



October 8th, 2020

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

I know everybody's in the thick of things with harvest right now, but I wanted to pass along a couple of observations and "heads up" notes outside of the weekly *Veraison to Harvest* writeups, which will be ending after this week due to budget shortages (more on that will be in the newsletter later this week).

First, the fruit that is still hanging in the vineyard continues to look terrific. The two days of rain that we had at the end of September were badly needed in most vineyards, and the weather dried out quickly after that, so I haven't really seen new fruit rots or downy mildew infections to any great extent. Many of the samples that we have collected for the *Veraison to Harvest* project have turned up to have lower than average titratable acidity (TA), but that result isn't necessarily reflective of every situation (as always).



Second, while assessing one of our trials for bunch rots (spoiler alert – there was much) in Riesling yesterday, I noticed some berries that had recently split open. With over 1" of rain over two days, it wouldn't be terribly surprising to see some splitting, but in a year that has been so dry, it's easy to forget about checking for them. The number of berries that I noticed with splits was pretty low – maybe 2 or 3 per vine – but everyone knows that those are easy entry points for botrytis and sour rot to get established. Growers who are planning on letting their Riesling hang for a while longer should just keep an eye open for any increases in bunch rots.

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“A Tale of Fire and Ice”

OR

How Do Drought and Frost Affect Weed Management?



Summer weeds like this goldenrod under the trellis can be harder to control with herbicides when the weeds are

This summer and fall, growers have been faced with dry periods that have resulted in reduced weed control. Although fewer weed seeds may germinate under drought conditions, weeds that do emerge may be more difficult to manage with post-emergence herbicides. Moisture-stressed weeds are likely to have thicker cuticles (which is the waxy coating on the surface of the leaf), which can inhibit the absorption of foliar-applied products. Additionally, plant architecture can be altered when it is hot and dry (for example, fewer and/or drooping leaves) meaning that herbicide capture and retention may be reduced. When weeds are not actively growing, systemic herbicides, like glyphosate, may not be effectively translocated to their target sites. Although contact herbicides, like paraquat, may be less likely to be affected by dry conditions, herbicide efficacy could be reduced if spray droplets dry rapidly (either in the air or on plant surfaces) and sufficient coverage is not achieved.

In addition to affecting the types and numbers of weeds that germinate and emerge, warm temperatures and reduced soil moisture can also affect the performance of residual herbicides. Without precipitation or irrigation, many

soil-applied herbicides cannot be effectively activated; this means being moved into the soil water solution so that they can be taken up by emerging weed seedlings. Some herbicides can be mechanically incorporated, although product distribution may be uneven in dry soils. Additionally, the potential for photo-degradation or volatilization may be increased under hot and dry conditions, resulting in reduced herbicide efficacy and/or unintended off-target movement.

As we move deep into fall, there is another weather-related concern that may negatively affect weed control efforts: frost. As the season progresses, summer annual weeds will begin to die, and perennial weeds will start to go dormant, limiting the efficacy of some herbicide applications. Incidences of frost can further complicate weed control efforts as damage to leaf tissue can inhibit the capture and uptake of herbicides. While the efficacy of proposed chemical control strategies can be affected by the degree of frost injury experienced by the target plants, past weather events are only one part of the weed control equation. Weather for the days following frost events can influence plant vigor and recovery from the initial cold damage. Predicted day- and night-time temperatures will also impact herbicide selection and the speed with which they work; always read herbicide labels to identify the optimum application conditions prior to pesticide treatments.

