



April 19, 2023

## Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

### Very Early Budbreak in the Finger lakes

Thanks to almost a week of really warm and sunny weather, including five days at or above 80°F at our weather station near Dresden, a lot of vines emerged from dormancy over the past few days and have already reached budbreak. Many others will probably get there later this week with another couple of very warm and sunny days on the way.

#### In This Issue:

Early Budbreak	<a href="#">pg. 1</a>
Spring IPM	<a href="#">pg. 2</a>
IPM Coordinator	<a href="#">pg. 3</a>
Replant Announcement	<a href="#">pg. 4</a>
NY Farm Labor Survey	<a href="#">pg. 5</a>
Climate Change Grants	<a href="#">pg. 8</a>
Events	<a href="#">pg. 11</a>
GDD	<a href="#">pg. 12</a>



**Budbreak on Jupiter, one of our seedless table grape varieties.**



**Early budbreak on an end vine of Lemberger at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard near Dresden.**

So far, we have recorded the following dates for budbreak in varieties at the Teaching Vineyard:

- Jupiter April 13
- Marquette April 14
- Zweigelt April 14
- Marquis April 15
- Itasca April 15
- Chardonnay April 19

## Very Early Budbreak in the Finger lakes (continued from pg. 1)

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These dates are all well ahead of normal for our location, ranging from about 2 weeks (Jupiter, Marquis, Marquette) to almost 3 weeks (Chardonnay). This means that the region's vineyards will be at much greater risk of injury from frost injury for the next month or so.

Temperatures last night and early this morning managed to stay above freezing based on data from NEWA stations near local vineyards, although colder spots might have grazed the 30°F, so at this point I'm assuming (hoping) that emerged buds were able to survive. Our next brush with temperatures close to freezing looks to be early next week. Growers with fans in their vineyards will want to be sure they are prepared to operate before then, if they weren't already. For those growers who don't have fans, there are very limited options to help the vines withstand colder temperatures and avoid frost damage.

Several years ago, there was interest in a product called KDL, which claimed to reduce damage to newly emerged shoots under frost conditions. The results from some research done at Penn State do not support this claim, so I don't recommend using this kind of product (a potassium foliar fertilizer, essentially) for frost protection, even though there are

## Spring Grape IPM Meeting

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*Tuesday, May 2, 2023      4:30 – 6:00 PM*

*Clearview Farms*

*4150 Stever Hill Road*

*Branchport, NY ([click here for Google map](#))*

*Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3Mdw421>*

A tradition unlike any other...well, it's not quite the Master's Tournament, but it is a pretty great tradition, nonetheless. The Finger Lakes Spring Grape IPM Meeting is coming up in a couple of weeks, featuring talks about sour rot, sprayer operation, the role of weather information in pest management programs, and some updates on disease management as well ([click here to see the full agenda](#)). The meeting has been approved for 1.5 pesticide recertification credits, so be sure to bring your license with you if you want to receive credits. After the meeting, everyone is welcome to stay to enjoy dinner and some social time together.

There is no cost to attend the meeting, but you need to let us know you're coming. There will be a \$10/person charge for registration "at the door." Registration can be done via this link - <https://bit.ly/3Mdw421> - or by calling Brittany Griffin at CCE-Yates County at 315-536-5134.

We hope to see you all there this year!

### Germán Vargas named New York Grape IPM Coordinator

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New York State Integrated Pest Management Director Alejandro Calixto has announced that Entomologist Germán Vargas will serve as the Program's first Grape IPM Coordinator.

As a part of the third largest wine producing state in the nation, New York grape growers work nearly 35,000 acres, producing 128,000 tons of juice grapes, 57,000 tons of wine grapes, and 2,000 tons of table grapes each year. In the new role, Vargas will grow and sustain the state's booming grape industry by working collaboratively, across disciplines, and with a variety of stakeholders to develop, demonstrate and guide IPM implementation efforts.

"The New York State Integrated Pest Management Program has long offered research, extension, outreach, and practical guidance to the grape industry, and we are tremendously grateful to state officials for supporting a position dedicated to serving wine growers and producers statewide," Calixto said. "We are tremendously excited to welcome Germán to the NYSIPM team and know he will be an incredible asset to our team and the Empire State grape industry."

