



Concords and Sunshine...
Kim Knappenberger
8/14/2023

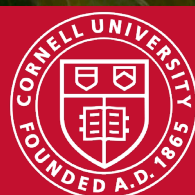
CROP UPDATE August 17, 2023

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

Downy mildew and Powdery mildew are moving in. I have had a few phone calls and photo texts about disease and have also witnessed DM and PM moving into some vineyards. This is not surprising with the rain and humidity that we have experienced this season. Fungal diseases intensify with frequent and duration of moisture on grapevines. Foliar infections can limit photosynthesis which is required to ripen your fruit, vine growth, and cold hardiness. Downy mildew is characterized by the presence of yellowish oil spots on the surface of leaves and white down that can be seen on the underside of the leaves, canes, and bunches in periods of high humidity. Powdery mildew fungus on the shoots, leaves, and fruit may appear grey or whiteish but has a brown appearance as it ages. Fungal infections can cause significant impact on yield if control measures are not implemented, severe infection will cause leaves to fall prematurely, reducing yield and berry sugar content. Please refer to your NY and PA Grape Guidelines for management strategies or reach out to us to discuss.



DOWNY MILDEW

Fungus-like.

Only grows on the underside of the leaf.

1. Downy mildew photo from www.lergp.com

POWDERY MILDEW

Fungal.

Can grow on both sides of a leaf.



2. Powdery mildew photo from www.lergp.com

Veraison to Harvest

Veraison signifies the onset of fruit ripening in grapes. The berries begin to soften and there is a noticeable change in the color of the fruit. At the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory the Nelson Shaulis Modified Field Score is used to track phenology and veraison is called when 5% of the berries have color. Currently, we are 66 Days After Bloom at CLEREL and we normally see veraison between 69-71 DAB. Every year our team collects berry samples and ship them to the Cornell AgriTech in Geneva for juice analysis. A weekly electronic newsletter is put out by viticulture and enology extension personnel, called *Véraison to Harvest*. This weekly electronic newsletter is sent out by viticulture and enology extension personnel from Lake Erie, Long Island, the Hudson Valley and the Finger Lakes. Each issue provides accurate and up-to-date regional data while giving a statewide perspective as well. Veraison to Harvest continues to be a survey of grape data and regional perspectives brought to you by Cornell Cooperative Extension personnel across New York State. We continue to sample key grape varieties, analyze them and report weekly. V to H begins in early September and concludes in late October. Below is a sample of the information that is available in this resource:

Fruit Composition Report - 9/30/2022

This table now contains all of the samples that will be included in Veraison to Harvest 2022. Yeast Assimilable Nitrogen (YAN) will be measured every other week.

Cabernet Franc

Region	Harvest Date	Description	Ber. Wt. g.	% Brix	pH	TA g/L	YAN (ppm)
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	E. Seneca	1.11	20.8	3.13	6.9	128
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	W. Seneca	1.29	20.8	3.12	7.3	14
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	Cayuga	1.57	19.8	3.13	7.6	140
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	Dresden	1.13	22.2	3.04	7.7	14
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	Keuka	1.49	19.2	3.11	9.0	50
Hudson Valley	9/26/22	East Central HV	1.06	19.9	3.35	4.8	62
Lake Erie	9/26/22	Portland	1.53	18.1	3.09	10.3	84
Long Island	9/26/22	Long Island	2.13	21.7	3.61	4.7	97
Long Island		Long Island	HARVESTED				
Niagara		Niagara County					

Cayuga White

Region	Harvest Date	Description	Ber. Wt. g.	% Brix	pH	TA g/L	YAN (ppm)
Finger Lakes		Keuka	HARVESTED				
Finger Lakes		Cayuga	HARVESTED				

