CROP UPDATE
May 19, 2022

Concord 10” shoot growth—photo: Andy Muza
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) 969-3025

Kim Knappenberger – LERGP NEWA and Vineyard Improvement Program Contact
ksk76@cornell.edu
716-792-2800 ext 209

Kate Robinson – Administrative Assistant
kjr45@cornell.edu
716-792-2800 ext 201
There’s no end to the potential hazards your crops face: freeze, hail, wind, insects and disease. And those are just the natural disasters. As a fruit farmer, you also have to deal with other variables like fluctuating market prices.

Crop Growers is here to help. Our multi-peril crop insurance will protect your business when Mother Nature (or the market) lashes out, making sure you’re still standing when the skies clear.

Call a Crop Growers agent today.
From Our Coffee Pot to Yours.

The focus of the winter was on rising costs and labor shortages in the grape industry. At the coffee pot this week, much like the week before, we are seeing small incremental changes.

It appears that $50 round-up and $10 posts have not led to panic. It appears that the focus under the trellis has shifted just a bit, with perhaps 20% of growers turning to other modes of action and reducing round-up applications to 1 per year. Row middle management, in discussions so far, seems largely unchanged. While interline can be a great material to use once, it too saw a price increase. Use of the product in row middles looks to be the same small percentage as it was last year.

Labor changes were a bit more dramatic. Two farms reported H2-A workers, others reported that renewal work would be delayed, perhaps into 2023. Most reported business as usual, with the expected higher prices and delay. Many farms noticeably increased pre-pruning acreage. Particularly growers that have a machine were more likely to cover all acreage. Some of this increase in acreage has been by growers that favor hand pruning. We did see quite a bit of robust hand pruning behind the pruner. In fact, growers were reporting costs following a machine that were quite similar to costs of hand pruning. For much of this acreage it was not so much a tool to save money, it was a tool to make sure a smaller crew could finish the job.

We all look forward to more coffee pot meetings throughout the belt, Chautauqua County next week, in part to get a better idea of changes that are or are not being implemented. What we know so far is that growers are mostly relying on good timing and high grape prices to stick to what they know and produce a crop when the expectation is that prices will remain high.
In the Vineyard

It has been a bit of a whirlwind this week with the weather and need to get out and spray your vineyards. Hopefully most of you were able to get your sprays on. I have been out in vineyards all around our Lake Erie Grape Region this week and most of the vines are 6-12 inches with two, three, and four flower clusters showing, see photo 1.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program partnered with the New York State Department of Conservation to bring a Pesticide Applicator Exam Prep Course and CORE credit course to our region hosted at CLEREL. On May 12th, 2022 attendees listened to NYSDEC presentation on the responsibilities of Certified Pesticide Applicators, Worker Protection Safety, and how to prepare for the Certified Pesticide Applicator Exam. On May 19, 2022, the NYSDEC came back to CLEREL and administered the exam to 16 potential applicators. Some attendees needed to recertify due to lapses in credits and others took the exam for the first time. We were pleased to offer this course and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with the NYSDEC.

We continued in-person Coffee Pot Series events that occur every Wednesday from 10 AM-12 PM at a different location throughout our region. The Coffee Pot Meetings are discussions on timely viticulture, business management, and integrated pest management. Coffee Pot meetings were started years ago in an effort to connect with local growers to address their needs during the growing season. These meetings are typically hosted by grape growers in the region that are willing to invite the group into their barn/garage. LERGP brings coffee, doughnuts, the latest research information, and pesticide applicator recertification credits. This week we were up in Niagara County.

Our discussions were about latest phenology, threats of frost, labor, cost of pesticides, recommended pesticide for disease and weed control, spotted lanternfly, tree of heaven, and what educational outreach avenues we have to make sure that timely information gets into your hands to help inform decisions. It has been great discussions amongst growers and specialists sharing their stories and bouncing ideas off of each other. I encourage you to attend one near you, not to mention there are donuts! The upcoming locations are below and can be found here [Click Here for Coffee Pot Schedule].
As another reminder, there have been multiple discussions on the availability of labor in our region and blocks with vines that are not pruned. Dr. Terry Bates and his team have been running a differential mechanical pruning trial for the last four years at CLEREL. We will be holding an informal walk through that experimental plot for those who are interested in seeing how the canopy structure develops with each pruning style and how it might be beneficial in your operation. This event will take place on June 2, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. We will hear from Dr. Bates and his team on the reasoning behind this trial, the outcomes thus far, and they will entertain any of your questions about the benefits of mechanization in lieu of labor issues (Photo 2).
photo 2. Different pruned Concord canopy styles
Chautauqua County Farm Bureau®
is working hard every day to
protect the future vineyards and
all farms in the Lake Erie Region

