



CROP UPDATE October 12, 2023

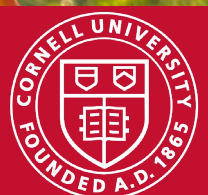
Concords at CLEREL
10/03/2023
Kim Knappenberger

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



PennState Extension

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In this copy:

In the Vineyard- Jennifer Phillips Russo- [page 4](#)

Welcome Dr. German Vargas- [page 7](#)

EPA Herbicide Re-Registration Update- Megan Luke - [page 11](#)

NEWA and VIP Updates- Kim Knappenberger- [page 13](#)

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

There have been many questions from growers as to why the brix accumulation is slow and what the rain in the forecast will do to the soluble sugar accumulation. This season with the larger berry size, the delay in Growing Degree Day accumulation, shorter days at this time in the season, and the precipitation/humidity we continue to experience, the sugar accumulation is slower than previous years. The prolonged bloom period may also play a hand in the sugar accumulation. Below in Table 1, are the results for this week's Veraison to Harvest sample collection in Portland, NY for both 2022 and 2023 growing seasons for comparison.

Table 1. Veraison to Harvest data for this week in Portland, NY for both 2022 and 2023 to compare.

Variety	10/9/2023	10/10/2022	10/9/2023	10/2/2023	10/9/2023	10/2/2023	10/9/2023	10/2/2023	10/9/2023	9/25/2023
	100 Bry Wt	101 Bry Wt	Brix	Brix	pH	pH	TA	TA	YAN	YAN
Concord	372.76		16.9	16.4	3.21	3.19	9.75	9.76	275	168
Niagara	HARVEST	HARVEST		13.3		3.14		7.16		84
Seyval blanc	HARVEST	HARVEST		18.5		3.03		8.03		
Marquette	HARVEST	HARVEST								268
Riesling	189.54		15.9	14.9	3.24	3.17	9.34	10.46	272	154
Cabernet Sauvignon	151.47		16.8	16.1	3.30	3.09	11.80	12.66	227	160
Lemberger	206.47		19.4	17.9	3.35	3.20	8.82	8.88	183	259
Frontenac	HARVEST	HARVEST		18.5		3.02		19.94		
Vignoles	HARVEST	HARVEST								157
Cabernet Franc	160.14		16.4	14.1	3.34	3.06	9.70	11.91	192	214
Traminette	155.00		15.1	11.8	3.07	2.87	11.21	12.12	232	178
Gewurztraminer	HARVEST			18.2		3.40		6.93		194
Chardonnay	195.5		18.6	17.0	3.20	3.13	11.05	11.79	217	253

Thank you to Dr. Bates and the research staff for their weekly monitoring of the Concord Berry Curve here at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY. Figure 1 below is the Concord Berry Curve where the red line indicates 2023 Concord growth, the dark blue line is 2003 growth (which was below the historical average), the black line is the 24-Year historical average, and the green line is from 2021, which was above the historical average. The 2023 Concord fresh berry weight is currently beginning to level off tracking 2021 at this point in the growing season, and still approximately half a gram larger than the 24-Year Mean. The Concord Brix accumulation for the same phenology vines is the graph on the left in Figure 1. The black line illustrates the 24-year mean of Brix accumulation and the shorter red line is 2023. This figure depicts 2023 Brix to be approximately one Brix behind in accumulation as compared to the last 24 years at this point in the growing season and approximately equal to 2021. These numbers are indicative of last week's weather because the berry collection took place on Monday. We are concerned because the Brix did not progress like we hoped it would last week with the warm weather. Brix is now tracking most closely with 2003 where we did not reach 16 Brix until 42 days after veraison. This berry sample was collected 48 days after veraison at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, which was officially called on August 23, 2023.

