

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



November 2, 2023

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

And that's a wrap on the 2023 growing season. While our friends in the Lake Erie region still have another week or so of harvest left (you read that right), things have wound down here in the Finger Lakes. The overall impression I've been hearing about this year's grape crop sounds pretty similar to what a lot of folks were saying last year – good quality, not great quantity.

Chris Gerling and I will be pulling together our summary of the year for the final [Veraison to Harvest](#) newsletter shortly, so I won't do a big summary of the year here, but here are a few bullet points:

- Obviously, the biggest thing that most of us will remember about 2023 was the hard freeze that hit many vineyards on the morning of May 18. Temperatures fell below freezing in many places in the middle of the night and stayed there for several hours, which was highly unusual at that time of year. The resulting damage was significant across most of the region. Some growers were looking at two consecutive years of low crops because of cold events in 2022 (winter injury) and 2023 (spring freeze). Our initial estimates were that the freeze would result in a loss of 50% of the total crop in the region. Fortunately, things started to look better as the season went along, and we estimated the loss to be closer to 30%. We are planning to follow up with growers this winter to estimate the actual impacts of the freeze on yields this year.
- Regarding growing degree days, we were a bit warmer than the 50-year average for the season, but just a bit below normal compared to the average over the last 10 years, which is about 175 GDDs higher than the long-term average. April was much warmer than normal, May and early June were cool, and the rest of the year consisted of a series of warmer and cooler cycles that all kind of evened out in the end, numbers-wise.
- Rainfall patterns, as we all know, can be very different depending on location. During the last three months of the season (August – October), rainfall varied some depending on where you were, but not by crazy amounts (see table below). In recent years we have often seen differences in rainfall from north to south in the Finger Lakes. This year, if there was any pattern during the ripening period, it may have been more of an east/west difference. But again, that trend wasn't overly strong.
- In general (based on data from Geneva), the season went from wet (April), to dry (May), to very wet (June and July), to kind of dry (end of July to Labor Day), to dry again (September and October). Again, the extent to which conditions at your own vineyard followed those trends might have been somewhat different.

In This Issue:

In the Vineyard	pg. 1
SLF in Monroe County	pg. 3
Spotted Lanternfly Press Release (.pdf)	
German Vargas Joins IPM	pg. 4
Labor Roadshow	pg. 5
Farm Asset Protection	pg. 6
Events	pg. 7

In the Vineyard (continued from pg. 1)

Rainfall at selected NEWA weather stations in August – October, 2023

	Interlaken	Dresden	Branchport	Ithaca	Geneva	Montour Falls
August						
Rainfall	4.77"	4.29"	2.28"	4.23"	2.17"	3.10"
Days	15	11	9	16	14	17
September						
Rainfall	1.69"	1.39"	2.76"	1.03"	2.32"	1.14"
Days	11	10	10	12	11	11
October						
Rainfall	2.17"	1.84"	1.37"	3.92"	2.24"	2.99"
Days	14	12	14	13	14	12
TOTALS						
Rainfall	8.63"	7.52"	6.41"	9.18"	6.73"	7.23"
Days w/ Rain	40	33	33	41	39	40

Data from our weekly Veraison to Harvest samples helped to confirm what a lot of us were seeing in the vineyard regarding berry size. Thanks to an abundance of rain after fruit set, berry size was larger than normal, especially compared to last year, which helped somewhat to compensate for lower yields due to the freeze. Bigger berries are harder to fill with lots of sugar, so brix accumulation was somewhat slow this year, but acidity levels seemed to be in good shape for the most part.

The wet weather during the summer and leading up to the start of harvest raised concerns about disease development, especially bunch rots once berries started to ripen. Early ripening varieties had some issues with rots, but overall, the dry weather in September and October kept pressure low, leading to clean harvests for most vineyards this year.

As I mentioned, there will be more about the 2023 season in the final issue of the Veraison to Harvest newsletter coming out soon. For now, get those hills up, winterize the equipment, clean up the barns, and then put your feet up for a well-earned rest. You all earned it this year.



