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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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photo credit-Kim Knappenberger



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#### Dear LERGP member-

A few years ago Chautauqua County Soil and Water donated their seeder to us in hopes that we would take on the maintenance of the equipment and continue the loaner program. We have done that and many growers have taken advantage of the opportunity to borrow the seeder to do their planting. They have expressed their gratitude and appreciation and even the willingness to help with maintenance of the equipment by making donations.

We are writing to thank you for reaching out to us and allowing us to be the source that allows this program to continue. In saying that, we are also writing to ask if you might be willing to consider a donation to this loaner program to cover maintenance costs of this piece of equipment.

We are not suggesting or requiring any certain amount, but leaving it up to your discretion.

If you do make a donation, it can be made to LERGP and mailed to: 6592 W. Main Rd.
Portland NY 14769

Sincere appreciation for your ongoing support-The LERGP at CLEREL Team



# Business Management

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

#### **Potassium Market**

Ooof... Nationally, potash markets have been turbulent. They're up another \$75 or 15% nationally to \$575. Other fertilizer prices have trended higher slowly but surely since July. Locally, infrastructure issues have interrupted the supply chain and resulted in higher prices in Ohio. These markets are a major source for our local suppliers and we should continue to see higher prices locally due to these supply chain issues along with national trends.

For growers with robust sampling techniques and built up soils we can be flexible with maintenance applications of fertilizer. Large crops, however, should always be followed by a potassium application in the spring. If you see or observe deficient conditions costs will be much higher. If not, I would expect \$80 per acre to be an adequate fertilizer budget for materials. For local delivery, rising trucking prices also will increase the cost of fertilizer. With local delivery, costs should total \$110 an acre.

Fertilizer	<b>Pounds</b>	Price
Urea	40	11.5
Map	40	14
Potash	120	34.5
Lime	1000	10

Hurricanes have disrupted the national supply chain as well. These shutdowns have decreased the available supply but have not impacted price just yet. Given our proximity to ports this poses a significant risk to further price increases if port shutdowns continue. We'll be watching this issue as I'm not sure a single hurricane is a big deal but multiple hurricanes could quickly turn this vulnerable supply chain into a problem for winter fertilizer purchases. That's all for now, until we know more.



## Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

#### **Around the Belt**

The air officially smells of grape! There have been bins of grapes traveling down the road as Niagara harvest has begun, as well as, early Concord grapes coming off of the vine with reports of soluble sugars in the mid 12's and a few at 13°Brix. Over the last two weeks, I have noticed that growth has slowed down and there is more wood maturation evident. With the weather forecast projected to warm up and dry out, I anticipate berry ripening picking up.

Below is a Table 1 that has week four of Veraison to Harvest sample data for 2021 compared to 2020. The samples were collected on Sept 13<sup>-</sup>2021, and Sept 14, 2020. Overall for this week, all of the berry weights are larger in 2021 with the exception of Riesling, which is no surprise that all of the Brix in 2021 are lower than 2020 in week four except for Noiret. This week's pH numbers for 2021 are higher than 2020 except for Riesling and the 2021 TA are lower than 2020 except Frontenac and Traminette.

		2021 (g)	2020 (g)	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
9/13/2021		Berry Weight	Berry Weight	Brix	Brix	рН	рН	TA	TA
Cabernet Franc	Portland	1.79	1.61	14.3	16.4	3.04	2.97	11.5	13.4
Concord	Portland	3.68	3.09	14.1	16.2	3.19	3.12	9.22	9.7
Frontenac	Sheridan	1.25	1.14	19	21.1	3.15	3.12	17.52	17.4
Marquette	Fredonia	HARVEST	HARVEST						
Niagara	Portland	4.44	3.57	15.2	15.6	3.23	3.18	5.89	6.7
Noiret	Sheridan	1.63	1.59	16.1	15.3	3.15	3.11	11.13	12
Riesling	Portland	1.60	1.67	16.3	17.5	2.94	2.99	10.26	10.6
Seyval blanc	Portland	HARVEST	HARVEST						
Traminette	Portland	1.69	1.64	15.4	17.3	2.84	2.84	11.92	11.3
Vignoles	Portland	HARVEST	HARVEST						

Table 1. Veraison to Harvest Week comparison for the Lake Erie Region for 2021 versus 2020

#### NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast by 12 Hour Period for CLEREL in Portland, NY

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: 2021-09-16T08:38:12+00:00

Overnight: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. Southeast wind around 6 mph.

Thursday: Areas of fog before 7am. Sunny, with a high near 75. East wind 6 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 8 mph.