New York Sick Leave Requirement: What We Know, Still Don't Know, and Action Items

Richard Stup, Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program

What We Know

The Law

New York State, in the [2020 budget act](#), mandated annual sick leave on a permanent basis. There is no exemption for farm employers from the sick leave requirement and we expect most farms with hired employees to be affected. The amount and type of sick leave required varies by employer size and income, as follow:

- For employers with 4 or fewer employees and **less than** \$1 Million in net income: 40 hours of **unpaid** sick leave per employee
- For employers with 4 or fewer employees and **greater than** \$1 Million in net income: 40 hours of **paid** sick leave per employee
- For employers with between 5 and 99 employees: 40 hours of **paid** sick leave per employee

For employers with greater than 100 employees: 56 hours of **paid** sick leave per employee

Note that this is a new requirement for all employers, if you already provide sick leave that meets or exceed these levels then your policy already meets the requirement. Employers are not required to provide the sick leave until **January 1, 2021** but they are required to begin accruing hours of sick leave for employees on **September 30, 2020**.

Reasons to Use Sick Leave

The new law has detailed requirements about reasons for sick leave that your policy must also meet, including some that you might not expect. According to the law, employers must provide leave:

- (i) for a mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition of such employee or such employee's family member, regardless of whether such illness, injury, or health condition has been diagnosed or requires medical care at the time that such employee requests such leave;
- (ii) for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition of, or need for medical diagnosis of, or preventive care for, such employee or such employee's family member; or
- (iii) for an absence from work due to any of the following reasons when the employee or employee's family member has been the victim of domestic violence (...), a family offense, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking: (a) to obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other services program; (b) to participate in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocate, or take other actions to increase the safety of the employee or employee's family members; (c) to meet with an attorney or other social services provider to obtain information and advice on, and prepare for or participate in any criminal or civil proceeding; (d) to file a complaint or domestic incident report with law enforcement; (e) to meet with a district attorney's office; (f) to enroll children in a new school; or (g) to take any other actions necessary to ensure the health or safety of the employee or the employee's family member or to protect those who associate or work with the employee.

New York Sick Leave Requirement: What We Know, Still Don't Know, and Action Items

Accrual and Carryover

Employees can accrue sick time at a rate of no less than 1 hour of sick time per 30 hours worked, or the employer can choose to award all of the sick time upfront at the beginning of the calendar year. If the upfront approach is used the employer is not permitted to reduce or revoke the awarded sick time if the employee ends up working fewer hours during the year than expected. Unused sick time must carry over to the next year but employers with less than 100 employees can limit accrued sick time to 40 hours, and employers with greater than 100 employees can limit it to 56 hours.

What We *Still* Don't Know

In spite of repeated requests by employers, business organizations, accountants, attorneys and this author, the NYS Department of Labor has not yet provided details about many important questions relevant to farm employers.

- How will net income be calculated? What formula will NYS Department of Labor use?
- What about seasonal farm employees, are they included in the sick leave requirement? How many hours or days must they work each year to be included in the employer's number of employees?
- Can employers provide a pro-rated amount of sick days upfront to seasonal employees, such as 20 hours for employees who work 5-6 months, or must the hourly accrual of 30:1 be used?
- What about family members who work on the farm as defined in the Farm Laborer Fair Labor Practices Act, is sick leave required for them?
- What about youth workers, employees under age 18, are they included in the sick leave requirement?

What about different business entities with varying levels of share ownership? Which of those entities will be combined in order to calculate the number of employees?

We will continue to press for answers to these and other relevant questions and will share this information through written releases and employer training when available.

Actions Items for Employers

1. Track hours worked for **all employees** beginning September 30, 2020, if not already doing so. Employers can always go back and credit employees with sick time earned if the number of hours worked is known.
2. Consider adopting modern software and tracking systems to create employee schedules, record hours worked, integrate with payroll, and keep track of sick leave and vacation accrual and usage for all employees.
3. Review your current sick leave policy and update as needed.
4. Train managers and employees about your sick leave policy and any changes that will occur.

Stay tuned to the [Ag Workforce Journal](#) and other industry newsletters for more information about New York's sick leave requirements.

The US Census: Why and How to Respond (Information from <https://2020census.gov/en.html>)

The U.S. Census will continue to be open until October 30. Please encourage your families, friends, and employees to be sure that they complete their Census form before the end of October to be sure that they are counted. Information is available in numerous languages through the Census Bureau's website. In addition to voting, this is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as citizens of this country. Be sure you are counted! - Hans

The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in the United States and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail.