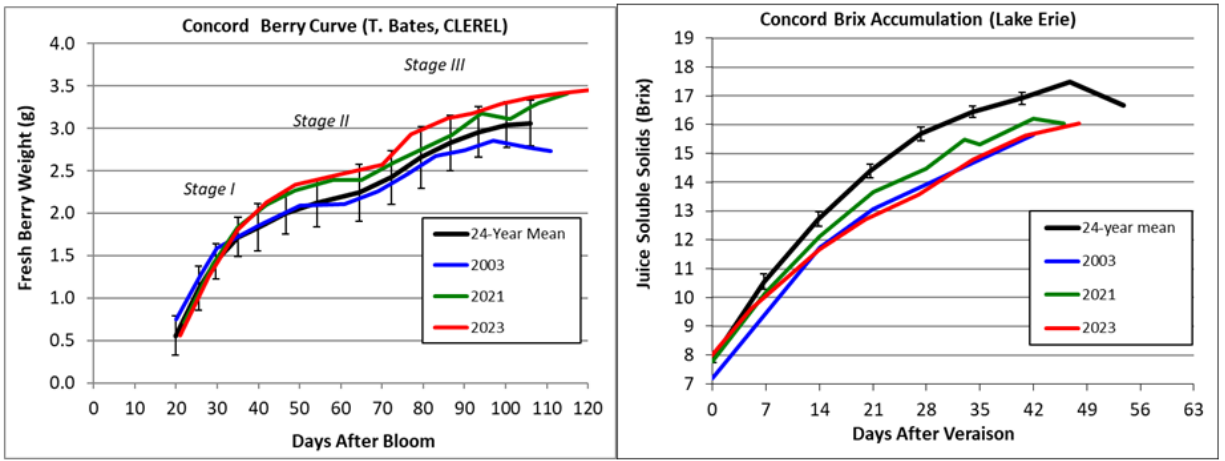


Figure 1. Dr. Terry Bates Concord Berry Curve and Brix Accumulation for Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory October 9, 2023

Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Total Precip (Inches)	Leaf Wetness (Hours)	RH Hrs (≥ 90)	Solar Rad (langley)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)	Avg Soil Moisture (m3/m3)
10/02/2023	66.1	74.8	57.4	0	13	11	404	2.3	67.5	0.2
10/03/2023	67.0	76.5	57.6	0	14	13	396	1.4	67.8	0.2
10/04/2023	73.0	84.7	61.2	0	9	8	420	2.6	69.4	0.2
10/05/2023	72.8	82.6	63	0.09	3	2	323	7.1	70.1	0.2
10/06/2023	64.3	70.5	58.1	0.73	17	13	312	5.3	66.7	0.3
10/07/2023	54.7	58.6	50.7	0.02	9	0	117	8.9	59.2	0.3
Sum or Avg:	65.9	74.2	57.6	0.84	80	61	2379	4.3	66.7	0.2
Max:	73	84.7	63	0.73	17	14	420	8.9	70.1	0.3
Min:	54.7	58.6	50.7	0	3	0	117	1.4	59.2	0.2

Table 2. NEWA weather information for Portland, NY the first week of October 2023

Daily Summary [Download CSV](#)

Estimated Data
Missing data

Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Total Precip (Inches)	Leaf Wetness (Hours)	RH Hrs (≥ 90)	Solar Rad (langley)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)	Avg Soil Moisture (m3/m3)
10/08/2023	51.0	53.1	48.9	0.09	12	0	131	14.4	54	0.3
10/09/2023	49.5	52	46.9	0.06	9	0	147	10.9	52.1	0.3
10/10/2023	49.3	52.3	46.4	0.03	14	1	81	5.9	51.9	0.3
10/11/2023	50.1	52.7	47.5	0.84	23	22	50	3	53	0.3
Sum or Avg:	50.0	52.5	47.4	1.02	58	23	409	8.6	52.8	0.3
Max:	51	53.1	48.9	0.84	23	22	147	14.4	54	0.3
Min:	49.3	52	46.4	0.03	9	0	50	3	51.9	0.3

Table 3. NEWA weather information for Portland, NY week two of October 2023

Compared to the summer-like weather that we had last week (Table 2.), it has been cool and wet for harvest this week (Table 3.). Our average high temperature last week was 74.2 °F, average low 57.6°F, and the precipitation was 0.84 inches compared to the first four days of this week where the average high temperature was 52.5°F, average low 47.4°F and we accumulated 1.02 inches of rain. The forecast for next week (Figure 2.) looks like this week, with low temperatures and the possibility of rain.

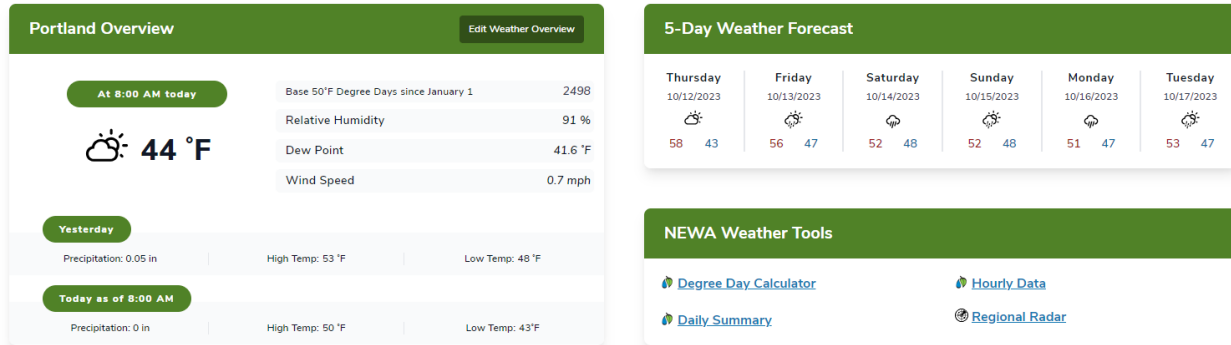


Figure 2. Weather information and forecast from NEWA for Portland, NY October 12, 2023

Every week during harvest I reach out to the processors to ask if they have anything that they wish to contribute. This week Gallo responded that they will be wrapping up their harvest at the end of this week. They also noted that as the soluble sugars for Concord grapes in our region were low at the beginning of their harvest season, this week all of the loads delivered were higher than 17.2 °Brix. Another processor brought up questions about downy mildew on the east side of our grape belt and possible chemicals slipping. If you are noticing this, please reach out to us so that we can bring it to the attention of the researchers. They also mentioned that Grape Berry Moth (GBM) hit late again this year. This is tracking with the last couple of years and Dr. Flor Acevado with PSU and Dr. Greg Loeb of Cornell are currently researching GBM because of your questions brought up in our grower meetings. Thank you for your input to help direct research efforts. There was certainly enough water throughout this growing season and we are noticing both magnesium and potassium deficiencies in the canopies around the belt. I would like to put out a reminder that you should be taking both, soil and tissue, samples to assess your soil and vine nutrient status.



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NYS Grape IPM Coordinator, Dr. German Vargas, Joins LERGP!



Germán Vargas, NYSIPM Grape IPM Coordinator

The article below was the announcement made last spring. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Vargas has recently joined our Lake Erie Regional Grape Team as of October 2, 2023. Dr. German Vargas can be reached at gav33@cornell.edu.

The team asked German if he would answer a couple of questions for our members and here is his response:

Position title: Extension Associate – Grape IPM Specialist

Job description in a nutshell:

I will be dedicated to generating and advancing knowledge in sustainable pest management practices in grape agroecosystems. I will collaborate across disciplines and engage with stakeholders to develop, demonstrate, and guide the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts in grapes across NYS.

Where do you hail from?

I was born in Colombia, and in the last couple of years I have been working with invasive pests attacking the ornamental industry in south Florida.

Education completed?

With a major in Agronomy from Colombia, I completed my PhD in entomology, from Kansas State University in 2012.

Experience?

After completing my Agronomy major, I participated in research projects related to the biological control of invasive pest species in Colombia. Later, during my PhD, I focused on basic biology of lady beetles, which play a crucial role in the natural biological control of major aphid pests in Midwest cereal crops. After finishing my PhD, I returned to Colombia to lead an Integrated Pest Management Program targeting sugarcane pests, emphasizing sustainable alternatives, particularly

biological control. Most recently, I have dedicated my efforts to IPM projects combatting invasive species in the ornamental industry attacking in southern Florida.

