CROP UPDATE
June 10, 2022

Concord bloom-
Jennifer Phillips Russo

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program
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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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.

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Weather: After 9 days of dry weather from the end of May and into the first week of June, wetting events over the past 3 days have generated new infection periods for all the major diseases…and just in time for bloom, the most vulnerable period for fruit disease on all varieties. We have accumulated about 128 growing degree days so far in June and we now have 532 gdds as of April 1. The 3-day forecast for North East looks to be dry today, but with a 40 and 88% chance for rain on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. High temperatures will remain in the low 70s…a bit below average.

Phenology: Here by the lake we recorded trace bloom for Concord on June 9, but only for our grapes farther inland. Along route 5, our Concord and Niagara grapes reached trace bloom on June 10. This is about 2 days ahead of average for us here in North East by the lake.

Diseases: May and June rainfall has resulted in critical infection periods for all the major diseases. Scouting has revealed the active presence of downy mildew in canopies of Chancellor grape here at the lab. Scout for downy mildew on leaves near the ground, especially sucker growth. “Oil spots” on leaves now would be the result of infection periods on May 21-22 and/or 27-28. Downy mildew infections from the more recent rain period of June 7-9, will become visible early next week. We are also beginning to see symptoms of black rot on leaves of several varieties in our black rot susceptibility trial. These leaf lesions are the result of rain events that took place on May 21-22. Why is this important information? If you’re seeing downy mildew and/or black rot leaf lesions now, it’s important to nail down when those infections occurred to determine where your spray program failed. That way you can see what works and what doesn’t and make adjustments to improve your program in the future.

Juice grape growers will have to switch from mancozeb to ziram at this point, for downy mildew, black rot, and Phomopsis control. Keep in mind that ziram is not as effective on downy mildew as mancozeb products, but will likely provide enough efficacy on this disease for Concord growers in most years (Ziram works just as well as mancozeb for black rot and Phomopsis control). For juice varieties with higher susceptibility to downy mildew (Niagara, Catawba) I recommend spraying more than just ziram for downy control for the first post bloom spray. Revus Top (not on Concord) can be used, or a phosphorous acid product can be added to the ziram mix, to beef up your downy mildew program. There are other products for downy mildew control, that I mention below for wine grapes, but they will tend to be pricier. Revus Top will also provide good control of black rot and powdery mildew on juice varieties that are not injured by the difenoconazole.

Scouting for black rot on leaves in or near the fruit zone is important as it will reveal your risk of fruit infection during bloom and early fruit development. Again, black rot leaf lesions at this time would be the result of the May 21-22 infection period. These lesions are in prime position to release spores onto developing fruit during rain periods after capfall. If you see black rot leaf lesions in the fruit zone, be warned that first and second post bloom sprays of ziram, and/or sterol inhibitors, will need to be applied in a timely fashion to avoid crop loss from black rot, especially if conditions stay wet. New infections from the wetting periods of May 28 and June 7-9, will probably not become manifest until early next week (from May 28 infections) or late the following week (from June 7 and 9 infections), as it generally takes 14 days from infection to symptom expression.
As we approach the timing for the first post bloom spray, remember that this is the most important spray of the season!! Fruit of all grape varieties are most susceptible to all the major diseases from the time that flower caps come off, to about 3 weeks later. For this reason, do not stretch the interval between the immediate pre-bloom and first post bloom spray beyond 14 days (less is better). If this means spraying again during late bloom, then so be it…spray during late bloom (rather than wait until after bloom) to keep that interval to 14 days or less. *This is a no brain-er:* use best materials you can afford, spray every row, maximize coverage with adequate gallonage per acre, etc.

Best materials for powdery mildew on juice grapes for the first post bloom spray could include Quin-tec or Vivando/Prolivo. But even better, would be a material like Endura, Gatten, or Cevya. **Do not rely soley on stylet oil, strobilurins (Sovran or Abound) or sterol inhibitors like tebuconazole or tetraconazole products, for powdery mildew control at this time.** Remember: Teb and possibly tetra conazoles and strobies are great for black rot, but resistance has rendered them too weak on powdery for reliable control of that disease at this critical point in the spray season. After the first post bloom spray, reassess your situation by scouting and closely watching the weather forecast. The better job you do right now, the more likely you’ll be able to lighten up later.

For premium wine varieties, now is the time to use the biggest guns we have for powdery mildew. This may include materials like Luna Experience, Aprovia Top, or Gatten. These materials should be tank mixed with sulfur for use on varieties that are tolerant of sulfur. Spare no expense with regard to protection from other diseases as well and look for some of the best products for control of black rot, Phomopsis, and downy mildew. For example, mancozeb products can still be used on wine varieties (66 day pre harvest interval) and are great materials to couple with something like Revus, Ranman, Zampro, or Ridomil Gold MZ/copper for extra downy mildew control during early fruit development. If you use a product like Revus Top or Aprovia Top, the difenoconazole in these products (along with a tank mix of mancozeb) will do an excellent job of controlling black rot. The mancozeb will also provide continued control of Phomopsis.

