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In this copy:

Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program -Kevin Martin Around the Belt/ Veraison to Harvest Information -Jennifer Phillips Russo Are These Spotted Lantern Fly Masses?- Andy Muza North East Lab Update - Bryan Hed NEWA, VIP, PPE- Kim Knappenberger

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. **Contact Information:** Jennifer Phillips Russo - LERGP Viticulture Specialist: jjr268@cornell.edu (716) 640-5350 Kevin Martin - LERGP Business Management Specialist: Kmm52@psu.edu (716) 397-9674 Andy Muza - LERGP Disease and Pest Management Specialist: Ajm4@psu.edu (814) 825-0900 Kim Knappenberger - LERGP NEWA and Vineyard Improvement Program Contact Ksk76@cornell.edu Kate Robinson – Administrative Assistant Kjr45@cornell.edu Click here to watch LERGP <u>Podcasts</u> photo credit-

Kim Knappenberger

Business Management

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

Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program

Hot off the presses here, more COVID funding for both PA and NY grape growers. <u>Take a look and apply here.</u> https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda?id=usda_index

As you recall over the last 20 months I've been providing numerous updates on best practices and regulatory requirements surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. It became clear very quickly that full compliance with all of this would require investment in labor, materials, PPE and managerial challenges.

Grape growers that are defined as small businesses (less than \$5 million in average annual receipts/revenue) can apply for reimbursement through USDA grants. This grant is due on November 22nd. Getting funding requires a DUNS number. If you are considering asking for funding you should obtain a DUNS number as soon as possible. This can take up to five business days. Once you get one, the application is said to take less than an hour. Receipts are not required but some form of documentation but......

recipients should maintain sufficient records and documentation (receipts, emails showing distribution of PPE to workers, photographs of market pivots) to demonstrate that costs were incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the eligible expense categories as attested to in your application.

Funding is available only for activities that were intended to combat COVID 19. Such activities fall into the following categories:

- Workplace Safety
- Market Pivots (selling products through new channels and associated costs of accessing those channels)
- Retrofitting facilities
- Transportation
- Worker Housing
- Medical Services

You may request funds for costs already incurred and/or anticipated costs. The costs must be associated with eligible activities/outcomes implemented between January 27, 2020, and December 31, 2021. Funds will be sent as a single payment at the time of award.

Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

Concord harvest is underway. Due to large crop size and the continued rainfall, sugar solids in some blocks are lower than expected and seemingly stalled. It has forced growers to search for higher Brix in different blocks or cancel loads in hopes of the rain to end to avoid dilution, splitting, and shelling of berries. However, the weekend forecast for Portland, NY per NOAA listed below has a chance of rain every day this coming weekend. This is not the case in every block. I have had grower reports of average tonnage of 11-12 tons/acre with soluble sugars ranging from 15.2-15.9 °Brix and other reports of 7-8 tons/acre on blocks with frost/freeze damage. One producer reported that as of October 4, 2021, the total Concord grapes processed was 20,426 tons averaging 16.12 °Brix with 120,300 tons projected pre-harvest.

Data collected around the region 30 days post bloom for crop estimations projected very large crop sizes across the region triggering questions of whether the vines could support that much fruit and if not, what should happen to ensure a follow up crop in 2022. Specialists conducted many grower visits, podcasts, and video blogs as educational opportunities to discuss healthy balanced vines this season. Growers who crop thinned and/or experiences hail or frost/freeze events effectively lowering the crop potential, have reported that finding sugar has not been difficult. This week's Veraison to Harvest sample data can be found below in Table 1.

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: 2021-10-06T05:38:08+00:00

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Southeast wind 5 to 8 mph.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. East wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: A chance of rain showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Friday Night: Rain showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday: Rain showers likely before 8am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Sunday: A slight chance of rain showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 73.

Table 1. Lake Erie Region Veraison to Harvest Week 7 Sample data

Variety	Grower	Region	Date	Description	Berry Weight (g)	Brix	pН	TA
Concord	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	3.61	16	3.42	5.99
Niagara	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	harvest			
Noiret	Sheridan	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Sheridan	harvest			
Seyval blanc	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	harvest			
Marquette	Fredonia	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Fredonia	harvest			
Riesling	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	1.82	16.7	3.11	7.19
Frontenac	Sheridan	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Sheridan	harvest			
Vignoles	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	Harvest			
Cabernet Franc	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	1.81	16.5	3.29	6.99
Traminette	Portland	Lake Erie	10/4/21	Portland	harvest			



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PA Update

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

Are these Spotted Lanternfly egg masses?