Hire date?

My first day at work was October 2, 2023

Priorities/What are you excited about regarding this position?

My initial priorities include building connections within the grape industry and deepening my understanding of the crop. I aim to emphasize the integration of pest management strategies that align with the socio-economic conditions in different regions of the state. I am very excited to expand my knowledge on grape diseases, as this is a new area of development on my career, but also, I am looking forward to getting more, and new, ideas on how to face old and new challenges in grape pest insects, such as the grape berry moth and the spotted lanternfly, respectively. I believe this position offers valuable opportunities to contribute sustainable and cost-effective pest management solutions for grape growers in New York.

The initial introduction article is below:

March 15, 2023 - By Carrie Carmenatty (<https://cals.cornell.edu/news/2023/03/vargas-named-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.

USDA Farm Labor Stabilization Program: \$65 Million for Employers

Written by Richard Stup on October 11, 2023

<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2023/10/11/usda-farm-labor-stabilization-program-65-million-for-employers/>

USDA recently announced the [Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program](#) (FLSP), to distribute \$65 million in the form of grants to employers to "improve the resiliency of the food and agricultural supply chain by addressing workforce challenges farmers and ranchers face." FLSP touts three goals:

*“Goal 1: Drive U.S. economic recovery and safeguard domestic food supply by addressing current labor shortages in agriculture;
Goal 2: Reduce irregular migration from Northern Central America through the expansion of regular pathways; and
Goal 3: Improve working conditions for all farmworkers.”*

Important details of the program are available at the [FLSP website](#), including that eligible applicants include employers who have used or at least applied to use the H-2A program, and the application deadline is November 28, 2023. This program encourages employers to recruit H-2A workers from countries in northern Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. For this grant application it is critical to read the [notice of funding](#) in detail. Don't just rely on what you see on the website and press releases, download and read this [32-page document](#) thoroughly!

Pages 8-11 of the [notice of funding](#) get into details of what will be expected of farm employers who successfully receive a grant. Baseline requirements for all successful awardees include: universal protections and benefits for all employees, not just those in H-2A; employer participation in research that includes access to employers' full workforce by USDA and federal partners; and “know your rights and resources” training provided by “farmworker-trusted entities.” In addition to these baseline requirements, successful grant awardees will also need to make certain commitments about their employment practices in three areas:

1. Responsible recruitment: efforts to recruit H-2A workers from northern Central America using government ministries.
2. Pay, benefits, and working conditions: example can include overtime, bonus pay, paid sick leave, and collaborative employee-management working groups.
3. Partnership agreements, such as: participation in a worker-driven social responsibility program, participation in a collective bargaining agreement (union), committing to neutrality, access, and voluntary recognition when employees indicate an interest in forming a union.

For some employers, these conditions and expectations of receiving between \$25,000 and \$2,000,000 in grant awards may be a good fit. For other employers, these conditions will be much too intrusive in exchange for any amount of money. Farm employers should read the [notice of funding](#) in detail and reflect carefully about how they wish to proceed with this program. But don't reflect too long, applications are due November 28, 2023, it's time to get working if you want to participate in this grant opportunity.



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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

EPA Herbicide Re-Registration Update: Comment Period EXTENDED until October 22, 2023

Link to public comments and full documentation: [EPA Revised Herbicide Policies Docket and 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.

The EPA has outlined 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.

Methods of enforcing these measures were not discussed in the webinar. Currently, these measures are open to public comment until October 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 EPA has 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.

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.

What can you do to make your voice heard? Comment on the public linked above!

Examples of useful comment topics:

- Which of the listed mitigation methods do you use? (Include your region and crop). If you cannot use these methods on your property or farming operation, please comment on **why** that is the case.
- Will accessing the internet to check the EPA website for bulletins and additions to the mitigation menu be a challenge for you, or other farmers?
- Are you preventing herbicide runoff by using methods not listed? What are they? How has this been verified?
- Do you work with crop advisors/consultants who are certified by ASA or NAICC in runoff/erosion mitigation?
- If you are enrolled in a program, which programs are you enrolled in? If you aren't enrolled in a program, what challenges prevent you from doing so?

