finger lakes vineyard update

finger lakes grape program

April 24, 2013

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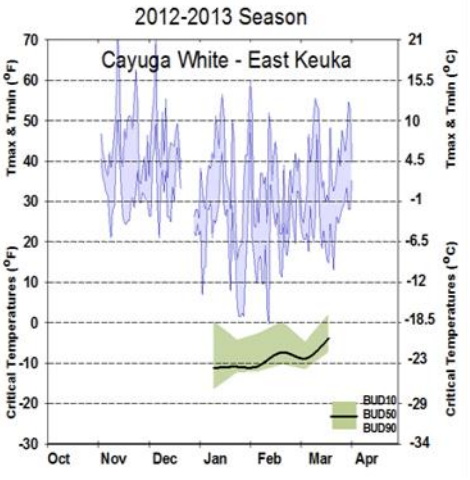
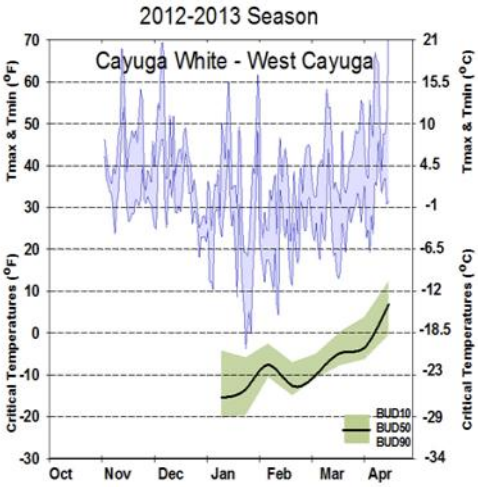
Final Bud Hardiness Samples for 2013

Hans Walter-Peterson

We have wrapped up another year of sampling for bud hardiness around the state. We took our final samples for the year last Monday, April 15, and the results are posted on the project website.

As we've mentioned before, even though we had a colder (a.k.a., "normal") winter this year, we never really came very close to temperatures where we would expect to see any significant damage on the varieties that we have been testing. Cayuga White was probably the closest to potentially seeing damage in late January and early February based on our LT_{50} data and the temperatures we monitored in each vineyard (see figures below). But even in that case, temperatures still remained just above our measured LT_{10} levels, much less approaching temperatures that would kill half of the buds in our samples.

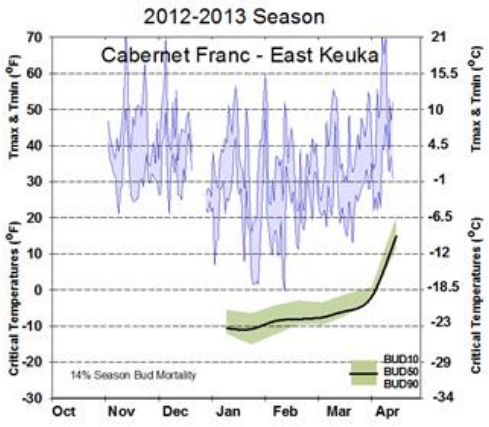




In addition to our sampling, Mike also collected buds last week to assess bud mortality for each of the varieties that we monitor over the winter. We have done this the past couple of seasons to see if our sampling results over the winter are giving us a decent indication of how much bud injury is actually out in the field.

Final Bud Hardiness Samples for 2013 (cont.)

Variety (Location)	% bud mortality
Concord (S. Bristol)	5%
Cayuga White (W. Seneca)	14%
Riesling (East Keuka)	6%
Cabernet Franc (East Keuka)	14%



The level of mortality found in our Concord and Riesling samples is fairly typical for most winters when we don't have significant cold events that approach our LT_{50} results. The results from our Cayuga White sample are also somewhat understandable given how close some locations got to the LT_{10} temperatures, as mentioned above. The result that was at least a little surprising was that for Cabernet Franc, where we had 14% mortality even though temperatures at that location never really got very close to our hardiness results (see figure). Winter cold injury isn't necessarily the only explanation for dead buds the following spring, of course, and I'm not suggesting that other Cabernet Franc blocks would also have this much damage in them (each of these samples comes from only one of our monitoring sites). Many growers would probably not be too worried about this level of injury either, but a potential yield loss of 10-15% may be enough to warrant consideration of adjusting crop and canopy management strategies like shoot and cluster thinning later in the season.