About 2 weeks ago I received calls from a local pest control operator and a grape grower that wanted to know if egg masses that were found on porch posts and the siding of houses could possibly be spotted lanternfly egg masses. From pictures that I received, I determined that the egg masses were those of fall armyworm. However, as a precaution, I visited both the homeowner and grape grower to examine the egg masses and take pictures (Figures 1 & 2). For a positive identification I sent my pictures to Dr. Michael Skvarla (Assistant Research Professor of Arthropod Identification) at Penn State.

The good news was Dr. Skvarla's response that, "Yes, those are indeed fall armyworm egg masses." The other good news is that I was contacted to determine if this invasive insect had possibly arrived in our region. It is extremely important that grape growers educate themselves about spotted lanternfly and report any suspected detection of this invasive pest.



Figure 1. Fall armyworm egg mass and newly hatched larvae on siding of a house. Photo – Andy Muza, Penn State.



Figure 2. Fall armyworm egg mass and newly hatched larvae on siding of a house. Photo – Andy Muza, Penn State.

<u>Reporting</u>

Early detection is vital for the management of SLF. Personnel at ag related businesses should be inspecting incoming shipments/supplies/equipment (including pallets, posts), especially from quarantined areas, for the presence of SLF (i.e., egg masses, nymphs, adults). Growers should also check supplies/equipment, purchased from quarantined areas or from ag related businesses, for the presence of SLF. In addition, growers should be scouting throughout the season for the presence of SLF in and around your vineyards. Monitor tree-of-heaven and other highly desirable hosts (e.g., wild grapevines, black walnut) surrounding your vineyard to find potential sources of SLF.

If you observe an insect or egg masses that you suspect is SLF then **take pictures** (include something for scale such as a coin or ruler). If possible, **collect a sample** and place it in a freezer or in a jar with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. **Record the location** of the find (address,

intersecting roads, landmarks or GPS coordinates) and **immediately report it**. In addition, commercial grape growers in the Lake Erie Region, should also contact any member of the LERGP Extension Team.

PENNSYLVANIA

To <u>report a sighting, go to: Have you seen a Spotted Lanternfly? Let's Check!</u> OR use the <u>PDA SLF Reporting Tool</u> OR call the hotline at 1-888-422-3359.

NEW YORK

Report a sighting to: NYS Dept. Agriculture and Markets, using the <u>Spotted Lanternfly Public</u> Report OR email to <u>spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov</u>.

Resources

Extensive information about SLF (e.g., how to identify, how to report an infestation, how to comply with quarantine regulations, etc.) is available below.

Spotted Lanternfly

<u>Spotted Lanternfly Management in Vineyards (factsheet)</u> <u>Penn State Extension - Spotted Lanternfly</u> website

Penn State Extension - Spotted Lanternfly website

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture - Spotted Lanternfly website

NYSIPM Spotted Lanternfly website







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PA Update

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

Weather: September was basically a little warmer and dryer than average. For example, we finished up September with 3.89" rainfall at our location: our 20 year average is about 4". We accumulated about 498 growing degree days (gdds) during September: our 20 year average is about 441 gdds. We currently have about 2988 gdds since April 1, and before today is over, we will have accumulated around 100 gdds in the first week of October; unusually warm considering our average for the whole month is about 170 gdds. And, that warm trend is forecast to continue at least until mid next week. At that rate of heat accumulation, we should surpass our long-term average gdd accumulation for October, before the middle of the month! The short-term forecast has a 30% chance of rain on Friday (Oct 8) increasing to 50-60% by Friday evening into Saturday, before decreasing back down to 30% by Saturday evening. Sunday looks to be sunny. Temperatures each day will peak in the lower to mid 70s, dropping to around 60 each night...not too shabby.

Diseases: I hate to say it, but we aren't done with diseases yet this year. The continuation of warm, wet weather has extended the downy mildew season as this disease continues to chew on grape canopies until the bitter end. However, I don't mean to say that we should continue to spray.

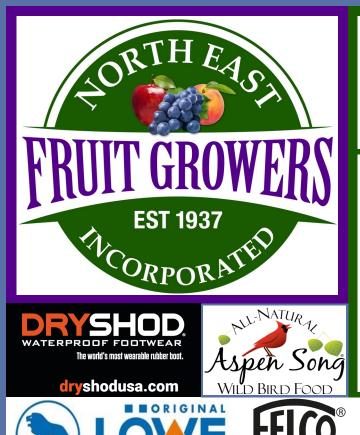
Here are some considerations to mull over if you're thinking about late season spraying: For Concord/Niagara, the spray season is over. Our Niagara here have been protected from downy through August, have decent canopies still, and have already hardened off to some degree, though I'm still seeing a lot of green canes that will die after the first hard freeze. Our Concord are not particularly susceptible to downy and have not required any more spraying for some time. But for wine grapes, specifically Vitis vinifera, there may be an opportunity to keep downy at bay a little longer, IF there is a need to keep canopies as functional as possible to nurture shoot lignification and winter hardiness. This may be especially important for young vines with limited reserves. That's just the nature of the beast, so to speak; if you're growing vinifera in this climate, the season 'ain't over til its over'.

