



## CROP UPDATE October 04, 2023

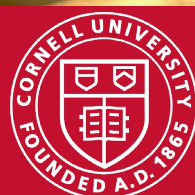
Concords  
Kim Knappenberger  
10/03/2023

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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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## **A special message and request for input from Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie:**

Hi all,

You may be aware that the EPA has developed a new herbicide mitigation strategy. (EPA Releases Draft Strategy to Better Protect Endangered Species from Herbicide Use | US EPA)

The draft Herbicide Strategy focuses on developing and implementing early protections (mitigation options/strategies) to protect more than 900 listed species and designated critical habitats from the potential exposure due to the use of conventional herbicides.

Herbicides would also be categorized according to their potential for off-target movement and assigned to a “points category”; herbicides with higher numbers are more prone to issues with movement.

To use specific herbicides, growers would need to achieve a certain number of “points” equal to the assigned herbicide number thru the adoption of mitigation efforts that would aim to reduce off-target movement.

The higher the points assigned to a herbicide, the more mitigation strategies a grower must employ. Or else they must use individual mitigation strategies that give you “more points” on their own (not all mitigation strategies are created equal, it seems...).

Some proposed mitigation practices include: Rate reductions, herbicide incorporation, contour farming, contour tillage, contour buffer strips, contour strip cropping, prairie strip, alley cropping, cover cropping/continuous cropping, double cropping, grassed waterways, in-field vegetative filter strips, inter-row vegetated strips, strip cropping, irrigation management, mulching, residue tillage, terrace farming, riparian forest buffer, riparian herbaceous cover, vegetated ditches, vegetated filter strips, constructed wetlands, drainage tailwater recovery ponds, sediment basins, etc...

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is preparing comments to the EPA regarding this proposed strategy. NOTE: The WSSA fully supports the EPA’s goal to protect endangered species, but has concerns that proposed changes could be burdensome for specialty crop growers. If they cannot employ sufficient mitigation measures, they could lose chemical weed control options from the pest management toolbox.

To highlight how growers may collect mitigation points, the EPA developed a collection of draft scenarios. Scenario 11 depicts an apple orchard in New York sloped land, heavy soils, drip irrigation (see attached photo). The EPA suggests that apple growers are using irrigation management, contour farming with strips and adjacent vegetative filter strips to achieve 7 points towards a herbicide application. The EPA based this assumption based on a Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) report from 2022.

Bill Chism (WSSA/former EPA) has asked the following questions that I’d like your input on:



Are these practices commonly used in the state? If these practices are not used in your state in the scenario production system or other production systems, please say why not?

Are there additional practices that should be included in the mitigation menu that are being used by growers in your state? Do you have data to support the efficacy of these practices in controlling runoff and/or erosion?

Do you know if growers are currently enrolled in a state/federal runoff/erosion control program, or whether growers work with crop advisors/consultants who are certified by ASA or NAICC in runoff/erosion mitigation? If they are enrolled in a program, which programs are they enrolled in?

My opinion is that irrigation management (at least not like it is used in Western ag production) and contour farming are not common features in apple (or other fruit production in NY – I've cc'ed berry and grape people on the e-mail as well for their opinions). Vegetative filter strips is probably subject to interpretation... So might contour farming, for that matter.

BUT I COULD BE WRONG. Your thoughts and opinions are much appreciated.

Regards,  
Lynn

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# PA Update

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

10/4/23

Weather: As we move into the final weeks, here's a weather update from Northwestern PA to sum up our grape growing season "in a nutshell". First, the month of September: we accumulated about 462 growing degree days (gdds) and 1.02 inches of rain. In the "whole grand scheme of things", that puts September of 2023 as slightly warmer than, and ***incredibly drier*** than, our long-term average. In fact, this September was the driest September in decades. We normally average over 4 inches of rain in September. By end of September, we had accumulated about 2,413 gdds since April 1, about 175 gdds cooler than our long-term average.

The first few days of October have continued with more of the same, dry with above average temperatures. But that's about to change. Temperatures will plunge 30 degrees over the next four days, beginning Thursday night (October 5) and on into Sunday, bottoming out into the low 40s for the low, and the lower 50s for the high. Growing degree day accumulations will come to a grinding halt for a few days, and with it will come rain: 80% chance for precipitation Thursday night and 90% chance for precipitation Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Temperatures will slowly begin rising again (into the 60s) later next week. Unfortunately, after tomorrow, wet conditions could continue for a while...we'll see.

Phenology: With the warm temperatures we've had, the smell of grape juice hangs thick in the air. Our Concord block near route 5 (on the lake) is testing in the mid 15s for soluble sugar solids, with mid 14s in our back 12 acres, another 100-300 yards to the south. The dry weather has probably helped bring up sugar levels somewhat through desiccation, but the vines look stressed. Canopies relatively clean of powdery mildew are starting to look ragged already, as nutrient deficiency symptoms remind us that we haven't had hardly any rain over the past 5-6 weeks.

## Veraison to Harvest Podcast and newsletter links

### [2023 \*Véraison\* to Harvest #5](#)

Around New York (Gerling, Walter-Peterson, Bates, Wise, Schuster )  
Fruit Composition Report (Gerling, CCBAL, Phillips-Russo, Walter-Peterson, Wise,  
Schuster)  
Lake Erie Concord Berry Curve (Bates)

All previous issues available online at:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/viticulture-enology/research-extension/veraison-harvest>





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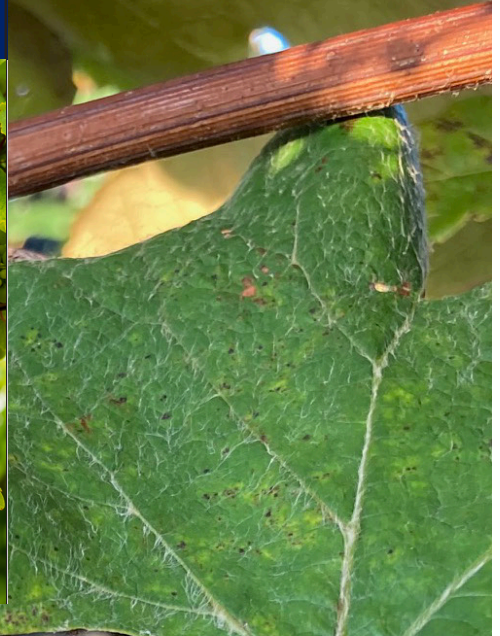
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