Join Today!
NYFB.org 800-342-4143
In the Vineyard

After returning from our Coffee Pot meeting yesterday I stopped at several vineyards in North East, PA. Concord shoot lengths ranged from 4” – 6.5” in vineyard blocks between Rt.5 to Rt. 20. In Concord vineyard blocks between Rt. 20 to Sidehill Road, most of the shoots ranged from 5” – 10” with some shoots already at 12” (Figure 1). I did not observe any insects or diseases in the blocks that were scouted.

10” – 12” Shoot Growth

**Banded Grape Bug & Lygocorus inconspicuous** – continue scouting for these insects through the prebloom stage because nymphs, if present, will be feeding in the flower clusters. As mentioned in last week’s Crop Update, nymphs are small (1/8 -1/4 inch) and difficult to see in flower clusters. Banded grape bug nymphs are green with brown colored wing pads and antennae with alternating black and white segments (Figure 2). *Lygocorus inconspicuous* nymphs are light green and smaller than BGB nymphs. Both types of nymphs have piercing - sucking type mouthparts and feed on flower pedicels and florets in a cluster. Feeding can result in floret drop, reduced berry set and fewer clusters. Scout for these insects by examining flower clusters on about 100 shoots in different areas in the vineyard. These insects are often found near vineyard edges and may not be widespread throughout the vineyard. **Economic losses can occur when more than 1 nymph per 10 shoots are found.** A video with a picture of a BGB nymph and demonstration of scouting techniques can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrEJ6IJB_is](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrEJ6IJB_is).

**Phomopsis** – with shoot growth progressing so rapidly over the last week, many growers may not have had the opportunity to apply a fungicide during the 2” – 5” stage. However, a fungicide spray using (mancozeb, captan or ziram) can still be applied and is important to protect against rachis infections.
Black rot – if black rot was severe last season, then a fungicide application is advised at this time. If a fungicide application using mancozeb or ziram is applied for Phomopsis then protection against black rot infection is also covered. Captan will still provide some protection but is less effective than mancozeb or ziram against black rot.

Powdery Mildew – Do not delay applying a fungicide application for powdery mildew beyond the 10”-12” shoot growth stage for Vitis vinifera or highly susceptible hybrids.

Downy mildew – at about 10” shoot growth this disease organism becomes active. Infections can take place when temperatures are above 50F and rainfall occurs. At this time, a fungicide application is important on highly susceptible varieties or if disease was significant the previous season. If a fungicide application using mancozeb or captan is applied for Phomopsis then protection against downy mildew infection is also covered. Ziram will still provide protection but is less effective than mancozeb or captan against the downy mildew organism.

Check the 2022 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes for choices of insecticides and fungicides to use.
Weather: At our site by the lake, we have accumulated about 1.91" of rainfall and 138 growing degree days (gdds) during the first 18 days of May. As of April 1, gdd accumulations stand at 198. We had a bit of a scare Wednesday morning at dawn when low temperatures dipped into the upper 30s in some vineyards along the lake. However, temperatures held well above freezing, at least for locations north of I-90, and we’re off and running again. The short-term forecast looks relatively wet through the weekend, with a 20, 50, and 70% chance of rain predicted for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, respectively. High temperatures over the next three days will be above average, inciting another jump forward in vine development.

Phenology: Warm weather over last weekend pushed shoot growth forward, but cooler temperatures throughout this week put the brakes on again. We are currently averaging about 4-5" shoots on Concord here by the lake. Farther inland, shoots are farther along.

Diseases: According to NEWA, Phomopsis and black rot infection periods occurred at some locations along the lake on May 16, and to a more widespread extent after rain last night and this morning. These two infection periods may lead to the development of lesions on the first few internodes/leaves/inflorescences on shoots. The severity of symptoms that develop depends on the severity of the infection events (how much did the actual hours of wetness and average temperature exceed minimum conditions for infection in the model?) and the extent to which susceptible tissues had expanded at the time of infection. When shoot tissues are infected at early stages of expansion, damage is generally more severe than when infection occurs at later stages of shoot expansion (when tissues are closer to maturity). Since a fair amount of shoot elongation and leaf expansion had already occurred along the first few internodes when these infection periods hit (especially the most recent one), I suspect that resulting damage will be manifest more as small lesions rather than the heavy scabbing that we often see when infection occurs at earlier stages of shoot growth. A mancozeb or captan application prior to these rain events would have provided protection for shoots, leaves, and most importantly, inflorescences, against this lesion development.