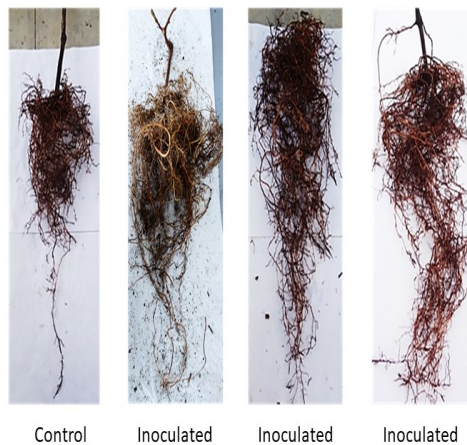
A native of Colombia, Vargas is an award-winning entomologist with over 40 publications including peer-reviewed and extension. He has a Ph.D. from Kansas State University and most recently served as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Florida's Tropical Research and Education Center, where he worked to develop a comprehensive, integrated pest management plan for the hibiscus bud weevil.

Vargas' position will be based out of the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY beginning June 20, 2023.

## Testing a mycorrhizae-inoculated soak on replants

Several years ago we began testing commercial bioinoculants to increase growth of vines here in the Finger Lakes. In both field studies and greenhouse studies, inoculants that contained arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) improved root growth (see Figure 1), shoot growth, and leaf blade/petiole nutrient concentration.

In 2022 we started a project testing the impacts of inoculated AMF into the pre-planting soak for replant vines, wondering whether the increased growth would result in improved survival rates of replants. We are looking for more grower-collaborators who are interested in trialing this practice in 2023.



**Figure 1: Inoculated vs. Control (no inoculation) treatments on own-rooted Cabernet Sauvignon**

Image credit: Mariam Berdeja

If you are interested in trialing an AMF-inoculated pre-soak on replant vines, please reach out to me at [Justine@Cornell.edu](mailto:Justine@Cornell.edu). We can bring you some inoculant. We'll ask that you try it on some vines but not all so that we can compare the growth and survival of those that weren't soaked with inoculants to those that were.

Thanks to the New York Farm Viability Institute for funding this project.

## Please Take the NY Farm Labor Survey

*Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Program*

Farm employers, share your voice through the [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](#).

This is vital information to understand how the farm labor situation affects employers! Please take about 20-30 minutes of your time to include your response now, only two weeks remain! 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. Prepare by assembling the following data from your payroll records:

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

Click the link below to complete the survey now:

[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b4xjhVpK54WzCGG](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4xjhVpK54WzCGG)

Thanks for doing your part to promote the [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](#). This survey gives farm employers the chance to tell their farm labor story. Please ask your farm neighbors, clients, and customers to complete the survey for their farms. Your personal request goes a long way.

Download a helpful flyer here: [Farm Labor in Transition Survey Flyer](#).

Deadline to complete the survey is Monday, May 1, 2023.





## Please Take the NY Farm Labor Survey

*Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Program*

One of our survey questions asked farm employers: “How did your farm adapt to the new overtime requirement for farm laborers implemented by New York State in 2020? This is the requirement that overtime (1.5 times regular pay) must be paid for any hours worked more than 60 hours per week.” Table 1 summarizes the responses of specialty crop and dairy farms to this question, and the results are described below.



### SPECIALTY CROP FARMS

By far the most frequent response from over 70 percent of specialty crop employers was that they “implemented tighter control of employee performance and hours worked.” The next most common response, at 43 percent, was from farms that continued employment as usual and just paid for any overtime hours worked. It’s important to note here that most specialty crop employers, even before the new overtime regulations, rarely had employees work more than 60 hours per week, so overtime pay was not typical under normal conditions (Wolf et al., 2021).

Other common responses indicated that farms invested in machinery or equipment to boost labor productivity (38 percent), or simply eliminated certain production tasks that were non-essential (31 percent). An “other” option was provided so that employers could write in any other strategies they used that the survey did not specifically list. Multiple specialty crop growers responded that they eliminated crops or left them in the field, and that they used “hard stops” to work to avoid paying any overtime. In other words, work stopped regardless of whether it was complete.