Spotted Lanternfly Found in Monroe County



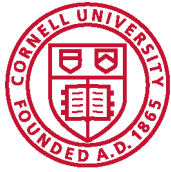
It's not surprising at all, but still a little disconcerting when we hear about new, established populations of spotted lanternfly (SLF) that are being found closer and closer to Finger Lakes vineyards. These populations were found in Greece, NY, just west of the city of Rochester. I have no further information about this latest discovery beyond what is included in the press release (included on the next pages) from CCE in Monroe County.

The sub-freezing temperatures that we've had the past couple of mornings should have knocked out any adults that are around, but as we begin the pruning season this winter, be sure that those who are out in the vineyards know what SLF egg masses look like and are keeping an eye open for them. If there is ever a question about whether something is or isn't an SLF egg mass, please feel free to get in touch with me and I can help with identifying it.



As we have always said, it will just be a matter of time before these things are showing up in vineyards in the Finger Lakes. The earlier that we can detect them and reduce the populations, the slower the buildup will be and the easier the populations will be to manage.

There are a lot of resources available about SLF from the IPM program. The best, first place to look is on their SLF page, <https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management/outreach-education/whats-bugging-you/spotted-lanternfly>.



Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Monroe County

2449 Saint Paul Blvd
Rochester, NY 14617
p.585.753.2550 f.585.753.2560
monroe@cornell.edu
monroe.cce.cornell.edu

For Immediate Release:

November 1, 2023

For more information, contact:

Antonius Chess, Jr.
Natural resources Educator
arc279@cornell.edu
585-753-2564

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY FOUND IN MONROE COUNTY

Small, isolated populations of spotted lanternflies have been found in Greece, NY. This is the first confirmed occurrence of a breeding population of this invasive insect in Monroe County. The finds are near Rt. 104 and 390. The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets is actively assessing the situation this week.

From monitoring other outbreaks, it appears that we have some time before this will become a wide-spread issue. Generally, it takes 3-4 years, and possibly longer, before populations will become noticeable.

The biggest cause for concern is our upstate vineyards because although the spotted lanternfly can feed on over 100 different plants the only crop plant it is known to impact is grape vines. Due to the large role the wine industry plays in our upstate economy, a great deal of attention will go to protecting the vineyards.

How can we all help? Being alert and on the lookout for egg cases now and insects in the spring is our best defense. Reporting any sightings is vital, so it can be tracked and controlled. First, take a photo, then if you capture the insect, kill it. Finally send your photo and location information to [Spotted Lanternfly Public Report \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

SLF is not a danger to humans or other animals. They do not bite and they do not carry disease. They can certainly be a nuisance, but we don't want to overreact and try to control them with chemicals or other methods that will not affect the insects, but could harm the environment.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County (CCE Monroe) office has been preparing for this event and has research-based information available. Please visit the CCE Monroe website, <https://monroe.cce.cornell.edu> or the NYS IPM website, [New York State Integrated Pest Management | CALS \(cornell.edu\)](https://www.nysipm.com). Master Gardeners are also available through the [Master Gardener Helpline](https://www.cce.cornell.edu/master-gardeners), monroemg@cornell.edu.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



Spotted lanternfly will lay their eggs on almost any nearby flat surface, so be sure to check tree trunks and branches, rocks and equipment stored outdoors.

Photo Credits. NYS Integrated Pest Management Program

<###>

Dr. German Vargas (Finally) Joins NYS IPM Program



The following is an introduction written by [Dr. German Vargas](#), our new Grape IPM Coordinator for New York State. Dr. Vargas is housed at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL) in Portland, NY, but has IPM responsibilities for the entire state. German visited the Finger Lakes this past summer, and we plan on having him come to the region at least a couple of times each season.

I am very glad and excited to finally join the team at the NYS IPM program in this task of promoting an effective and sustainable pest management of diseases and pest insects in vineyards in the state. While I am located at the beautiful Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL) in Portland, NY, my responsibilities extend statewide ensuring that we meet challenges consistently across the different regions. To that end, I have already had the privilege of visiting colleagues in the Finger Lakes and Long Island. A visit to the folks in the Hudson Valley is scheduled for mid-November.

