

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

The results from the most recent bud hardiness samples collected at the end of March show (spoiler alert) that there has been a significant amount of deacclimation over the past month (Table 1). These most recent results don't even take into account this week's warm temperatures, which will result in further increases in the LT₅₀ values. Fortunately, the forecast for the next couple of weeks is not predicting temperatures to go below freezing at night, and for daytime temperatures to cool down a bit after Saturday.

Our very early varieties at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard, such as Marquette, Jupiter and Marquis, were showing some initial signs of life on Wednesday, which some buds (<50%) at or close to wooly bud stage. Bud scales are starting to swell and separate and their seams on others, while many are still closed up. I heard from a colleague last week that blueberries and some other fruit in southwest Michigan had reach budbreak and early green tip about 2 weeks earlier than normal. Given the conditions here in the northeastern US so far this spring, that doesn't come as a huge surprise. The cooler temperatures next week should slow the vines' progress towards budbreak here in the Finger Lakes, but it wouldn't surprise me if a few of our earlier varieties are there before the end of April.

In This Issue:

In the Vineyard	pg. 1
Farm Labor Laws	pg. 2
Vineyard Nutrition Survey	pg. 2
COVID-19 Vaccines	pg. 3
Vine Replacement Insurance Program	pg. 3
Upcoming Events	pg. 4
2021 GDDs	pg. 5

Table 1. Average LT₅₀ values on March 1 and April 5, 2021

	Average LT ₅₀ (3/1/21)	Average LT ₅₀ (4/5/21)
Cabernet Franc	-17.2	4.7
Cayuga White	-15.5	-0.8
Concord	-18.1	1.4
Riesling	-14.5	2.9



A bud from one of our Jupiter vines at the TDV. April 7, 2021

Federal Farm Labor Law Compliance

Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Program

With Spring just around the corner, farms are gearing up for the 2021 growing season. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division is gearing up for increased enforcement activities in agriculture according to a [March 25th press release](#). The Division is planning to conduct direct outreach to farm workers and advocacy groups in order to identify complaints against employers. Compliance with federal laws surrounding migrant and seasonal labor can be tricky, a [press release from March 30th](#) details the penalties that a tomato grower in Maine is facing for H-2A violations.

The Wage and Hour division assists with employer education and outreach, check out the [Agriculture Compliance Assistance Toolkit](#) on the Division's website. Here you can find factsheets, posters, and other materials that will help you stay in compliance with federal laws, especially the [Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act](#) (MSPA), and [H-2A](#), the temporary agricultural foreign guest worker program.

[Cultivating Compliance: An Agricultural Guide to Federal Law](#) is a particularly helpful and readable publication. It's worthwhile for every farm employer to review this publication with all of their managers and supervisors each year just to refresh key points about compliance.

Remember that state laws are often more restrictive than federal laws. When this occurs, state law supersedes the federal law. For example, the federal minimum wage is still \$7.25 per hour and this is clearly stated in the required [federal poster](#). New York [minimum wage](#), however, is much higher at \$12.50 for much of the state, and H-2A wage is at \$14.99 in New York.



Vineyard Nutrition Survey

A multi-institutional research team involved in the [HiRes Vineyard Nutrient Management Project](#) seeks to understand current vineyard practices and the technologies that may be used for improving nutrient management practices. They invite all commercial grape growers, consultants, and vineyard management companies from the wine, table, raisin, and juice grape industries across the US to complete a survey. The survey will gather input on what, how, and why nutrient practices are used in vineyards. Make sure your state and grape sector are represented--participate today!



HiRes Vineyard
NUTRITION

To complete the survey, go to <https://beav.es/JRk>.

If you have any questions about the survey or the research, please contact [Patty Skinkis](#), Oregon State University, or [Markus Keller](#), Washington State University.

COVID-19 Vaccines Available from Finger Lakes Community Health

As of April 6, Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH) is providing the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to all individuals 18 years and older.

Primary limitations on Finger Lakes Community Health is the supply of vaccine, which varies week-to-week. Individuals must register for an appointment. Register for an appointment at <https://www.localcommunityhealth.com/> or by calling FLCH at 800-724-0862.

In addition, Finger Lakes Community Health is able to provide on-farm vaccinations for groups of individuals who are eligible (everyone 18 years old and above). Interested farms should contact Finger Lakes Community Health at 800-724-0862. Arrangements must be made ahead of time, so that proper amounts of vaccine are planned. Their mobile medical team will reach out to you to register the individuals on your farm. Vaccinations are free and do not require

Vine Replacement Insurance Program Being Developed for U.S. Grape and Wine Industries

Press Release from AgriLogic Consulting LLC

On November 19, 2020, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors approved AgriLogic Consulting, LLC to develop a federally subsidized vine replacement insurance program for the United States grape and wine industries.