From our vinifera experience here at the North East lab, diligent protection of wine varieties from downy mildew through August seems to be holding canopies intact for the most part and we do not plan any more sprays this season to our Gruner Veltliner or Riesling. The younger growth at the ends of shoots (which is ridiculously susceptible to downy mildew) has become pretty ragged and useless, but the core of the canopy is still functional. However, we see differences in the level of cane ripening by variety and by crop load. The heavier the crop, the less cane lignification that has already taken place, or will take place. For example, the Riesling, with a balanced crop load that is still hanging, is in much better shape in terms of cane lignification, than our Gruner Veltliner (harvested over a week ago) that were more heavily cropped. Vines that show minimal cane lignification by this time have likely been overcropped and no amount of spraying is going to change that.

Canopies that are already destroyed by this disease will not recover with any amount of spraying. Unfortunately, sending vinifera into a potentially brutal winter with limited reserves because of defoliated canopies, is a recipe for bigger problems beyond harvest; winter damage to trunks, leading to crown gall next year and the need for trunk replacement (not to mention, the crop/revenue loss), excessive bud and cane mortality over winter, high levels of overwintering inoculum of the downy

mildew pathogen and the need for more sprays next spring, especially if conditions are wet, etc, etc, etc.

What to spray to vinifer for downy if you still have functional canopies? Your options at this point are limited, and the cooler temps and shorter, cloudier days offer less for canopies to turn sunlight into sugar and starch reserves in October. Copper/lime is a great downy material, but its too late to apply to wine crops still hanging; excessive copper residues on the fruit can slow or stop a fermentation (copper kills yeast, just like it kills the downy mildew pathogen). Captan carries a similar risk. However, copper/lime, captan, or mancozeb may be an option on vinifera vines after harvest, to control downy and keep canopies functional until first frost, IF there is a perceived need to further cane lignification AND we get enough sunlight and dry warmth to enable adequate photosynthesis AND there is enough canopy left to protect. But again, canopies that are already heavily damaged/ defoliated by downy, will not respond much to sprays at this point.



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SEASON AFTER SEASON

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

NEWA Update:

The big news this week is that the NEWA 3.0 website has been launched. There are some great tutorials on how to navigate the new site that you can watch when you get a chance. You can find them at this <u>link on the NEWA website</u>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu.

We have been experiencing some inconsistent data reporting from a few of our weather stations across the region. One big thing for station owners to remember is that equipment parked between the station and the receiver will block the radio signal, so please try to keep that in mind during harvest if possible. A great thing about NEWA is that estimated data is added to fill in the holes of the missing data giving you the next best thing and keeping the models as accurate as possible. 5 of our regional stations were out for 4 days last week while Consolidated Communications was experiencing some problems due to downed lines out of state. That has been resolved and all is well!

As always, if you notice something is not quite right on your favorite weather station please send an email to <u>ksk76@cornell.edu</u>.

VIP

If you have an abandoned vineyard and would like someone to come do a taste/smell test to verify Concord please let Kim know ASAP. Email her at ksk76@cornell.edu

Those grapes will probably fall off soon, so now is the time. Also, if you have been considering using this program to help with removal of an underproducing Concord vineyard you might want to submit your application soon. This program officially ends in October of 2023. Generally we allow for 1 year to complete the removal and another 2 years to complete the replant if you plan to put in a vineyard or other specialty crop, but we don't have that much time left. If you are interested please visit the website at https://lergp.com/about-vip to learn more and to apply. Any questions please contact Kim.

PPE

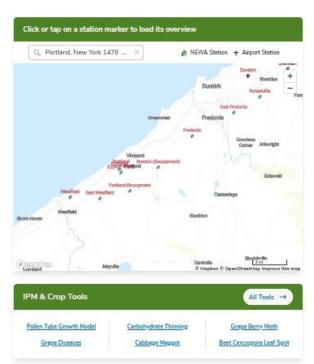
If you need hand sanitizer and masks we have it! Let Kim know at ksk76@cornell.edu.

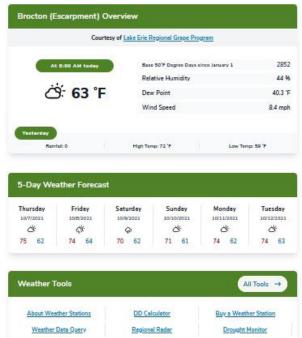


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Other links of interest:

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Cornell Cooperative Extension website:

Cornell CALS Veraison to Harvest Newsletter:

Efficient Vineyard:

Appellation Cornell Newsletter:



