

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



December 8, 2023

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

MyEV User Group for Finger Lakes Grape Growers

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is forming a user group for grape growers who want to learn about how to use the [MyEV digital mapping tool](#). The user group will meet on a regular basis to discuss different features of the platform, what the tool can be used for, and how to get the most out of the platform. Most of the meetings will be held over Zoom, but it's entirely possible that an occasional in-person meeting might be scheduled if it would be helpful. Any Finger Lakes grape grower with an interest in learning how to use MyEV in their vineyard management is welcome to join. You do not have to have any experience with MyEV to join.

Hans Walter-Peterson, FLGP viticulturist, will convene the group and help to guide discussions. Terry Bates (viticulture researcher) and Nick Gunner (MyEV programmer), the creators of MyEV, will participate in the group on occasion when there are particular topics or questions that the group wants to address with them.

At this point, the plan for the first few meetings will be getting people who are new to MyEV up to speed with creating and account and establishing their vineyard blocks in the system. After that, the topics and direction for the sessions will be fairly free-flowing and determined mostly by what the group would like to learn about or discuss. While the group will be focused on using MyEV, it is entirely feasible that we will drift into other digital viticulture topics involving new technologies such as using sensors in vineyards, automation and mechanization options, etc.

I don't have a hard and fast model for how this group will function right now. My initial thought is that the group would meet once per month at some regular time (e.g., second Friday afternoon of every month, but we'll figure that out together) just for consistency and planning purposes. Meetings could be recorded and uploaded somewhere for members to be able to watch later if they can't participate in a given session.

If you would like to be part of the MyEV User Group, please fill out the Qualtrics forms using the link below. We will have our initial meeting sometime in January 2024, and figure out logistics from there. For now, this group is just open to growers in the Finger Lakes region (Cayuga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates counties). We may open it up to growers from other parts of New York later.

Finger Lakes MyEV User Group registration:

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3f110qN9QQvofEW

If you have any questions about the group, please let me know. If you would like to learn more about MyEV, you can visit the very informative website for the project at <https://www.efficientvineyard.com/>.

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Winter Bud Hardiness Project 2023-24

We are starting up this year's iteration of the bud hardiness monitoring project in cooperation with Jason Londo and his lab. Our first vineyard samples were collected this week, and we will pass along the results from those when we get them from Jason.

As you should be aware, Jason has been working to develop and hone a bud hardiness model that can be used to predict bud hardiness in multiple cultivars based on temperature data collected at any weather station. The model allows growers in any location to monitor the potential hardiness of their grapevines, without having to have samples collected from their vineyards and run through expensive freezers and lab equipment to get their results. While no model will be perfect, it represents a vast improvement in the availability of information to growers to help them make better decisions about doing their own bud checks and making any adjustments to their dormant pruning.

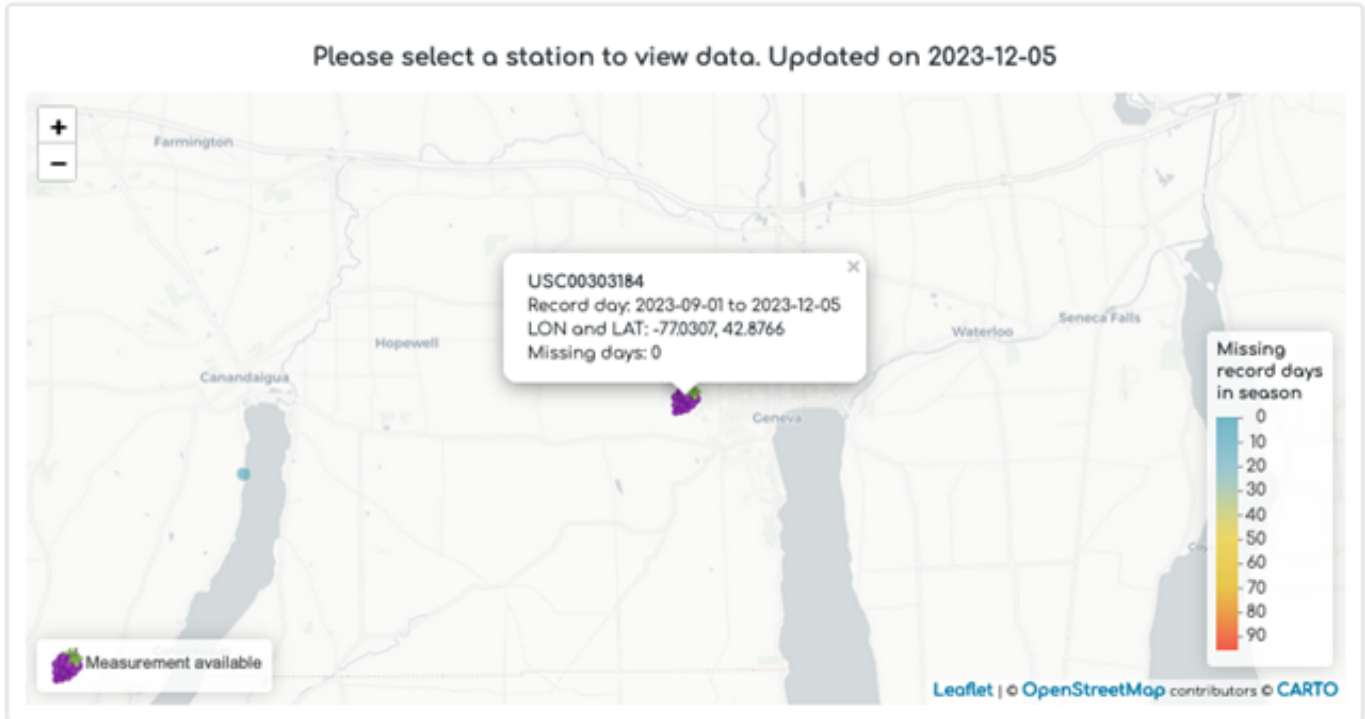
The most up-to-date information from the hardiness model can be found at https://grapecoldhardiness.shinyapps.io/grape_freezing_tolerance/. You are welcome to poke around and play with the site to learn about how it works, but in a nutshell:

1. Select any of the blue dots on the map which represent weather stations that the hardiness model can currently use (the model will ultimately be connected to NEWA and be able to be used with any station on the NEWA network). The locations with grape clusters include field measurements along with model results.
2. Below the map, on the left side, select the cultivar you are interested in.
3. In the chart next to the list of cultivars, you'll see a chart with the high and low temperatures recorded at that location, along with different amounts of hardiness data. The types of data (model or LTE) are listed on the right side of the chart.
4. To make any particular line in the data disappear, just click once on its name. To display just a single data set, double click on that data's name.

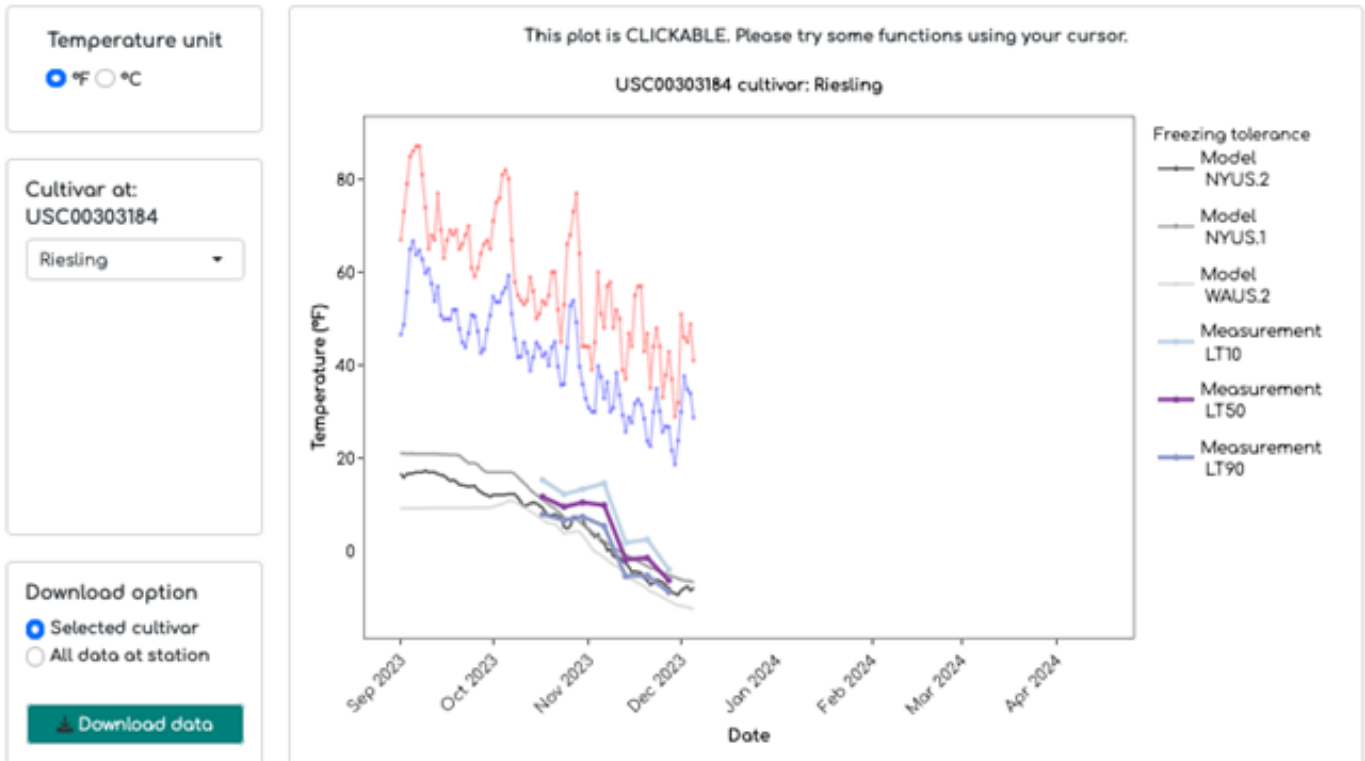
Be aware that the site can take several seconds to respond to clicks, so you'll need to be a little patient with it. The Cornell flag in the upper right corner will be moving while it's working on your data request.

