

Spring Vineyard with Blue Skies- Kim Knappenberger

CROP UPDATE April 6, 2023

Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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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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Viticulture Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

We have been busy continuing the bud hardiness monitoring work, our cold hardiness spray trials, and our microclimate trials. I have noticed some bleeding of larger cuts (trunks) closer to the ground and small changes in some of the early bud break varieties buds, but not enough to worry me just yet. I am hoping that we can have mild temperatures in the next two weeks to keep the buds tighter longer.

Meanwhile, it is time to hill down grafted varieties to expose the graft union. Growers with vinifera varieties want to make sure that your vines are pruned before bud swell. Select canes/spurs with good wood maturation approximately pencil-width in diameter.

We are not quite there yet, but at Bud Swell you should scout for grape flea beetle and climbing cutworms. Scout frequently during bud swell for feeding injury. If bud injury levels are above 2%, then apply an insecticide. You can also use the MyEV Tool to create a data collector for scouting so you can spatially visualize your damage and possibly variable-rate your insecticide. Here is a tutorial on how to set up a data collector and start mapping absolutely anything on your farm with a phone! <u>Click Here for Data Collector Tutorial</u>.



Photo 1. Climbing Cutworm photo from lergp.com



Photo 2. Grape Flea Beetle photo from Michigan State

It is also time to assess and ready spring equipment. Test sprayer nozzles for variable wear when completing first calibration. Hardened stainless nozzles will last three-times longer than stainless and up to ten-times longer than aluminum and other options.

We have many things to share that may be of interest to you and your operations:

Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series

Please join us for the last viticulture-focused webinar of the current edition of the Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series.

"Redefining Vineyard Nutrition Diagnostics with the HiRes Vineyard Nutrition Team" will be presented by Dr. Terry Bates (Cornell), Dr. Markus Keller (Washington State), Dr. Paul Schreiner

(USDA), and Dr. Patty Skinkis (Oregon State). The webinar will occur from 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET on April 11, 2023. Registration is free. But pre-registration is required. For registration and more information, please visit this link: <u>Click Here to Register</u>!

Plant productivity is optimized when nutrient levels are balanced. While we know vineyard nutrition management is critical to long-term vine health, productivity, and sustainability, diagnosing and correcting nutrient imbalances can be tedious and inexact. The HiRes Vineyard Project Team is developing ways to monitor vineyard nutrition more efficiently with precision agriculture while also developing guidelines for nutrient sufficiency based on different wine-growing regions and cultivars. During **Redefining Vineyard Nutrition Diagnostics**, several HiRes Vineyard Project Team members will discuss project goals and research updates that are of interest to commercial grape growers.

This event is part of the Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series, a collaborative effort between Cornell AgriTech, Virginia Tech, and Penn State Extension for eastern US grape growers and winemakers.

This event is being offered at no charge to participants. Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinar. Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recording.

Who is this for?

- Vineyard owners
- Winery owners
- Vineyard managers
- Winemakers

What will you learn?

- The HiRes Vineyard Nutrition project goals
- The precision ag tools and processes being tested for nutrient monitoring
- Evaluation of tissue test guidelines and the debate between petiole vs. leaf blades
- Ways that you can learn more about this project now and in the future

Dear Extension Colleagues:

The 2023 GiESCO Meeting will take place in Ithaca and Finger Lakes Region of New York from July 17-21 (<u>https://cals.cornell.edu/giesco</u>).

On **Thursday, July 20, the Professional Day** will feature industry relevant, applied viticulture topics presented by international speakers.

Keynote speakers (and topics) are: Dr. Nick Dokoozlian, E&J Gallo (The vineyard of the future); Dr. Kaitlin Gold, Cornell University (Remote sensing for disease detection); Dr. Michela Centinari, The Pennsylvania State University (The threat of the invasive insect spotted lanternfly). Other topics include: Managing grapevine diseases with UV radiation, New fumigation



alternatives, Vineyard nutrient budget and sampling protocols, Response of vineyard soils to biochar, and other timely topics that address grower challenges.

We hope you can attend this one-day workshop and we hope you would be willing to promote to your industry stakeholders. The Professional Day can be attended in person on the Cornell Campus (\$150) or virtually via Zoom (\$75).

Register here!