We will now be shifting our focus from monitoring dormant buds for winter hardiness to watching for budbreak and all of the issues to focus on with the start of the new growing season. We want to thank the New York Wine & Grape Foundation for providing funds to support this project again this season, and for the staff and technicians who collect, ship and analyze the buds. This ongoing project wouldn't be possible without their help.

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IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson

Grape flea beetle

The early start to the growing season last year not only made many vines vulnerable to frost damage, but also to another cause of shoot damage early in the season – grape flea beetle (or steely beetle). In other years, this is considered more of a minor "nuisance" pest that chews on a few buds here and there, but does not warrant pulling the sprayer out of the barn. Last year, however, was a different story. Many vineyards saw populations of flea beetle that they had never seen before. In addition to higher numbers of beetles, we had an extended period of time after budbreak with cool temperatures, which kept the newly emerged shoots from growing past the stage where they would be vulnerable to feeding by the beetles (and climbing cutworms, for what it's worth). And then to top it all off, we were finding beetles in some vineyards still feeding on shoots well past the stage where we would expect to find them.

Grape flea beetle on 12" Concord shoot last yer, with feeding damage at the base.

Add that all up and there is the potential for another year with higher than usual populations of grape flea beetle. Because of that potential, it would pay to be out scouting around for signs of feeding as we move into budbreak over the next several days, especially in blocks with Concord, Niagara, Baco and other early varieties.

There's more information about when to scout for flea beetle and what to look for in the IPM Program's Fact Sheet on the beetle. Control options can be found in the 'budswell' portion of the pest management schedule that is part of the 2013 New York & Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes. Greg Loeb suggests treating for steely beetle (or climbing cutworm) if there is greater than 2% damaged buds.

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Alion Herbicide

Tim Weigle, Grape IPM Specialist

Another tool for preemergent and weed mananagement in New York and Pennsylvania

Alion herbicide, produced by Bayer CropScience, was registered for use in Pennsylvania in 2012, but just received registration for use in grapes in New York State as of March 14, 2013. Alion is classified as a Restricted Use pesticide in New York State. Alion herbicide, active ingredient indaziflam, represents a new mode of action for your weed management toolbox. Alion is a preemergent herbicide for use in controlling annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in established vineyards. While a preemergent herbicide, Alion comes with a number of precautions concerning contact with the spray application.

- Alion should not be applied in a manner where it comes in contact with crop foliage, green bark, roots, or fruit as it may cause localized crop injury or death;
- The soil surface where Alion herbicide is to be applied should not have open channels or cracks in the soil. This is to prevent Alion from reaching the crop roots either through direct contact from the application or with water movement from rain or irrigation as this may cause crop injury;
- Make sure there are no depressions around the base of the vine to avoid pooling of the spray material, and
- Alion should not be applied where vines are stressed as they may be more sensitive to herbicide injury.

The application rate is 5.0 fl oz per acre sprayed, a re-entry interval of 12 hours, and a 14-day preharvest interval.

Alion should not be used in soils that are categorized as sand or in soils that contain 20% or greater gravel content.

According to the label, Alion should be used only in vineyards that have been established at least 5 years and are showing normal growth and good vigor. Ensure the grapes have been planted at least 12-inches deep or that there is 12 inches of soil barrier (berm) between the soil surface and the major portion of the root system prior to using Alion herbicide or injury may occur. Alion will not control weeds that have already emerged, and only partially control others. It is suggested that a tank mix with a post-emergent herbicide be used to assist in cleaning up these escapes.

For a complete list of weeds that are controlled by Alion, view the label on the PIMS at http://128.253.223.36/ppds/532249.pdf. At this time the new label containing grapes was not on the PIMS site but it does provide the list of weeds controlled.

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PT Position Available with FLGP

The Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) has a part-time position available for somebody who will help us in our mission to provide research-based information to grape growers in the Finger Lakes region by assisting in the development, production and online distribution of educational content. The person in this position will assist us with the preparation and distribution of video, audio and written materials that creatively and succinctly communicate information to growers on how to improve their productivity and crop quality, reduce farming costs, and to improve their market potential.

This is a 20-hour per week (benefits eligible), two-year term position with the potential for renewal. The position will be housed at the Yates County Cooperative Extension Association office in Penn Yan, NY under the direct supervision of the Finger Lakes Grape Program Team Leader.

Further details about the responsibilities, expectations and qualifications for the position, along with the online application, can be found at https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10164/jobdetail.ftl?job=341069&lang=en&sns_id=mailto. The application deadline for the position is May 7, 2013.