Friday: A slight chance of rain showers after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. Southwest wind 0 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday Night: A slight chance of rain showers before 8pm, then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8pm and 2am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind 2 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 5pm, then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Monday: Sunny, with a high near 79.

#### <u>Historical Growing Degree Days (base 50) for CLEREL in Portland, NY</u>

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.

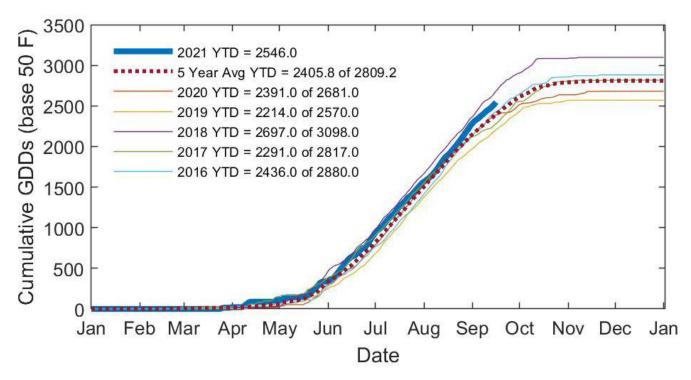


Figure 1. Historical Growing Degree Days (base 50) for CLEREL in Portland, NY

#### Historical Precipitation (inches) for CLEREL in Portland, NY

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.

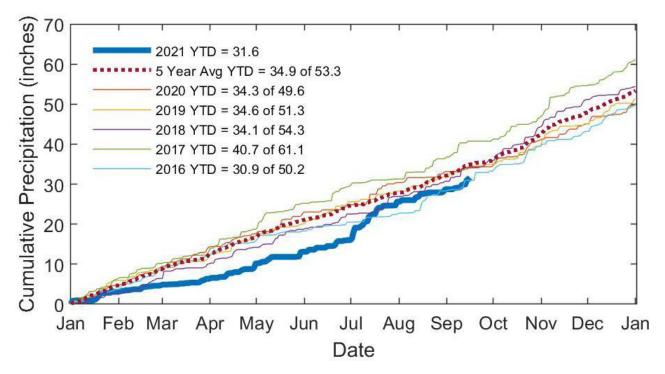


Figure 2. Historical Precipitation (inches) for CLEREL in Portland, NY



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# PA Update

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

Weather: At our location by the lake, our monthly total rainfall stands at 2.23 inches for the first half of September. From May 1 through August 31, our rainfall total in 2021 is slightly ahead (by about a half inch) of our long term average. Our growing degree day total for the month of September is currently about 276, and we have accumulated 2678 gdds from April 1 (about a week ahead of last year at this time). The weather forecast for the next few days looks favorable for ripening; mostly dry and sunny through Monday. There is a slight chance for rain Friday and Saturday (20%), but temperatures look to be remaining above average for the next few days (lows in the 60s, highs in the upper 70s/low 80s).

Phenology: Niagara harvest is underway, with Concord harvest soon to follow.

Diseases: Rain over the past 4 days generated several downy mildew infection periods, and that means that downy mildew will continue to 'chew' on leaves of some of our wine varieties. Scout your vineyards for this disease and know just how much you have. Wine varieties that are susceptible can be very vulnerable to leaf loss, or even complete defoliation from downy mildew (especially vinifera) and may need continued protection, especially where there are heavy crops on varieties that will be hanging for a while yet. After harvest, you can resort to mancozeb products for downy mildew, if the need arises, to ensure good cane ripening and optimum winter hardiness, while avoiding concerns regarding the development of fungicide resistance. Late season copper and lime can also be used.

Sour rots continue to build in our rot susceptible Vignoles here at the lab. At this point in time, fruit fly control with insecticides is the most effective way to keep sour rots at bay. Tank mixing antimicrobials (like Oxidate or Fracture/ProBlad) with your insecticide can add an additional layer of control to the spread of sour rot in rot susceptible wine varieties.









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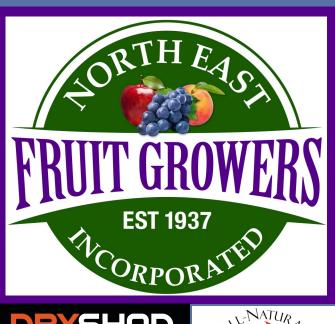
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CORONA

**SEASON AFTER SEASON** 

## Other links of interest:

#### **LERGP Web-site:**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension website:** 

**Cornell CALS Veraison to Harvest Newsletter:** 

**Efficient Vineyard:** 

**Appellation Cornell Newsletter:** 