As I become more acquainted with the industry and its stakeholders, I am gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges grape growers face, both longstanding and emerging. I believe that by fostering cooperation among all those people involved in addressing these issues, we can effectively meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I am particularly interested in supporting the already undergoing exploration of bioinsecticides to reduce our reliance on highly toxic chemicals, while also extending the lifetime of very effective pesticides by reducing the expression of resistance. Additionally, I am eager to investigate the potential of biological control methods for our primary and recurring pest problems. In preparation for the impending threat of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly, we are already in the process of organizing and ensuring that our NY growers are well-informed, prepared, and equipped to combat its infestations.

I am more than happy to continue getting to know all of you and to engage in meaningful discussion about our shared path into the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out, whether it's just to say hello or if you'd like to meet and have a conversation. You can contact me via email at gav33@cornell.edu.

Best,
German Vargas

Cornell's Ag Workforce Development Program Hits the Road



This December, New York's Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) [Labor Roadshow VII](#) heads on the road with four in person sites across the state, and one online option. Programmed events will run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on each date. [Registration](#) is required, and payment of \$65 per person is collected on site. The Labor Roadshow website can be accessed at <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/>

Labor continues to be the primary challenge for many farm businesses and Labor Roadshow VII tackles those challenges head-on with topics including:

- Experienced labor attorneys to address managing in a union environment, complying with equal employment laws, and managing regulatory audits.
- How the new NYS Marijuana Law affects the workplace.
- State and federal employment law compliance.
- Overtime: the new 2024 NYS tax reimbursements for overtime, payroll systems, and compliance.
- Farm Safety and OSHA compliance.
- Workforce development: finding your future staff.
- Updating your payroll system to stay in compliance.

Dates and locations:

NORTHERN NY: DECEMBER 13 | Old McDonald's Farm, Sackets Harbor

EASTERN NY: DECEMBER 15 | Greenwich Elks, Greenwich

CENTRAL NY: DECEMBER 19 | Cornell Agritech, Geneva **ONLINE OPTION: on this date only, you can register to attend via Zoom.*

WESTERN NY: DECEMBER 20 | Genesee Community College, Batavia

Featuring:

- Attorney Joshua Viau, Fisher Phillips Law Firm
- Nick Donofrio, New York Regional Office US Dept. of Labor / OSHA
- Farm HR Managers Panel
- NYS Department of Ag and Markets
- NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

For questions, please email cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu.

The Agricultural Workforce Development Council member organizations and farm representatives include: Agri-Mark, Allenwaite Farms, Amos Zittel & Sons, Inc., Blue Hill Farm, Breezyhill Dairy, Cargill, Cayuga Marketing, Cornell University, CCE, DFA, EL-VI Farms, Farm Credit East, Hemdale Farms and Greenhouses, Lamb Farms, Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, NEDPA, NY Animal Ag Coalition, NY Farm Bureau, NYS Horticultural Society, NYSVGA, NY Wine Growers, NY Wine Policy Institute, Reeves Farm, NYSVGA, Stauffer Farms, SUNY Morrisville, and Upstate Niagara.

Farm Asset Protection Strategies: Safeguarding Agricultural Legacies for Future Generations

In these uncertain times, safeguarding valuable farm assets has become paramount to ensure our farming communities' continued success and sustainability.

Nicole Tommell and Steve Hadcock will be the presenters for Farm Asset Protection Strategies: Safeguarding Agricultural Legacies for Future Generations. Nicole is a Farm Business Management Specialist with the Central New York Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team. Steve Hadcock is a Beginning Farmer Specialist with the Capital Area Agricultural and Horticultural Program. Nicole and Steve have many years of experience working with farm families on farm management and estate planning topics.

Topics included are:

- How can I use my current records to gauge how well my business is doing? Various suggestions will assist you in looking at your records differently.
- What can I do to retain employees? Ideas will be shared on how to get new employees off to a good start. Also, ideas on how to help retain employees as well.
- Am I ready to consider diversifying my business? Thoughts on how to approach evaluating the diversification of your farm business will be shared.
- When and how do I start the succession process? It is never too early to begin discussing farm succession/transfer. Topics will be covered to help you feel confident to begin the process for your business. Shared topics may help you with your process if you have already started.