Now is also the time to plan leaf removal in the fruit zone. Leaf removal can be done by machine or by hand and generally provides sizable reductions in bunch rot on rot susceptible wine varieties (Riesling, Vignoles, Pinot noir and gris, Chardonnay, etc). It can even help improve control of other disease as well, like powdery mildew. A trial we have been running for the past two seasons on several Riesling clones and hybrids, compared two different timings of mechanized leaf removal (at just before bloom and about two weeks later (about early fruit set)) with no leaf removal (the control). Using air pulse technology to remove leaves, both timings provided for about a 50% reduction in harvest rots. Leaf removal reduces fruit disease by improving exposure of fruit to light, air, and pesticide penetration. It can also improve fruit quality and may even reduce manual harvest costs by making the clusters easier to see and access by hand harvesters. The downside to leaf removal is the potential to reduce yields. For example, in the first year of our Riesling study, there was no reduction in yield from the air pulse leaf removal. However, in the second year of testing, leaf removal did reduce yields, regardless of timing. We’ll be repeating this trial for one more season in 2022.
The LERGP team would like to invite you to be a part of our Advisory Council Board. Put simply, as an Advisory Council member, you would be invited to attend 2-3 meetings per year (hybrid of Zoom and in person) and provide input and suggestions to enhance our programming in areas such as conference content, meeting topics and locations, areas of interest and relevance in terms of research, and overall guidance to further develop the program. The formal duties and responsibilities are as follows:

Duties/Responsibilities of the Program Advisory Committee

1. Assist the extension staff in identifying, analyzing and prioritizing educational program needs.
2. Support the extension staff in planning, implementing, and evaluating educational activities to address specific concerns.
3. Assist the extension staff in marketing the educational program within the participating extension associations in the two-state region.
4. Maintain strong two-way communications with the associations in making specific program needs known.
5. Provide input into the recruitment, employment, performance review and reappointment process for the extension specialists.
6. Provide input into the annual budget development. Assist in identifying alternative funding sources and strategies as needed.

If you are interested and willing to join us in this endeavor, please e-mail me (kir45@cornell.edu) to express your interest. You may also call me at 716-792-2800 EXT 201.

We greatly appreciate your consideration to be part of our team.
Save the date- August 2, 2022
LERGP Summer Demo Day at CLEREL!

The Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory Research
Demonstration Day Agenda

8:30 AM – Registration and Check In

9:00-10:45 AM – Welcome and Indoor Flash Talks

- Dr. Terry Bates, Director of the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, will give the Welcome Opening, history of CLEREL, and Research Overview.
- Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Assistant Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science Horticulture Section Cornell AgriTech, will discuss her work with the weed precision spot sprayer. Dr. Rob Chancia, Post Doctoral Researcher, Rochester Institute of Technology, Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, to discuss work on sensor imaging for nutrient deficiency detection.
- Dr. Abhisesh Silwal, Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute Project Scientist, will introduce his work with the robotic pruner.
- Nick Gunner, CEO, Chief Platform Engineer & Lead Designer for Orbitist, to discuss the Efficient Vineyard Project and the MyEV tool.
- Dr. Debbie Aller, New York Soil Health Alliance Extension Associate, will discuss sustainable soil management practices.
- Nicole Kubiczki, Resource Soil Scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will discuss what to expect at our soil pits.

10:50-12:30 PM - Vendor Show and Lunch

12:30-4:00 PM – Afternoon Tour of Research Blocks and NRCS Gravel and Heavy Soil Pit Presentations

You can register by sending in the paper form on the next page or:

REGISTER ONLINE
# 2022 SUMMER DEMONSTRATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**to be held at CLEREL**  
**on Tuesday, August 2, 2022**  
**Deadline for registration is Friday, July 29, 2022**

**Name (1st attendee)**  
____________________________________ $__________

**Farm Name**  
____________________________________

**Address, City, State, Zip Code**  
____________________________________

**Phone**________________________________**E-mail**_____________________________

Are you enrolled in Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP)?  
Yes_______ No______

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<td>LERGP Member attendee</td>
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**Additional Attendees: (Member/non-member fees apply)**  
*Please add a $10.00 late fee for each reservation made after July 29, 2022.*

**TOTAL $_______**

Please make check payable to **LERGP (Lake Erie Regional Grape Program)** and mail to:  
Kate Robinson  
LERGP  
6592 W Main Rd  
Portland NY 14769

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Call Kate at 716-792-2800 ext 201 with any questions,  
Or e-mail at kjr45@cornell.edu.

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Bloom was called at CLEREL on June 8, 2022
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
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  John Mason, Mason Farms  8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City, PA 16423  
                     6:00pm  Virtual Zoom Meeting  register now
May 18, 2022  10:00am  Andrew Nichols  1850 Ridge Rd. Lewsition, 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  TrolleyLine Vineyards  12029 Middle Rd. North East, PA 16428  
                     6:00pm  Virtual Zoom Meeting  register now
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  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: You MUST Register to attend!**

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.