We will publish some more guidance on the model and how to use it later this winter, along with the results from our field sampling as we get them throughout the winter.

Winter Bud Hardiness Project 2023-24 (continued from pg. 2)



Showing data at weather station: USC00303184 , cultivar: Riesling



NYWGF Partners with Agency 29 for Comprehensive Statewide Vineyard Survey

The New York Wine & Grape Foundation (NYWGF) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Upstate NY-based brand-building firm, Agency 29 to lead a comprehensive statewide Vineyard Survey initiative. Ag Access and Deep Planet AI will also partner with NYWGF and Agency 29 on this collaborative effort.

“We are pleased to announce this historic collaborative effort designed to accurately document New York State’s grape acreage,” Sam Filler, Executive Director of NYWGF, said. “Each of our partners brings unmatched expertise in different areas, and we are confident that will result in an invaluable report for our community. It is critical to the industry’s continued strategic growth that stakeholders have this data to inform planting, investment, research, and marketing decisions. We are proud to champion this process for all New York growers.”

This survey will gather data in 2024 and 2025 with the goal of ensuring an accurate and consistent record of acreage and grape varieties grown throughout New York State. The intention is for the survey to continue into the future beyond these two years.

“We’re thrilled to work with NYWGF and grape growers from across the state to develop this critical information,” Maureen Ballatori, Founder and CEO of Agency 29 said. “We’re looking forward to collaborating with Deep Planet, who provide AI and satellite data for vineyards, and Ag Access to conduct the agricultural market research through a proven research logistics process.”

Colson Steber, co-CEO of Ag Access, noted, “This partnership is a true complement to our business, and connecting with agriculture professionals and prioritizing their point of view in research is what we do best. We look forward to bringing clarity to decision-making and serving as a measure of economic impact in the state for the New York Wine and Grape Foundation.”

The proposed survey will address an industry need for a wide range of accurate information about new acreage, bearing acreage, non-bearing acreage, varieties, tonnage, average price, and data by growing region.

This project was made possible by grant funding from the [Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority](#) and the [New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets](#). It will be the first comprehensive Statewide Vineyard Survey conducted since the 2011 USDA NASS survey.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “New York’s wine industry continues to set itself apart as a leader in innovation, research, and growth, producing some of the very best wines in the world. At the Department, we’re proud to be able to support the work of the New York Wine and Grape Foundation as they kick off a new statewide Vineyard Survey. This is a critical effort that will help us to better meet the needs of the industry moving forward, so that our wineries and grape farmers can continue to thrive.”

Brendan Tydings, Administrator, Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority said “GVRMA is thrilled to support the statewide Vineyard Survey orchestrated by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation. We have proudly supported numerous projects of the NYWGF over the years and we strongly believe in the work they are doing. NYWGF has done a phenomenal job of assembling a team of experts to provide us with information on the true footprint the wine and grape growers hold in our state, and this will position the industry well to bring success for years to come.

Data collected from the vineyards will create a baseline for changes in New York’s grape industry. Survey data will facilitate strategic decision-making for both NYWGF and the private sector, as well as provide benchmark figures required to compare New York State with key domestic and international wine-growing regions.

The comprehensive statewide Vineyard Survey is forecasted for distribution to vineyards for response in the first quarter of 2024.

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.



Eastern Viticulture & Enology Forum Webinar: “Vineyard Labor Challenges - Mechanization and Other Approaches”

Wednesday, December 13 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Webinar information and Registration: <https://extension.psu.edu/vineyard-labor-challenges-mechanization-and-other-approaches>

Finding consistent and skilled labor remains an issue in perennial production systems such as vineyards. Learn about issues and solutions to managing vineyards in the face of labor shortages. Topics such as mechanization adoption and labor programs will be reviewed by commercial growers who will share their experiences in the context of their approach to managing vineyards of various sizes and from different regions.

There is no charge to participate in this webinar.

About EVEF: Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Series (EVEF) is a collaborative effort between the Penn State Extension Grape and Wine Team and several viticulture and enology Extension programs from the following U.S. land grant institutions: Colorado State University, Cornell University, University of Georgia, Iowa State University, University of Maryland, Ohio State University, and Rutgers University. As part of the Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series, this session is a collaborative effort between these viticulture and enology extension programs coordinated for grape growers and winemakers.

Labor Roadshow VII

December 13, 2023 Old McDonald's Farm, Sackets Harbor, NY

December 15, 2023 Greenwich Elks, Greenwich, NY

December 19, 2023 Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY (also available online, this date only)

December 20, 2023 Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY

This December, New York's Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) [Labor Roadshow VII](#) hits 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://aqworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/>

Upcoming Events

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Labor Roadshow VII (continued from pg. 5)

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.

Featured speakers:

- 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

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!

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

Dave Orzel– Nutrien Ag

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

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Peter Weis – Weis Vineyards

Adam Folts—Vineyard View Winery

Ian Wagner—Wagner 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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