### DAIRY FARMS

Dairy crop farmers also implemented tighter management of employee performance and hours worked, with about 66 percent using that strategy, with results from 74 farms presented in Table 1. Almost half of dairy employers were able to invest in machinery or equipment to improve productivity. This is considerably more than specialty crop employers and may reflect more opportunity to use this strategy for dairy employers. Also, for both employer groups, investments in labor saving machinery and equipment may take some time to plan and implement. This survey covering the first two years of overtime may have occurred before employers could make these types of investments.

Several strategies were written in by dairy respondents with the following two appearing multiple times:

- No change was required as the farm already paid overtime or overtime was not required due to family labor
- Owners, salaried, and part-time workers picked up more work so that hourly employees could stay below the 60-hour threshold

It is important to note that a significant number of both farm employer groups (specialty crop 29 percent, dairy 26 percent) indicated that they “hired additional employees to reduce or eliminate overtime hours worked.” This is the time-honored employer strategy to minimize the cost of overtime by spreading total work hours from a smaller group of employees working many hours, to a larger group working a reduced number of hours intended to stay under the overtime threshold.

## Please Take the NY Farm Labor Survey

*Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Program*

Also notable is that relatively few employers attempted to offset the cost of overtime by reducing employee pay or benefits. This strategy, of course, would likely cause serious employee dissatisfaction and possibly workforce disruption.



**Table 1.**

### 2019-20 Farm Employer Strategies To Adapt To 60 Hours/Week Overtime

Strategy	Specialty Crop (n=65)		Dairy (n=74)	
	Count	Percent*	Count	Percent*
Implemented tighter control of employee performance and hours worked	46	71%	49	66%
Continued employment as usual and just paid for overtime hours worked as required	28	43%	25	34%
Invested in machinery or equipment to improve labor productivity	25	38%	34	46%
Eliminated or reduced non-essential production tasks	20	31%	13	18%
Hired additional employees to reduce or eliminate overtime hours worked	19	29%	19	26%
Other	13	20%	27	37%
Outsourced existing tasks to reduce labor needs	7	11%	17	23%
Reduced employee benefits to offset the cost of overtime	4	6%	6	8%
Reduced base employee pay to offset the cost of overtime	3	5%	5	7%

### NEW YORK STATE ANNOUNCES TWO GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP FARMERS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY



***\$28.5 Million Will be Provided through the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Grant Program and the Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control (Ag Non-Point) Program***

***Applications Due June 26 and August 7, 2023***

***Governor Hochul's Executive Budget Proposes Funding for the Next Rounds of the CRF and Ag Non-Point Programs***

***CRF Program Eligibility Expanded to Prioritize New and Beginning Farmers and to Include Urban Agriculture***

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball today announced two grant opportunities totaling \$28.5 million for projects that will help New York's farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate water and soil quality concerns, and increase on-farm resiliency to climate change.

**Commissioner Ball said**, "Our farmers are at the forefront of meaningful, sustainable efforts to preserve our natural resources and combat the effects of climate change. These grant opportunities will go a long way toward helping New York's farmers continue to implement best practices and smart environmental management planning. An investment in our environment is an investment in our agricultural industry, and this funding will help ensure farms can remain competitive, profitable, and sustainable."

These grant opportunities will go a long way toward helping New York's farmers continue to transition to best practices and implement smart environmental management planning. An investment in our environment is an investment in our agricultural industry, and this funding will help ensure farms can remain competitive and profitable."

**Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos said**, "Historically, farmers have pioneered conservation in response to environmental challenges and New York's farmers are now advancing solutions to the existential challenge of our changing climate and impacts that range from drought, flooding, and extreme heat and cold to the migration of invasive pests. The grant opportunities announced today will support projects that address the climate challenge and advance sustainable practices to improve the health and resiliency of New York's farms, ecosystems, and communities."