With sincerity and gratitude,

Justine Vanden-Heuvel, Professor of Viticulture, Cornell University, GiESCO Conference Chair Cain Hickey, Viticulture Extension Educator, Penn State University, GiESCO Conference Planning Committee member

Farm Employer Input Needed! NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey

New York farm employers are navigating enormous changes in farm labor markets and regulations in recent years. It is critical for farm managers and decision-makers to have accurate and up-to-date information about the farm workforce. The <u>NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey</u> collects farm managers' perspectives on these important issues. Please take about 20-30 minutes of your time to include your response as a NY farm employer. All data will be kept confidential, results will only be reported as group data, and no personally identifiable data will be reported. Respondents will receive a summary of the results.

Most of the survey can be completed with information that you have in mind, but please be prepared by assembling the following data from your payroll records:

- 1. The number of full-time, part-time, seasonal, and H-2A positions you employed in 2021 and 2022.
- 2. Total **regular** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
- 3. Total **overtime** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
- 4. Number of positions filled by owners and unpaid family members, and hours worked by them, in 2021 and 2022.
- 5. Number of employees who left voluntarily or were fired in 2021 and 2022.

Access the survey here: **NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey**. Please complete only one time per farm business.

Thanks for participating! Rich Richard Stup, Ph.D. Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and The Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management Cornell University

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For those of you who attended the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program's In-Person Winter Conference on March 16, 2023, Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie discussed the EPA and their compliance with the Endangered Species Act. She sent along the below information posted by the Weed Science Society of America for you to read and act if you choose: <u>Posted on April 4, 2023</u>

WESTMINSTER, Colorado – April 4, 2023 – The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing an updated <u>Endangered Species Act (ESA) Workplan</u> that addresses how the agency can protect nearly 1,700 threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats while governing the registration, distribution, sale and use of pesticides. The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and its affiliates encourage growers and land managers to educate themselves immediately on the EPA's Workplan and the changes they likely will need to make to assure compliance.

To comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), EPA will evaluate the potential effects of pesticides on federally threatened or endangered species and their critical habitats and then recommend mitigation strategies developed in partnership with other federal agencies.

Examples include requirements for vegetative filter strips, field borders and grassed waterways, terracing, contour farming, cover cropping, mulching, the adoption of no tillage or reduced tillage strategies, and the safe disposal of excess seed that has been treated with pesticides. Once finalized, such protections will become part of the formal registration review process for various geographic regions and for various groups of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

"The EPA's recent reregistration of the Enlist One and Enlist Duo herbicides provides a preview of what's in store," says Bill Chism, Ph.D., WSSA's ESA committee chair. "The updated product labels include new application timing requirements designed to reduce runoff, leaching, spray drift and other off-target impacts on threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats. In addition, the products can no longer be used in certain counties."

The WSSA and it five affiliates – the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science – have submitted a joint response to the EPA's call for public comments on the ESA workplan update. Selected highlights from that response are below:

- The organizations suggest that broader adoption of new agricultural technologies could support the EPA's objectives and reduce total herbicide use. Examples include steam weeding, electrical weeding, unmanned drones, vision-guided systems for targeted precision spraying, and harvesters that can destroy weed seeds. In addition, hooded sprayers can reduce the risk of spray drift.
- The EPA plans to post detailed application instructions online, rather than relying solely on the printed product label. A 2021 USDA survey, though, shows only 67% of farms own or use computers and only 77% own or use a smartphone. "It is clear one size doesn't fit all," Chism says. "Multiple outreach channels and carefully tailored strategies will be needed to ensure the new requirements are successful at the local level."
- The organizations recommend that EPA use greater granularity when it comes to defining areas where certain pesticides are prohibited. One example: Enlist Duo was banned in 11 counties in southern Georgia to protect two species of endangered salamander that prefer moist woodland habitats.

"After an in-depth evaluation at the field level, we are finding little overlap of agricultural fields and the salamander or its critical habitat," says Stanley Culpepper, Ph.D., of the University of Georgia and current WSSA past-president.

Culpepper says these findings point to the importance of working closely with regulatory partners to improve the process. "Removing critical tools from farmers on a county-level basis or inserting infield buffer restrictions can threaten the sustainability of family farms – highlighting the importance of making sure sound science is available when making ESA regulatory decisions," he says. Bill Chism urges growers and land managers to become familiar with the EPA's updated workplan and with how to access important application instructions online through <u>EPA's Bulletins Live! Two</u>. "Most importantly, be prepared to incorporate any mitigation strategies required by EPA," he says. WSSA and its affiliates have posted their full response to the EPA workplan <u>online</u> at the WSSA website.

About the Weed Science Society of America

The Weed Science Society of America, a nonprofit scientific society, was founded in 1956 to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their impact on the environment. The Society promotes research, education and extension outreach activities related to weeds, provides science-based information to the public and policy makers, fosters awareness of weeds and their impact on managed and natural ecosystems, and promotes cooperation among weed science organizations across the nation and around the world. For more information, visit <u>www.wssa.net</u>.





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ASEV Webinar(s) April 20, 2023 - 11:00am - 11:45am

Soft, Sweet, and Colorful: Stratified Sampling Reveals Sequence of Events at the Onset of Grape Ripening

Description:

In a new virtual seminar offered for ASEV members, you can read the published paper, see the authors present their findings, and engage directly with them during a Q&A session.

Read the paper and bring your questions!

In Dr. Hernández-Montes' paper, the researchers employed a stratified sampling method to group berries by firmness and skin color in order to study the sequence of physical and chemical changes during veraison. Vineyard sampling often occurs at veraison, but individual berries within a single cluster ripen at different rates, complicating our ability to understand ripening. This study outlines

a method for studying berry changes that occur during this period, which sheds light on this pivotal viticultural process.

Speakers:

Esther Hernández Montes, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain (main presenter) Ben-Min Chang, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Markus Keller, Washington State University, Prosser Nataliya Shcherbatyuk, Washington State University, Prosser Yun Zhang, Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, Washington This 45 minute webinar includes a 20-minute Q&A with all of the authors. It is free to ASEV

members and \$50 for non-members.

Join us on April 20 from 11:00 am to 11:45 am (PDT).

Register here!

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau[®] is working hard to gain workforce options, retain necessary protectants, and ensure policy that benefits our growers



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'ARAVELLE', A HIGH-QUALITY BUNCH-ROT RESISTANT WHITE WINE GRAPE

Bruce Reisch¹, Anna Katharine Mansfield¹, Chris Gerling¹, Hans Walter-Peterson², Donald Caldwell² and Imed Dami³

¹Cornell AgriTech, Cornell University, Geneva, New York; ²Cornell Cooperative Extension, Finger Lakes Grape Program, Penn Yan, New York; ³Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio

'ARAVELLE' is a white wine grape formerly known as NY81.0315.17, named and released in 2023. It resulted from a cross between 'Cayuga White' and 'White Riesling'. Wine characteristics are similar to its 'Riesling' parent, but the resistance to bunch rot, downy mildew and powdery mildew are much improved over 'Riesling'.

CLUSTER AND FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS Clusters (0.25 lb.) are generally well-filled but can range from slightly loose to moderately compact. There are large numbers of brown spots (lenticels) on the amber 1.5 gm berries. Fruit usually ripen in late September in the Finger Lakes but can be harvested as late as mid-October with little concern for bunch rot.





VINE MANAGEMENT

Vines grown on their own roots are initially productive, but vine size declines over time. Grafting to a phylloxeraresistant rootstock is recommended. Own-rooted vines at Geneva and at Wooster averaged ~4 tons/acre (15 years), while vines grafted on C.3309 at Dresden, NY, averaged ~8 tons/acre (7 years). With its upright to semi-trailing growth habit, 'Aravelle' can be grown on a mid-wire spur-pruned cordon system with vertical shoot positioning and has also been successful on a high bilateral cordon. Other training systems are also suitable.

Cornel AgriTech New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

Vineyard Improvement Program

We are excited to let you know that the extension for the Vineyard Improvement Program is officially approved! The grant will term on March 31, 2025, so we have 2 more years to finish projects that are already started and to get more projects done. This extension is for complete removal of Concord vineyards that are at least 1 acre. As a reminder this is for Concord acreage in New York State in Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Erie, Niagara, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Tioga Counties. The vineyards can be dead or alive, but we do need proof that they are/were Concords – this could include old contracts, hauling slips if it specifies that the grapes are Concord from that address, confirmation from a processor or custom harvester that used to accept the grapes or work that particular block.

This grant reimburses the applicant 50% of removal costs up to \$1,500 per acre, and 25% of replant costs (for eligible plantings) up to \$1,500 for a total possible of \$3,000 per acre. Each eligible project can not exceed \$50,000. To date we have had 46 applicants – 24 have completed projects and have been reimbursed a combined total of \$414,870.



To learn more you can visit the website at lergp.com and click on the purple button. When you are ready the application is also on that website. If you have questions please contact Kim at <u>ksk76@</u> <u>cornell.edu</u> or call 716-792-2800 ext 209.

NEWA

It's finally back!!! The Brant station is up and has all of its sensors! It has been a long time coming (since September 17, 2022) but the station is up and collecting data. The initial problem we think was due to the termination of the 3G network which then would not let the datalogger connect. Once that was resolved, it was discovered that the wind sensor was faulty and actually, when it was plugged in it was not allowing the datalogger to connect to any of the sensors. By trial and error it was determined that it was the one causing the problem. Thanks to Dan Olmstead at NYS IPM, we were shipped a new sensor and it was installed on Monday, April 3rd. Phew!

The Versailles station was replaced on March 9th with a KestrelMet 6000 cellular station. It is actually working well, but the data is not going to NEWA. This continues to be a work in progress... The Portland Rainwise AgroMet is about to be replaced by a new KestrelMet 6000 WiFi station. We are excited to get the new station up and have some more reliable data, but are awaiting a range extender for the WiFi from the lab. This should be up by the end of next week, so after that you will probably see estimated data on the Portland NEWA page as well until we get the new data feed established.







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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

Spring is in the air! It is officially "mud season" in Erie County, and now is a great time to start thinking about soil sampling in your vineyard. **Current recommendations are to sample vineyard soil every three to five years; more frequent sampling is used if you are actively working to build soil health or remediate concerns such as nutrient deficiencies.** Testing your soil early in the year, prior to applying any fertilizer, can save time and money by providing information about plant available nutrients for the coming growing season. Sampling early also means that you have more time to apply amendments, and for them to take effect. Best practice is to stick to the same time of year each time you sample so that it is easier to look at trends and determine the efficacy of your management strategies over time. It is also important to compare your soil test results to your plant tissue samples, this allows you to confirm that the nutrients in the soil are making it into the grapevines. Organic matter content, percentage of clay in the soil, and pH can affect this relationship, and additional amendments may be required for optimum plant uptake.

The general procedure for collecting soil samples is straightforward, but there are some important points to keep in mind to get the best information possible from the reports. Determining where to sample within your vineyards is key to acquiring the best data. One sample (comprised of several sub samples) should be obtained from each unique block. A unique block is a block that differs from the other blocks in your vineyard due to elevation, planted variety, soil type, etc. Basically, any section of your vineyard that may receive different management practices or may benefit from that approach. Some examples would be sampling Concord and Riesling plots separately, splitting a 20-acre block into an "upper" and "lower" sample due to a 20' change in elevation from one end of the block to the other, or sampling the eastern half of the vineyard separately from the western half because the eastern half has sandier soils. Keep in mind that the scale at which you choose to divide up your sampling will match your management approach, and 10 acres is the maximum recommended size for a sample block.

Once you have determined the boundaries for each block, you need to collect your sub samples. The strategy used for most mail-in soil tests is referred to as "bulk sampling", a representative sample of a given area is collected by digging 15-20 small, sub samples per 10-acre block OR 3-5 sub samples per one-acre block. These small samples from random locations within the boundaries of the chosen block are collected, then mixed thoroughly in a clean bucket. A single uniform sample is taken from the mixed material and that is what is used for analysis. The sub samples should be collected randomly, following a zig-zag pattern within the block, avoiding areas around the perimeter or in locations with frequent equipment traffic. Generally, you want to collect from the feeder root zone, at least 12" from the trunk of the vine. Samples should be collected when the soil is not saturated and not completely dry, 50/50 air/water in the soil pore space is ideal. Your soil is too wet if several scoops of soil in a bucket cannot be mixed to a uniform consistency due to stickiness. A thin sliver or scoop of soil, 10" deep, is placed in a clean bucket. Remove the top inch of soil if thatch is present and take care to avoid including rocks, roots, or twigs if possible. Once all the sub samples are collected, the soil is mixed thoroughly and a small (2-4 cup, depending on lab requirements) bulk sample is collected to analysis, again, avoiding the inclusion of rocks and vegetative material. Take notes on the location of your sub samples for future collection years. Penn State and Cornell Extension each offer soil testing for growers in our region, as well

as several independent labs. All labs request collection using the methods described above, but there are some differences in the types of tests offered, and how to ship the sample once you obtain it. Always double check the website associated with the lab of your choosing to confirm sampling and shipping methods. Sample kits can be ordered online and are available at most Extension offices for purchase. LERGP members are always welcome to request assistance in interpreting soil test results from any source^{*}.

*We do not endorse the use of one lab over another, below is information for two University hosted labs offering a range of services, with information provided to aid in your personal research. There are many private labs that may be better suited to your individual needs.

Penn State: The basic Penn State Extension soil sample analyzes for water pH, Mehlich buffer lime requirement, and for phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and calcium by the Mehlich 3 (ICP) test. The final report includes the chemical analysis of the soil along with lime and fertilizer recommendations for the crop specified, in this case grapes. Standard tests cost \$10/sample, additional tests can be added such as total nitrogen (\$15) and organic matter (\$5). When submitting a sample to the Penn State lab it is requested that you allow the soil to air dry before shipping by spreading it out on newspapers or paper towels overnight prior to packaging and mailing. Be sure to label carefully if you have multiple samples. Discounts are available for large numbers of tests, contact the lab for instructions on how to submit multiple tests.

Submission form for grapes can be found at: <u>https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/fertility/soil-fertility-submission-forms</u>

Use crop code 3500 (grapes, unspecified), 3504 (grapes, American), or 3506 (grapes, European) as appropriate for your operation. Recommendations based on testing results can be found at: <u>https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/fertility/handbooks/small-fruits</u>

General information about how to submit your sample is found at: <u>https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/fertility</u>

PSU Ag Analytic Lab services: aaslab@psu.edu (814) 863-0841

Cornell CALS: The Cornell Soil Health laboratory offers a much more extensive range of soil testing services including (but not limited to) active carbon, aggregate stability, organic matter content, and total nitrogen in the basic test. These pieces of information provide a much more granular image of what is occurring in your soil and what management practices may be available to mitigate any issues you may have. Results are scaled to reflect severity and a 10+ page report is provided outlining strategies and practices relevant to your results.

Information about the lab and its reporting methods is at: <u>https://soilhealthlab.cals.cornell.edu/</u>

The rates start at \$90/sample and go as high as \$165/sample with the inclusion of additional metrics such as soil respiration rate, soil texture, and predicted water holding capacity. Individual tests are available. Rates and services are found here: <u>https://soilhealthlab.cals.cornell.edu/testing-services/soil-health-analysis-packages/</u>

There are significant differences in how samples are handled and shipped once they have been collected in order to preserve the quality and quantity of biological components and microbes for these tests. Details on handling samples destined for the CSHL are found here: <u>https://soilhealthlab.</u> <u>cals.cornell.edu/testing-services/sample-storage-and-shipment/</u>

Cornell Soil Health Laboratory services: soilhealth@cornell.edu

Agro One: LERGP members can still bring their samples to CLEREL to be mailed in and tested at the Agro One soils lab. You will need to bring approxiamtely 2 cups of soil and know the soil type/ name. The soil should be air dried but can be brought in wet and they will prepare for packing and shipping. Soil samples are priced as follows:

1 SAMPLE-\$25.00 each

2-4 SAMPLES-\$21.00 each

5 plus samples-\$18.00

All pricing includes packaging, shipping and recommendations.

In addition to general soil testing, I have learned in the last week about the Loaner Sensor Program that LERGP ran a few years ago that many of our growers were able to utilize to obtain soil scans of their acreage. Mapping of electromagnetic soil properties in your vineyard creates a layer of data to identify variations of soil characteristics establishing management zones within the vineyard with similar electrical conductivity. Using this data in conjunction with soil series maps of your property (available through county planning offices, extension, and https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/aapp/) allows you to create sampling blocks that accurately capture the variability of your property. Additionally, real-time soil maps may guide variable rate soil treatments economically applied to smaller areas, which, over time, may effectively reduce soil variability within each management zone. If you participated in that program and have your soil scan results (NVDI scans), we can work with you to utilize that technology to create a base map of your vineyard(s). Here is a link to the website that Dr. Terry Bates has created : https://www.efficientvineyard.com/ It was a federally funded project at 6.2 million to bring technologies such as soil scanning to our growers. We have since received two more federally funded collaborative grants to continue such work and would be pleased for an opportunity to support you in utilizing any data that you may have.

For additional information on soil testing in vineyards visit: https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/vine_nutrition_and_soils.php https://grapes.extension.org/soil-sampling-in-vineyards/

Finally, for those PA LERGP members who have not had a chance to meet me in person, I would like to offer an opportunity to schedule an appointment with me in late April at either the Erie County Extension or LERGREC offices to pick up your copy of the 2023 NY-PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes and discuss any questions or concerns you have for the coming season. We should have those guides in hand by mid-April, and will be mailing them out like usual for those who can't make it in. Please contact me if you would like to schedule a site visit, or have any questions in the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Current office schedule (subject to change)

M/W 8am-4:30pm CLEREL Portland, NY T/Th 9am-5pm Erie Co. Cooperative Ext. Summit Municipal Bldg. Erie, PA LERGREC by appointment **Contact information:** Mobile (*call or text*): (716) 397-9674 Office: (814) 825-0900 Email: MFL5873@psu.edu