Chardonnay

Region	Harvest Date	Description	Ber. Wt. g.	% Brix	pH	TA g/L	YAN (ppm)
Finger Lakes		Cayuga	HARVESTED				
Finger Lakes		W. Seneca	HARVESTED				
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	Dresden	1.19	22.4	3.10	6.1	28
Long Island	9/26/22	Long Island	1.73	20.1	3.51	6.3	211
Niagara		Niagara County					

Concord

Region	Harvest Date	Description	Ber. Wt. g.	% Brix	pH	TA g/L	YAN (ppm)
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	Keuka	2.79	15.3	3.33	3.5	72
Finger Lakes	9/26/22	W. Canandaigua	3.12	17.0	3.32	3.8	76
Lake Erie	9/26/22	Portland	3.64	18.0	3.25	8.9	191

Frontenac

Region	Harvest Date	Description	Ber. Wt. g.	% Brix	pH	TA g/L	YAN (ppm)
Hudson Valley	9/26/22	Northeast HV	0.94	20.9	3.15	10.4	275
Lake Erie		Sheridan	HARVESTED				

3. Sample of the Veraison to Harvest report

Cover Crops

The rain has been a good factor to promote cover crop germination. Grape production implements many practices that deplete soil health, and overtime decrease or limit vine productivity. A majority of the vineyards in the Lake Erie grape region have been in production for over 50 years, with an intense regiment of management practices leading to a range of soil health problems. To combat these problems some growers are turning to cover crops as a floor management practice. Using cover crops in your vineyards can help reduce erosion, enhance soil and vine health, improve water infiltration, and promote grapevine root growth. We are currently studying the effects of different floor management strategies in non-irrigated Concord vineyards for water and nutrient conservation. This research is funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute and will continue for two years. Now is the time to seed your cover crops vineyards to allow for the growth of the ground cover on the vineyard floor after rapid shoot growth to decrease the competition. Please reach out with any questions about how to begin or which species may work with your floor management goals. Below is a photo of the Dutch Clover and recently seeded row in our experiment (Photo 4).



4. Floor management photo of two treatments.

Ag CDL Training

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Offers Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training for Farm Operators and Workers

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE-Erie) is in its second year offering an Agricultural Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program. The program now has two training options for experienced farm owners, operators, and employees:

- Open Enrollment with direct scheduling with the contracted instructor
- Group Class at the Erie County Fairgrounds, October 17-28 (as scheduled for participants throughout that time period)

Anyone interested in the October session at the Erie County Fairgrounds should apply soon to have time to complete class prerequisites including securing a learner permit and completing required medical exams. Program details and additional information are available here: <https://bit.ly/3quaKNh>

Potential participants are reminded that this reduced rate, accelerated training is intended for experienced drivers. Beginning or inexperienced drivers will need to explore other commercial driver's license training options through area providers.

Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting John Whitney at (716) 796-3204 or jrw44@cornell.edu at least 5 days before the event.

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NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD total on Aug 17	Forecasted GBM GDD for Aug 22	August Rainfall to Aug 17 9:30AM
Brant	May 31	1707	1813	2.73"
Versailles	June 2	1577	1686	1.10"
Hanover	June 5	1561	1672	1.50"
Sheridan	June 1	1700	1812	1.65"
Silver Creek (Route 5)	June 9	1542	1654	2.67"
Silver Creek (Dble A)	June 2	1683	1793	1.08"
Dunkirk Airport	May 31	1807	1918	1.13"
Forestville	June 2	1630	1740	1.29"
East Fredonia	June 2	1597	1706	0.92"
Fredonia	June 6	1524	1635	
Brocton Escarpment	June 2	1597	1703	1.36"
Portland	June 3	1595	1706	0.43" #
Portland (LERGP West)	June 2	1692	1804	1.16"
East Westfield	June 3	1570	1681	2.87" #
Westfield	June 10	1513	1626	1.12"
Westfield (South)	June 3	1614	1725	1.37"
East Ripley	June 3	1619	1739	1.37"
Ripley	June 3	1635	1750	1.51"
Ripley Escarpment	June 2	1635	1749	1.62"
Ripley State Line	June 2	1658	1773	1.48"
North East State Line	June 2	1601	1707	2.00"
North East Escarpment	June 2	1626	1727	2.95"
North East Sidehill	June 2	1613	1714	2.95"
North East Lab	June 6	1659	1779	1.86"
Harborcreek	June 3	1657	1768	3.56"
Harborcreek Escarpment	June 3	1531	1636	2.57"
Lake City	June 6	1599	1711	1.52"
Ransomville	June 2	1724	1837	2.18" #
Burt	June 12	1430	1542	
Newfane	June 8	1565	1676	1.92"
Corwin	Removed from NEWA by owner			
*Estimated date provided by NEWA website				#sensor errors
*** Not on forecast yet				

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP



Figure 1 Lake City (Mason Farms) weather station

NEWA

More new station news! In addition to the East Ripley station, we have been able to add a station in both Newfane NY and Lake City (Mason Farms) PA. These are both KestrelMet 6000 cellular stations and are collecting data now. The onboarding process has begun for them to report to NEWA and we expect them to be available by the end of this week or next. The Newfane station already has had a new aerovane installed due to a manufacturing defect, but all looks good now. Apparently we didn't realize how important this was going to be, but I just recently became aware that the Corwin station has been removed from NEWA by the owner. The Lake City station is not reporting leaf wetness and this is currently going through some trouble shooting.

The East Westfield station had to have the rain bucket cleared early in August and is back to normal. The Ransomville station is not accurately recording precipitation and this is also being investigated. The usual culprits are not to blame this time, so it might take some time to get straightened out. Stand by and keep your rain gauges handy.

As always, if you notice something that doesn't seem right on your favorite stations, please let Kim know at ksk76@cornell.edu.

VIP

We are excited that a number of the projects that have been in the works are being completed. Two reimbursements have recently been submitted with another two or three following close behind. This brings the total to 26 projects completed and 274 acres of abandoned or unproductive Concord removed. Reimbursements of over \$419,000 have been made. We are still receiving applicants to the program so if you have at least 1 acre of Concord vineyard in New York state that you are planning to remove visit <https://lergp.com/about-vip> to learn more. If you are ready to apply please go to <https://lergp.com/vip-application>. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu.



Figure 2. Overgrown Vineyard eligible for VIP

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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

PA Update

EPA Herbicide Re-Registration Update

Link to public comments: [EPA Herbicide Practices Comment Link](#)

The EPA has been under fire in recent years with multiple lawsuits claiming that the agency has been negligent in its assessment of pesticides and their risks to species and their habitats as defined and protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Last week, the EPA hosted a webinar to address these concerns and to outline new measures for mitigating risks of damage to protected species and habitats by creating new label requirements for herbicide use. As we all know, the label is the law when it comes to pesticide applications, so these measures will affect agriculture and individual farming operations as soon as next year.

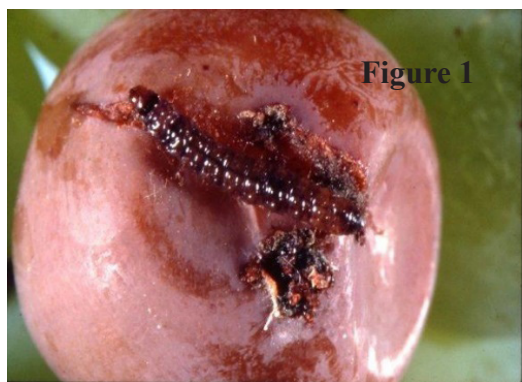
Key takeaways:

- The EPA is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service to create maps of every endangered and protected species in the USA and their critical habitat.
- If your farming operation is within 1000 feet of critical habitat, you will be required to demonstrate compliance with “mitigation measures” as defined by the EPA
- Mitigation measures are defined on a point system, with individual measures being worth a given number of points
 - Measures will include practices such as cover cropping, conservation tillage, drift reduction practices, contour farming, etc.
 - Points vary for each qualifying practice
- Every new herbicide and every herbicide due for re-registration will have a mitigation point requirement added to the label
 - Herbicides with higher risk to non-target species will require a higher number of points
 - Farmers MUST be able to demonstrate commensurate mitigation practices to the number of points on the label IN ORDER TO USE THE HERBICIDE
- All current information on point values and mitigation practices will be hosted EXCLUSIVELY on a website

The only exemptions provided at this time are for farmers who have land that is NOT within 1000 feet of any protected habitat, OR for farmers currently working with an “expert” to utilize conservation practices on their land with actionable steps in place. The definition of what type of qualifications are required for an “expert” exemption are not yet defined.

Methods of enforcing these measures were not discussed in the webinar. Currently, these measures are open to public comment until September 22nd. We are strongly encouraging growers to voice their thoughts on these measures. It seemed that at this point the suggested “point system” was going into place regardless, but the speakers for the EPA requested advisement on possible exemptions, methods for refining the maps of critical habitat, and mitigation practices that should be included in the menu of options.

Grape berry moth (GBM): In the Lake Erie Region most sites should hit the 1620 DD mark for grape berry moth this week (GBM) (Figure 1). At this time, damage is visible as small holes in berries with a purplish discoloration and sometimes a split in the skin with frass or webbing (Figure 2). If you haven’t put a spray on this week, it is imperative to do so to avoid late season damage. In warm years and at high-risk sites, growers need to continue chemical control on a 10-to-14-day interval from mid-August to mid-September. Good coverage of the fruiting zone is essential. Remember when scouting that the goal is to get a handle on potential damage levels and whether you are exceeding economic thresholds. For Concord grapes, if the percent of clusters that show some GBM damage to berries is **greater than 6% at second flight** and **greater than 15% at third flight**, then a treatment is recommended.



Grape Berry Moth Larvae and Damage Photos courtesy of Penn State Extension, Andy Muza & Megan Luke

Grape leaf hopper: As we reach the end of August, the grape leaf hopper is the other primary pest to be concerned with (Figure 3). The final round of scouting is performed in late August. If you see stippling (white dots on leaves caused by leafhopper feeding) throughout the vineyard block, you should be counting nymphs to determine if an insecticide treatment is recommended (Figure 4). Sampling for leafhoppers at this point in the season is focused on the abundance or quantity of second-generation nymphs. Check four different areas in the vineyard (two exterior and two interior). At each area look at five lower (basal) leaves (leaves #3-#7 when counting from base of shoot) per shoot on five different shoots at each location and check for leaf feeding. If no damage or minimal injury is observed, proceed to the next sampling site. If moderate to heavy leaf stippling is observed, then begin counting nymphs on the undersides of leaves. **If you are observing heavy damage, and a threshold of ten nymphs/leaf is reached, then an insecticide application is recommended.**



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Grape leaf hopper adults, leaf damage, and nymph *Photos courtesy of Penn State Extension, Andy Muza*

Save the Date!

There will be a 2+2 Winter Grower Meeting held at Penn State Behrend Campus on January 10th, 2024. This meeting will have two core credits and two category credits available for PA growers needing recertification credits. NY credits will be applied for as well. Details will be provided in September.

For Pennsylvania growers, the Erie County Conservation District has funds available to growers for implementing projects such as cover cropping and stabilization of access roads through the VinES Program.

Information for these funds is available here:

[VinES Program Website](#)

To get your free workbook, contact [Ryan Nageotte](#) at (814) 825-6403

Office schedule (August 7th-August 11th)

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T 9:30am-4:30pm Out of office (available by email or phone)

W 9:30am-4:30pm Out of office (available by email or phone)

Th 8am-4:30pm LERGREC North East, PA

F 9am-5pm Summit Municipal Building, Erie, PA

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