If you applied that 2-5" shoot spray just ahead of the past two wetting periods, the next spray to prepare for is that 10-12" shoot spray. With more heat over the next 3 days, we will likely be at that stage by early next week, after which conditions cool down again and growth will slow a bit. Keep in mind that bloom is likely to begin in about 3 weeks. Another spray at mid to late-next week will set you up for the immediate prebloom in about another 10-14 days. Of course, there’s still a fair amount of ‘guess work’ to this, but its an important consideration when attempting to space your 3 pre bloom sprays at 10-14 days apart, and still get that last mancozeb spray on (for juice growers) just before caps start to come off. If you missed that 2-5" shoot spray and your crop is still unpro-
tected, there may be an opportunity to put a spray on now (to protect against rain this weekend… especially Sunday) and another in about 10 days and 20 days. But with the possibility for rain in the forecast, your spray opportunities over the next couple days may be hard to find.

For the next spray we generally recommend another application of a mancozeb or captan product (if captan is allowable) for black rot, Phomopsis, and downy mildew and something additional for powdery mildew, especially for wine grapes. Powdery mildew pressure is generally pretty low at this time (we’ve only had one or two pm infection periods since bud break), and so no need to include any of the ‘big guns’ materials (like Quintec, Vivando, Cevya, Gatten, Endura, a difenoconazole product) just yet. A stylet oil or tebuconazole application might suffice, especially for juice grapes and some hybrid wine grapes. Do not mix captan and stylet oil! For more susceptible hybrids and Vitis vinifera, a sulfur spray is recommended (for sulfur tolerant varieties). Do not attempt to mix and spray out sulfur with stylet oil, but sulfur could be a tank mix partner for a tebuconazole product.

Need help with pruning? Thinning, suckering, and tying? Canopy management in the summer? Harvest hands?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

Specialty Crop Farm Labor Contractors, LLC (SCFLC) is a federally and New York State licensed H-2A labor contractor. Let us handle filing, recruitment, transportation, housing, payroll, workers’ compensation insurance, and everything else related to H-2A compliance.

F. Brandon Mallory, CEO
510 Clinton Square, PMB 5010
Rochester, NY 14604
contact@agri-placement.com
315-986-4738
# 2022 LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Arrowhead Winery</td>
<td>12073 East Main St. North East, PA 16428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Militello's Farm Supply</td>
<td>2929 Route 39 Forestville, NY 14062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>John Mason, Mason Farms Virtual Zoom Meeting</td>
<td>8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City, PA 16423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Andrew Nichols</td>
<td>1850 Ridge Rd. Lewsiton, NY 14092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Alicia &amp; Zach Schneider</td>
<td>771 Bradley Rd. Silver Creek, NY 14136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Knight Farms</td>
<td>18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>TrolleyLine Vineyards Virtual Zoom Meeting</td>
<td>12029 Middle Rd. North East, PA 16428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Dan Sprague Farm</td>
<td>12435 Versailles Rd. Irving, NY 14081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO COFFEE POT MEETING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Betts' Farm</td>
<td>7365 East Route 20 Westfield, NY 14787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Paul Bencal Farm</td>
<td>2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Liberty Winery Virtual Zoom Meeting</td>
<td>2861 Route 20, Sheridan, NY 14135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Beckman Farm</td>
<td>2386 Avis Dr. Harbor Creek, PA 16421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Arrowhead Spring Winery</td>
<td>4746 Town Line Rd. Lockport, NY 14094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings Registration:

If you take a look at the coffee pot schedule, you will notice that we have 3 virtual coffee pot meetings scheduled in addition to our in person meetings. They will be in the evenings on the second Wednesday of the months. If you are planning on attending and receiving pesticide credits, you must [register on our web-site](#). In addition to registering, you must supply a copy of your license, date of birth and phone number to me at [kjr45@cornell.edu](mailto:kjr45@cornell.edu).

The team is excited to be and about visiting the growers during this growing season. We hope that you can come out and join us for some of these meetings.