A more detailed position description can be found along with the announcement on our website. If you know of anybody with these kinds of skills who might be interested, please pass this information along to them.

2013 GDD Accumulation

Hans Walter-Peterson

We are tracking growing degree day (GDD) and precipitation accumulation again this year, but we will be reporting data from our weather station located at the teaching & demonstration vineyard in Dresden, at Anthony Road Wine Company, instead of using the station at Geneva. We will continue to monitor GDD accumulation at Geneva in order to see how our new location compares with it, and to provide context of where we are with regard to heat accumulation compared to our long-term average.

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
4/17/13	56.0	38.4	0.00	0.0	23.5
4/18/13	69.1	40.8	0.00	5.0	28.5
4/19/13	74.5	44.2	0.20	9.4	37.8
4/20/13	45.2	32.5	0.02	0.0	37.8
4/21/13	45.7	27.8	0.00	0.0	37.8
4/22/13	59.7	28.7	0.00	0.0	37.8
4/23/13	60.9	35.2	0.00	0.0	37.8

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Upcoming Events

Vineyard Tailgate Meetings

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Morse Farm

4170 Vine Road, Penn Yan NY (click here for a map)

These are a series of informal meetings held with growers in different locations around the Finger Lakes during the growing season. Meetings are held every other Tuesday afternoon, starting at 5:00 PM and usually ending around 6:30 PM. During the day of each meeting, Mike and I visit a few growers and vineyards near the meeting location to get a sense of what has been happening in the area, and give us some ideas about some potential topics for the meeting later that day. There will also be ample time to discuss any questions or issues that others want to bring up as well. There is no need to register ahead of time – just show up when you can, and leave when you have to.

There will be 0.75 pesticide recertification credits available for each meeting. As with other events where credits are available, you need to be present at the beginning of the meeting to sign the meeting roster – make sure to have your card with you - and stay until the end to receive your certificate.

2013 Spring Grape Pest Management Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013 4:00 – 6:20 PM

Clearview Farms

4150 Stever Hill Road, Branchport NY

Whether we're ready for it or not, spring is approaching (although we're more ready than we were a year ago), bringing with it all of the vineyard work that is associated with it. But in between the post pounding, dehilling, vine tying, and weed spraying, make sure to also make time to come to the annual Spring Grape Pest Management Meeting on Thursday, May 16 at the Tones family's Clearview Farms in Branchport.

This meeting is intended to give growers quick but thorough updates on important pest management issues including new materials, new sprayer technology and application techniques, important updates on relevant research projects and more. The meeting will feature familiar faces including Andrew Landers, Wayne Wilcox and Greg Loeb, as well as Robin Bellinder who will cover some important weed management information. Our other speaker at this year's meeting will be Marc Fuchs, our virologist from the Experiment Station in Geneva, who will talk about a new viral disease recently found in grapes called 'Red Blotch'.

Following the meeting, be sure to stick around for the BBQ dinner and social time with your fellow growers.

We need everyone to pre-register for the meeting so that we can know how much food we will need for dinner. Please contact Karen Gavette at our office at 315-536-5134 or by email at kag255@cornell.edu to register no later than Monday, May 13. There is no cost for the meeting for those enrolled in the FLGP, but there is a $10/person fee for those who are not enrolled in the Grape Program. We anticipate that

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Upcoming Events (Cont.)

pesticide recertification credits will be available for the meeting. If you want to receive credits, please provide your pesticide applicator ID number to Karen when you register.

Introductory Spanish Workshop: Focusing on Agriculture & Viticulture Language

Session 1:	*Session 2:*
May 6 & 8, 2013	*May 20 & 22, 2013*
6:30 - 8:00 PM	*6:30 - 8:00 PM*

Damiani Wine Cellars

4704 NY Route 414, Burdett NY

This will be an introduction for farmers, grape growers, and anyone interested in crossing linguistic barriers to improve quality, productivity, approachability and human connection.

Registration cost is $25 for each of the two sessions. To register, contact Rachel Orlyk at rachel.orlyk@gmail.com or 347-409-2559.

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Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website today!

Become a fan of the Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter (@cceflgp). Also check out our website, "The Grape Lakes – Viticulture in the Finger Lakes" at http://flg.cce.cornell.edu.

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Finger Lakes Grape Program and sent out by subscription. For subscription information, please call us at 315-536-5134 or look for subscription forms at http://blogs.cornell.edu/flgp/enroll/.

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