AgriLogic had been previously contacted by various industry representatives from several key production regions requesting a product to protect producers against perils that can destroy vines, namely freeze and fire. Subsequent research and industry discussions resulted in a proposal to develop a vine replacement product for the following states: California, Idaho, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington.

The list of perils to be included are freeze, hail, flooding, volcanic eruption, fire, and failure of the irrigation water supply (if caused by an unavoidable naturally occurring event during the insurance period). Claims will be limited to those resulting in complete destruction or death of the vine. Losses due to partial damage will not be paid. Wine, table, and juice grape varieties will be included.

While both programs are federally subsidized and administered by the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), the vine replacement program is different and separate from the existing Grape and Table Grape Crop Insurance Programs, which cover losses related to the production of the fruit itself. Producers will be able to purchase the vine insurance program through existing crop insurance agents once the program becomes available, which is currently targeted for the 2023 crop year.

Over the next several months, AgriLogic will publicize and host virtual listening sessions to obtain producer feedback on program components. Industry involvement is imperative to a successful program development and we value the input of all interested parties. Dates, times, and participation information will be distributed through various industry organizations, newsletters, and other resources.

AgriLogic has an extensive history and proven experience related to researching and subsequently developing insurance programs for various crops nationwide. Over the course of the last 20 years, AgriLogic has completed more than 70 projects for the RMA. These projects have included feasibility studies, the development of new products, revisions to existing products, and reviews of products developed by both RMA and private organizations. Please direct all questions about this Vine Replacement Program to Nicole Gueck at ngueck@agrilogic.com and learn more about AgriLogic's current and past projects at www.agrilogicconsulting.com.

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.



Spring Grape IPM Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Save the date for this year's Spring Grape IPM meeting, which will be held virtually over Zoom once again this year. Sadly, no BBQ again! This year's list of speakers includes:

- Greg Loeb (Insect Management Update),
- Katie Gold (Disease Management Update),
- Justine Vanden Heuvel (Sheep to Control Vineyard Weeds) and
- Alice Wise (Reduced Risk and Organic Pest Management Materials)

The meeting has been approved for 1.5 pesticide recertification credits for NY growers. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. To register, go to <https://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=501> and click 'Register for this Event Now'. You will receive an email with connection details after you register. You can also register by calling our office at 315-536-5134.

Companies who wish to sponsor this year's meeting can register using the following link: https://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/sponsor_event.php?event_id=501. For questions, please contact Brittany Griffin at 315-536-5134 or bg393@cornell.edu.

2021 VIRTUAL Finger Lakes Beverage Conference

*April 14-15, 2021 12:00 – 6:00 PM (includes Beer and Cider Tasting for those registered by April 5)
Delivered via Zoom*

After a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the 2021 Finger Lakes Beverage Conference is returning stronger than ever with nationally recognized speakers lined up for a Virtual Conference on the afternoons of April 14th and 15th, 2021. Registration is now open for the conference hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County to support the vibrant beverage industry of the Finger Lakes, New York State, and beyond. This year including the wine industry in addition to **breweries, cideries, distilleries, and meaderies, craft beverage producers will benefit from experts focusing on the latest innovations and trends in the industry including the visitor experience, working with social media, and moving forward post-pandemic.** Whether you are an established enterprise, are thinking about starting up, or just want to learn more about this industry, this conference will have something for everyone.

A registration link for the conference and more information is available at www.flxcraftbevcon.com.

2021 GDDs and Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
4/1/2021	37.9	25.0	0.04	0.0	0.0
4/2/2021	35.4	23.6	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/3/2021	49.1	26.9	0.02	0.0	0.0
4/4/2021	56.3	37.2	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/5/2021	57.8	38.9	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/6/2021	61.3	34.9	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/7/2021	68.9	45.6	0.00	7.3	7.3
Weekly Total			0.06"	7.3	
Season Total			0.06"	7.3	

GDDs as of April 7, 2020: 1.6

Rainfall as of April 7, 2020: 0.11"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2021 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	7.5	62.7	
May		254.6	
June		481.5	
July		646.4	
August		593.2	
September		358.7	
October		109.9	
TOTAL	7.5	2507.1	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for each month.

² The long-term average (1973-2020) 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.

2021 GDDs and Precipitation

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Precipitation

	2021 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	0.01"	2.83"	
May		3.12"	
June		3.55"	
July		3.43"	
August		3.20"	
September		3.49"	
October		3.40"	
TOTAL	0.01"	22.89"	

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 español)

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
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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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