can help manage bunch rots but will only be effective if you're spraying for Botrytis. In warm, wet harvest seasons, we can also see some sour rot caused by non-Botrytis microbes that cannot be controlled with Botrytis specific fungicides. While fruit zone leaf removal can significantly reduce rot development (of all kinds) in these varieties, this cultural practice needs to be applied earlier in the year, around or shortly after bloom to be most effective. Research has shown that the benefits of leaf removal tend to diminish the later its applied.

Dr. Megan Hall, has developed some valuable information to show that controlling fruit flies (with insecticides) during this latter part of the ripening period (beginning around 15 brix) can significantly reduce sour rot development. Applying insecticides with sterilants or antimicrobials like Oxidate or Fracture can improve control above insecticides alone. However, be aware of the fact that fruit flies reproduce rapidly and can develop resistance to insecticide chemical classes in short order; always rotate insecticide chemical classes when spraying for fruit fly/sour rot control.



# Other links of interest:

[LERGP Web-site:](#)

[Cornell Cooperative Extension website:](#)

[Cornell CALS Veraison to Harvest Newsletter:](#)

[Efficient Vineyard:](#)

[Appellation Cornell Newsletter:](#)

## **COVID-19 resources:**

Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages Updated Regularly

General Questions & Links:

<https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>

Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions:

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

<https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Farmworker Program

[www.farmworkers.cornell.edu](http://www.farmworkers.cornell.edu)

[www.trabajadores.cornell.edu](http://www.trabajadores.cornell.edu) (en espanol)