Why We Conduct This Count

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

It's also in the Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

Counting Everyone

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

Responding to the Census

It's not too late to complete your 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

The 2020 Census asks a few simple questions about you and everyone who was living with you on April 1, 2020.

Who Should Respond

The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the United States and its five territories ([Puerto Rico](#), [American Samoa](#), [the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands](#), [Guam](#), and [the U.S. Virgin Islands](#)).

One person should respond for each home. That person must be at least 15 years old. They should live in the home or place of residence themselves and know general information about each person living there. (For more information, visit [Questions Asked](#).)

How to Respond

Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail when your invitation to respond arrives.

How to Respond Online

Visit <https://my2020census.gov> to begin. If you are responding online, please note that you cannot save your progress and that you must complete the census in one sitting.

census facts

2020 Census data will help inform how billions of dollars are distributed to states and communities every year for the next 10 years.



Official Census
2020

The US Census: Why and How to Respond (Information from <https://2020census.gov/en.html>)

How to Respond by Phone

You have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020)

How to Respond by Mail

To respond to the census, you can mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.

Most households received their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census in March. These official Census Bureau mailings included detailed information and a Census ID for completing the census online.

In mid-April, the Census Bureau began mailing paper questionnaires to homes that have not yet responded online or by phone.

When responding, use blue or black ink to fill in the questionnaire. Do not use a pencil.

When finished, return the questionnaire in the envelope we provided. If you have lost your return envelope, please mail your completed questionnaire to:

U.S. Census Bureau
National Processing Center
1201 E 10th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

Verifying Your Questionnaire

There are several ways you can confirm that the 2020 Census questionnaire you received is legitimate:

The outer envelope's return address will say "U.S. Census Bureau" and "U.S. Department of Commerce," which is the Census Bureau's parent agency.

The return address will also show:

**U.S. Census Bureau
National Processing Center
100 Logistics Avenue
Jeffersonville, IN 47144**

The enclosed envelope for mailing the completed paper questionnaire will be addressed to either **Jeffersonville, IN**, or **Phoenix, AZ**, where the Census Bureau has mail processing centers.

When in doubt, you can review sample copies of all [official Census Bureau mailings](#) for the 2020 Census.

LEARN MORE

The Census Bureau will never ask you for:

- Your full Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

Money or donations.

In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

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.



There are currently no upcoming events. When events become available we will post them to our [website.](#)

2020 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
9/30/2020	64.1	51.6	0.50	7.8	2762.3
10/1/2020	61.6	49.6	0.00	5.6	2767.9
10/2/2020	59.6	45.7	0.00	2.7	2770.5
10/3/2020	57.2	44.2	0.00	0.7	2771.2
10/4/2020	57.0	42.0	0.00	0.0	2771.2
10/5/2020	58.9	44.1	0.00	1.5	2772.7
10/6/2020	67.2	43.2	0.00	5.2	2777.9
Weekly Total			0.50"	23.5	
Season Total			14.22"	2777.9	

GDDs as of October 6, 2019: 2593.4



Rainfall as of October 6, 2019: 17.99"

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

	2020 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	12	63.8	-23
May	261.5	254.4	-3
June	543.1	480.2	+1
July	714.5	643.6	+ 8
August	642.3	592.2	+14
September	379.3	358.3	**
October	10.0	110.0	**
TOTAL	2626.7	2502.6	

Growing Degree Days

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

** We passed the seasonal average for GDD accumulation on Sept. 23, 2020.

Precipitation

	2020 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	2.54"	2.83"	-0.29"
May	1.30"	3.16"	-1.86"
June	1.44"	3.60"	-2.16"
July	4.12"	3.42"	+0.60"
August	1.75"	3.23"	-1.48"
September	1.50"	3.53"	-2.03"
October	0.00"	3.42"	
TOTAL	12.65"	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)

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

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

October 8th, 2020

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

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Herm Young– Young Sommer Winery

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

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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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