#### **Climate Resilient Farming**

Now in its seventh round, the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program helps farms reduce their operational impact on the environment and address the impacts of extreme weather events resulting from climate change. Round 7 will offer \$15 million, up from \$8 million in the last round of the program, to help farmers implement agricultural projects and make related equipment purchases that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support soil health and improved water quality. Projects will also help agricultural producers prepare for and better manage impacts of climate change, including increased heavy storm events, overall rainfall, and periods of drought.





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This year's program emphasizes precision feed management and agroforestry, two best management practices that are identified in the [New York State Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan](#) as critical to helping increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gases on farm.

The Climate Resilient Farming Grant program eligibility has also been expanded by updating the definition of a farm operation to include urban agriculture and non-traditional operations. Urban agriculture is an increasingly important focus area for the Department as it continues its work to grow a more resilient food supply system. In addition, new and beginning farmers are being prioritized for this funding opportunity.

Funding is available in three tracks:

***Track 1 – \$5 million for Livestock Management: Alternative Waste Management and Precision Feed Management (previously Agricultural Waste Storage Cover and Flare System)***

Projects will reduce methane emissions from the farm and increase the farm's resiliency to major precipitation events.

***Track 2 - \$6 million for Adaptation and Resiliency (previously Water Management Systems)***

Projects will help prepare agricultural producers for the impacts of a changing climate such as flood events and drought.

***Track 3 - \$4 million for Healthy Soils NY (systems and BMPs that support soil health and agroforestry)***

Projects will improve soil health on farms and enhance a farm's resiliency to the impacts of climate change, including benefits during times of drought, wet weather, as well as optimal growing conditions. Soil health practices can also create carbon sinks, increase water holding capacity, and improve recycling of nitrogen by crops, thereby mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Through six rounds of funding to date, \$20.4 million has been awarded to on-farm projects that are estimated to deliver the equivalent of 387,571 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year emissions reductions, equivalent to removing 83,510 cars from the road for one year.

The State's County Soil and Water Conservation Districts can apply now on behalf of farmers for these competitive grants. The application and additional information are available on the Department's website at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>.

Project proposals are due at 4:30 p.m. on August 7, 2023.

### **Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program**

In addition to the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program funding, an additional \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State through Round 29 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. Through 28 rounds of funding to date, \$237 million has been awarded to on-farm projects.

The Agricultural Nonpoint program awards projects that focus on either environmental planning or the implementation of

best management practice systems to protect New York's watersheds. Projects include conservation measures, such as nutrient management through manure storage, vegetative buffers along streams, and conservation cover crops.



The State's County Soil and Water Conservation Districts can apply on behalf of farmers for this competitive grant program, which is also funded through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The application and additional information are available on the Department's website at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>.

Project proposals are due at 4:30 p.m. on June 26, 2023.

### Executive Budget Proposal

Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed funding for both the CRF and Ag Non-Point programs in the 2023-24 Executive Budget, through a \$400 million investment in the Environmental Protection Fund. She has also proposed additional funding from \$14.5 million to \$16 million for the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts to further assist our farmers in their leadership to elevate water quality and fight against climate change.

**Chairman of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee Dale Stein said,** "Farming and caring for the land our crops grow on go hand in hand. The funds being made available today will help New York's farmers continue to invest in sustainable practices while preserving our state's critical natural resources. Every farm truly makes a difference, which is why our county Soil and Water Conservation Districts will continue to work with our farmers to adopt sustainable important agricultural practices that will keep our wildlife, land, and water safe for generations to come."

The New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, in coordination with the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, administers the Climate Resilient Farming Program and the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program through its Land and Water Division, which works to protect New York's land and water resources through farmland protection, farmland conservation, and proactive environmental stewardship.

The Climate Resilient Farming Program and Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program function as part of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) framework, a broader effort that helps farmers achieve higher levels of environmental stewardship and more efficient, cost-effective farming systems. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts use the AEM framework to assist interested farmers through planning and implementation to make science-based and cost-effective decisions. As a result, farmers can meet business goals while conserving the state's natural resources.

### Upcoming Events

Don't forget to check out the calendar on our website (<http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.



