



Lake
Erie
Regional
Grape
Program

CROP UPDATE May 19, 2022



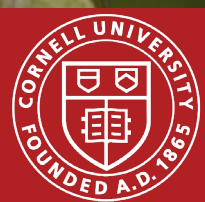
Concord 10" shoot growth-
photo: Andy Muza

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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Business Management

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

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.



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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

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.



photo 1. Concord shoots with flower clusters

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](#).



May 25, 2022 10:00am Alicia & Zach Schneider 771 Bradley Rd. Silver Creek, NY 14136

June 1, 2022 10:00am Knight Farms 18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775

June 8, 2022 10:00am TrolleyLine Vineyards 12029 Middle Rd. North East, PA 16428

6:00pm Virtual Zoom Meeting

June 15, 2022 10:00am Dan Sprague Farm 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving, NY 14081

June 22, 2022 NO COFFEE POT MEETING

June 29, 2022 10:00am Betts' Farm 7365 East Route 20 Westfield, NY 14787

July 6, 2022 10:00am Paul Bencal Farm 2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131

July 13, 2022 10:00am Liberty Winery 2861 Route 20, Sheridan, NY 14135

6:00pm Virtual Zoom Meeting

July 20, 2022 10:00am Beckman Farm 2386 Avis Dr. Harbor Creek, PA 16421

July 27, 2022 10:00am Arrowhead Spring Winery 4746 Town Line Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

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).

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photo 2. Different pruned Concord canopy styles

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PA Update

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

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.



Figure 1. Concord (10" shoot length). Photo – Andy Muza, Penn State.

10" – 12" Shoot Growth

Banded Grape Bug & *Lygocorus*

inconspicuus – 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 inconspicuus* 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.



Figure 2. Banded grape bug nymph on Concord flower cluster. Photo - Andy Muza, Penn State.

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.

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.

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PA Update

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

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 I90, 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 it's 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 stilet oil or tebuconazole application might suffice, especially for juice grapes and some hybrid wine grapes. Do not mix captan and stilet 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 stilet oil, but sulfur could be a tank mix partner for a tebuconazole product.



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2022 LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Shedule

April 27, 2022	10:00am	Arrowhead Winery	12073 East Main St. North East, PA 16428
May 4, 2022	10:00am	Militello's Farm Supply	2929 Route 39 Forestville, NY 14062
May 11, 2022	10:00am 6:00pm	John Mason, Mason Farms Virtual Zoom Meeting	8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City, PA 16423 register now
May 18, 2022	10:00am	Andrew Nichols	1850 Ridge Rd. Lewsiton, NY 14092
May 25, 2022	10:00am	Alicia & Zach Schneider	771 Bradley Rd. Silver Creek, NY 14136
June 1, 2022	10:00am	Knight Farms	18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775
June 8, 2022	10:00am 6:00pm	TrolleyLine Vineyards Virtual Zoom Meeting	12029 Middle Rd. North East, PA 16428 register now
June 15, 2022	10:00am	Dan Sprague Farm	12435 Versailles Rd. Irving, NY 14081
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July 13, 2022	10:00am 6:00pm	Liberty Winery Virtual Zoom Meeting	2861 Route 20, Sheridan, NY 14135 register now
July 20, 2022	10:00am	Beckman Farm	2386 Avis Dr. Harbor Creek, PA 16421
July 27, 2022	10:00am	Arrowhead Spring Winery	4746 Town Line Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

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.

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.