Commenting on the EPA docket is the **ONLY WAY** to be sure that your voice is heard and that your opinion is considered in the final updates to these policies. Please consider taking the time to comment and inform your colleagues and affiliate agricultural organizations about these important issues.

Link to public comments and full documentation: [EPA Revised Herbicide Policies Docket and Comment Link](#)

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

VIP

As we wind down the 2023 growing season and move through harvest, I wanted to remind you of the Vineyard Improvement Program. If you are planning to remove a Concord vineyard after harvest, I recommend that you take a look. There is grant money available to help with the removal and potentially replant costs, assuming that you are replanting to an eligible crop. All land involved in this project needs to remain agricultural. The current Concord vineyard needs to be completely removed – vines, trellis and roots, and then the land replanted with whatever works best for the owner/grower. To date approximately 280 acres of Concord vineyard (generally abandoned or poor producing) have been removed. In place of those vineyards just over 100 acres have been replanted to either Concord or another grape variety that works with the growers' business plans. The remaining 180 acres have been planted to hay, pasture, cover crops, and field crops. There are projects pending that are hoping to plant Christmas trees, fruit trees, hardwood, and even lavender and ginger.

Seed crops are not reimbursable, however something does need to go in the footprint of the former vineyard in order for the project to be complete.

Replanting anything with a rootstock is "eligible" for reimbursement, as is the appropriate trellis that is needed to support that crop. For example, if someone wanted to plant a high density apple orchard, the program will reimburse 25% of expenses up to \$1,500 per acre (\$6,000 expenses * 25%). Those expenses could include drainage, final site prep, rootstock, trellis expenses, labor and equipment use.

Removal expenses are reimbursed at 50% up to \$1,500 per acre. In order to calculate reimbursements invoices and/or work logs cataloging labor will need to be submitted. If you think this might be helpful to you please visit <https://lergp.com/about-vip> to learn more. If you are ready to apply just click on VIP Application and fill out the form online. Any questions can be directed to Kim Knappenberger at ksk76@cornell.edu.

This grant had originally been set to term in March



of this year. We were able to get it extended so there is now one more growing season to get projects done by the end of 2024. All reimbursements will need to be finalized by March 2025. We look forward to hearing from you!

NEWA

Our fleet of stations is performing relatively well right now, with the occasional hiccup in service or sensor issues. For the most part the data reflected on the NEWA website is actual and does not need to be estimated.

I do want to remind readers that sometimes, especially during harvest, there ends up being equipment parked between stations and their bases. When this happens there is often an interruption of data being reported and that will mean that the data appears with a yellow highlight on NEWA. Generally, once the equipment is moved the data will be updated and backfill (as long as it hasn't been too long) so that it is all actual again.

If you notice that something doesn't look right with your favorite station, please contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu. Now that we have rain coming more frequently it's possible that some rain buckets might need to be cleaned, so don't hesitate to reach out.

Date (Local Time)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Total Precip (Inches)	Leaf Wetness (Hours)	RH Hrs (≥ 90)	Solar Rad (langleys)	Avg Wind Spd (mph)
10/04/2023	74.2	81.6	66.8	0	0	0	389	1.8
10/05/2023	70.7	80.2	61.2	0.32	2	2	296	2.4
10/06/2023	62.7	70.4	55	0.6	14	13	303	2.1
10/07/2023	51.5	55.5	47.4	0.22	9	0	98	3.1
10/08/2023	48.4	50.9	45.9	0.83	17	9	107	4.3
10/09/2023	47.0	50.2	43.9	0.15	9	5	101	3.3
10/10/2023	48.0	51.7	44.3	0.06	9	2	57	2.6
10/11/2023	51.1	56	46.3	0.26	18	12	84	5.8



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Veraison to Harvest Podcast and newsletter links

[2023 Veraison to Harvest #6](#)

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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Cornell CALS
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