### Spring Grape IPM Meeting

*Tuesday, May 2, 2023      4:30 – 6:00 PM*

*Clearview Farms*

*4150 Stever Hill Road*

*Branchport, NY ([click here for Google map](#))*

*Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3Mdw421>*

See the announcement earlier in this newsletter, or visit [the Events page](#) on our website, [blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes](https://blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes).

### Tailgate Meetings

This year's Tailgate Meetings will start two weeks after the Spring IPM Meeting, on Tuesday, May 16, and continue every two weeks after that through August. We are not currently planning to hold any virtual Tailgate Meetings this year. Here is the schedule for this year's meetings, all of which will run from 4:30 – 6:00 PM:

- May 16, 2023:              Lakewood Vineyards, Watkins Glen NY
- May 30, 2023:              Hosmer Winery, Ovid NY
- June 13, 2023:              Glenora Farms, Dundee NY
- June 27, 2023:              Keuka Lake Vineyards, Hammondsport NY
- July 11, 2023:              Young Sommer Winery, Williamson NY
- July 25, 2023:              Gage Vineyards, South Bristol NY
- August 8, 2023:              Tango Oaks Vineyard, Hector NY
- August 22, 2023:              Fox Run Vineyards, Penn Yan NY

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

April 19, 2023

## 2023 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
4/12/23	79.0	55.0	0.00	17.0	38.5
4/13/23	85.8	59.9	0.00	22.9	61.3
4/14/23	82.6	56.8	0.00	19.7	81.0
4/15/23	84.4	54.7	0.00	19.6	100.6
4/16/23	81.7	55.9	0.00	18.8	119.4
4/17/23	69.4	41.4	0.45	5.4	124.8
4/18/23	43.9	37.0	0.01	0.0	124.8
Weekly Total			<b>0.46"</b>	<b>103.3</b>	
Season Total			<b>2.71"</b>	<b>124.8</b>	

GDDs as of April 18, 2022: 31.0

Rainfall as of April 18, 2022: 1.40"

Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)



### Growing Degree Days

	2022 GDD <sup>1</sup>	Long-term Avg GDD <sup>2</sup>	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) <sup>3</sup>
April	109.7	62.8	+22
May		256.3	
June		484.6	
July		646.1	
August		597.4	
September		360.2	
October		112.5	
TOTAL	109.7	2519.8	

<sup>1</sup> Accumulated GDDs for each month.

<sup>2</sup> The long-term average (1973-2022) GDD accumulation for that month.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year's GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. The most recent number represents the current status.

### 2023 GDD & Precipitation

#### Precipitation

	2023 Rain <sup>4</sup>	Long-term Avg Rain <sup>5</sup>	Monthly deviation from avg <sup>6</sup>
April	2.96"	2.80"	
May		3.07"	
June		3.56"	
July		3.43"	
August		3.21"	
September		3.47"	
October		3.41"	
TOTAL	1.97"	23.02"	

<sup>4</sup> Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

<sup>5</sup> Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

<sup>6</sup> Monthly deviation from average (calculated at the end of the month)



### Additional Information

Become a fan of the [Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter \(@cceflgp\)](#) as well as YouTube. Also check out our website at <http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu>.

Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the [NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website](#) today!

#### Finger Lakes Grape Program Advisory Committee

**Eric Amberg**- Grafted Grapevine Nursery  
**Gregg McConnell**- Farm Credit East  
**Matt Doyle**- Doyle Vineyard Management  
**Eileen Farnan**- Barrington Cellars  
**Chris Gerling**- Cornell University Extension  
**Mike Colizzi**- E & J Gallo  
**Tina Hazlitt**- Sawmill Creek Vineyards  
**Cameron Hosmer**- Hosmer Winery  
**T.J. Brahm** – Randall Standish Vineyards

**Herm Young**– Young Sommer Winery  
**John Santos**- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards  
**Steve Sklenar**– Sklenar Vineyard  
**Justine Vanden Heuvel**- Cornell University  
**Peter Weis** – Weis Vineyards

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## Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

**Hans Walter-Peterson**—Team Leader  
**Donald Caldwell**—Viticulture Technician

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

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