Locations and registration links include:

- Tuesday, November 14: CCE Essex County, Essex - <https://essex.cce.cornell.edu/events/2023/11/14/farm-asset-protection-strategies-safeguarding-agricultural-legacies-for-future-generations>
- Friday, November 17: CCE Orange County, Middletown - <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E190538&id=787>
- Monday, November 20: CCE Schoharie County, Cobleskill - <https://cnydfc.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2244>
- Tuesday, November 21: CCE Saratoga County, Ballston Spa - <https://caahp.ccext.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=180>
- Wednesday, November 29: CCE Oneida County, Oriskany - https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=FarmAssetProtection_230
- Thursday, November 30: CCE Genesee County, Batavia - <https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2248>
- Friday, December 1: TASTE NY Building, Binghamton - https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=farmassetprotectionstrategies_203

Each participant will receive written materials and a flash drive containing various resources. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Nicole Tommell at nt375@cornell.edu and 315-867-6001 or Steve Hadcock at seh11@cornell.edu or 518-380-1497. For registration help, call CCE Herkimer County at 315-866-7920.

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties. CCE is an equal opportunity employer. Contact CCE if you have any special needs.

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.



Grower Talk: Dr. Patty Skinkis

Tuesday, November 14 3:30 – 4:30 PM

3 Brothers Wineries & Estates

623 Lerch Rd, Geneva, NY 14456

Please join us for a presentation and discussion with [Dr. Patty Skinkis, professor of viticulture and extension specialist at Oregon State University](#). Dr. Skinkis will be visiting the Cornell campus to present a research seminar on Monday, November 13, and will be meeting and speaking with growers on Tuesday afternoon at 3 Brothers Wineries. Dr. Skinkis has expertise in a range of viticulture topics, but is especially known for her work with growers on appropriate crop loads for Pinot noir production in the Willamette Valley. She is also one of the leaders of the [Hi Res Vineyard Nutrition Project](#), a nationwide research and extension effort to improve how we measure and manage grapevine nutrition. Dr. Skinkis received her Ph.D. from Purdue University, where she studied vineyard management practices to improve fruit and wine quality in Traminette.

Be sure to join us on Tuesday, November 14 to meet Dr. Skinkis and learn about some the important work that she has been doing, and also catch up with friends and colleagues after this year's growing season.

B.E.V. NY 2024 – Save the Date!

Tuesday, March 5 – Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Hotel Canandaigua

Canandaigua, NY



This year's conference will be held at the new Hotel Canandaigua, and will be a two-day conference instead of three. But never fear, we will still have sessions and speakers addressing business, enology, and viticulture topics during the conference. There will be no live stream option this year, so be sure to join us on the shores of Canandaigua Lake – in March!

Information about this year's program and how to register will be available soon, but for now be sure to save the dates for this winter's B.E.V. NY conference!

B.E.V. NY Trade Show and Sponsorships Available!

Registration for those who wish to be exhibitors and/or sponsors at this year's conference is open right now. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of this important event for the New York grape and wine industry. Information on sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor packages can be found at <https://www.bevny.org/sponsors>.

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.



Organizing Work for High-Quality Results

November 8 - December 19, 2023

Organizing Work for High Quality Results teaches farm supervisors how to develop clear expectations and delegate effectively. Learn how to implement a quality management system on your farm, create your own standard operating procedures, and develop processes to streamline work and improve results.

6-week online course outline:

- Setting clear expectations
- Effective delegation
- Quality management systems
- Organizing processes and workplace organization
- Aligning HR management with social responsibility expectations

Registration fee: \$275

For more information and registration, visit <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/agricultural-supervisory-leadership-certificate-program/>.

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

Tara Farnan- Barrington Cellars

Chris Gerling- Cornell University Extension

Mike Colizzi- E & J Gallo

Tina Hazlitt- Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Cameron Hosmer- Hosmer Winery

Herm Young— Young Sommer Winery

John Santos- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards

Steve Sklenar— Sklenar Vineyard

Justine Vanden Heuvel- Cornell University

Peter Weis – Weis Vineyards

Adam Folts—Vineyard View Winery

Ian Wagner—Wagner Vineyards

Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service. This program is solely intended to educate consumers about their choices. Contact CCE if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

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.

flgp.cce.cornell.edu



"Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer"