

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



May 9, 2024

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

For the second year in a row, Finger Lakes vineyards reached budbreak earlier than normal. Compared to our averages from the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard, most varieties were about 7-10 days early, and about one week later than last year's very early budbreak. After our two earliest varieties, Marquette and Jupiter, there wasn't much movement until the very end of April when warm temperatures returned and seemed to push everything past budbreak in a relatively short window at the beginning of May.

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If we had a similar timing of budbreak as we did in 2023, we would probably have seen a lot of freeze damage from the low temperatures that hit the region on April 25 & 26, which reached down into the low 20s in some areas. Fortunately, we appear to have escaped with no bud damage to speak of from that event. The same can't quite be said of our friends in western New York, where there was pretty extensive damage in vineyards east of Westfield (towards Buffalo).

Everyone is keenly aware that we aren't quite out of the woods yet with regard for potential frost events, but the forecast for the next 10 days does not currently contain any threateningly low temperatures.

Cultivar	Avg	2023	2024
Riesling 239 - 3309	5/11	4/26	5/2
Riesling 239 - RG	5/11	4/26	5/2
Chardonnay 76	5/7	4/20	5/1
Chardonnay 96	5/7	4/20	5/1
Cabernet Franc - 3309	5/9	4/27	5/2
Cabernet Franc - RG	5/9	4/27	5/2
Lemberger - 3309	5/9	4/22	4/30
Grüner - 101-14	5/9	4/26	5/2
Marquis	5/4	4/15	4/28
Jupiter	5/1	4/13	4/20
Cayuga White	5/11	4/30	5/3
Aravelle	5/10	4/26	5/1
Corot Noir	5/11	4/29	5/3
Marquette - 3309	5/3	4/13	4/22
Marquette - OR	5/3	4/13	4/22



Buds of Geneva Red near Branchport on April 30, 2024

Budbreak dates for cultivars at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard.

IPM

Thanks to everyone who came out for our annual Spring Grape IPM Meeting last night at Hosmer Winery. We want to thank the Hosmers for their generosity in hosting the meeting and providing plenty of tables and chairs, along with some beverages. Thanks also to our speakers – Dave Combs, Brian Eshenaur, Greg Loeb and Sophie Westbrook – for bringing their expertise and knowledge to the meeting. I also wanted to be sure to once again thank the companies that sponsored the meeting:

- [Nutrien Ag Solutions](#)
- [Helena Agri Enterprise](#)
- [JMS Flower Farms](#)
- [BioWorks](#)
- [Crop Growers](#)
- [CBC America](#)



“Where are the 2024 Grape IPM Guidelines?”

For those who weren't at the meeting last night and are wondering about their IPM Guidelines for 2024, we've been told that they should be ready to distribute by the end of the month, but hopefully sooner. This is very likely just a one-year glitch because we are short a couple of folks who normally edit and review the guide each year. It should be available earlier again in future years.

Disease Management

Phomopsis – Phomopsis overwinters on the canes and rachises that are left in the trellis after pruning. If the disease was able to get a foothold in a vineyard the previous year, there is a higher potential for heavy pressure if conditions are right. In the case of phomopsis, the main driver of new infections is rainfall. The spores that cause new infections in the spring are splashed onto new green tissue from those overwintering infections on older woody tissues. As a result, varieties that are trained on a high-wire system, typically natives and hybrids, and that are pruned mechanically and have more permanent wood, are most at risk from phomopsis infections, although they can be found in most vineyards under the right conditions.



Phomopsis lesions at the base of a shoot. These lesions will be the source of inoculum the following season.



Individual phomopsis lesions on young leaf. The yellow "halo" around the dark spot is a symptom of phomopsis infection.

IPM (continued from page 2)

If left untreated, heavily infected tissues like canes and rachises will become weaker and are more prone to breakage. Infected rachises will more easily fall off ahead of a harvester, and more berries will shell off as well, causing significant economic loss. If that wasn't enough reason to control the disease, the same organism, *Phomopsis viticola*, can infect woody tissue through the vascular system and cause trunk disease symptoms similar to other pathogens like *Eutypa* and others.

The most effective time to control the disease is in the spring when it is first becoming active and young tissues are emerging. The first application for phomopsis should be applied when shoots are about 3-5" unless there were high levels of infection in previous years, in which case an initial application could be made as early as 1" shoots. Phomopsis management should continue at least through bloom or early post-bloom, depending on conditions.

The most effective materials for phomopsis control are captan, mancozeb and ziram. For more information on materials and rates, be sure to consult the [Grape IPM Guidelines](#) (the 2023 version, for now).

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Source: NY FarmNet, "[The Farm Hand](#)" Newsletter – May 2024

May is [Mental Health Awareness Month](#) and everyone at NY FarmNet is busy promoting the importance of mental health for farmers and rural communities throughout New York State. A [recent CDC study](#) of occupational suicide risk found that farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers had a suicide rate more than 50 percent higher than the overall suicide rate in all surveyed occupations. Similar studies all show that farmers have higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and other negative mental health outcomes.

Mental health support is at the core of what NY FarmNet does day in and day out to help farmers across NYS. Our consultant teams include licensed social workers to support farmers with issues like stress, anxiety, depression, family conflict, communication, and much more.

This year, NY FarmNet is going above and beyond to provide additional educational outreach to help build resilient agricultural communities across NYS. In this edition of *The Farm Hand*, you can read about opportunities to participate in training presentations like our [Talk Saves Lives](#) suicide awareness and prevention series or sign up for a [NY FarmNet-sponsored webinar](#) featuring the makers of the farmer mental health documentary "Muckville" being held on May 29th. All of these great opportunities are available free to anyone interested in participating.

Let's all take time this May to consider the importance of mental health - especially for the farmers and farm families who endure so much to keep our plates full and our communities thriving.

For free support 24/7, NY FarmNet can be contacted at 1-800-547-3276 or by email at nyfarmnet@cornell.edu. You can also visit our website and submit a request for services by filling out a simple [electronic form](#).

H-2A and Asylum Seekers

Richard Stup, Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program



Experienced H-2A employers are very familiar with the program rule that requires them to hire “qualified and eligible” U.S. workers. However, with the increasing number of foreign immigrants who have entered the U.S. seeking asylum, employers have questions about the status of asylum seekers relative to H-2A. First, let’s review the H-2A rule as explained in U.S. Department of Labor’s [Fact Sheet #26](#).

Recruitment of U.S. Workers: In order for the Department of Labor to certify that there are not sufficient U.S. workers qualified and available to perform the labor involved in the petition and that the employment of the foreign worker will not have an adverse effect on the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers, employers must demonstrate the need for a specific number of H-2A workers. In addition to contacting certain former U.S. employees and coordinating recruitment activities through the appropriate State Workforce Agency, employers are required to engage in positive recruitment of U.S. workers. H-2A employers must provide employment to any qualified, eligible U.S. worker who applies for the job opportunity until 50 percent of the period of the work contract has elapsed. Employers must offer U.S. workers terms and working conditions which are not less favorable than those offered to H-2A workers.

This begs the questions: “Who is a U.S. worker?” and “Are asylum seekers in the country now U.S. workers?”

Who is a U.S. worker?

The first question is straightforward, the [U.S. law](#) that authorizes the H-2A program describes these U.S. workers as “eligible individuals.” Further, “eligible individuals” are defined in this way: “with respect to employment, an individual who is not an unauthorized alien.” Thus, anyone who is authorized to work in the U.S. is an “eligible individual” and “U.S. worker” with respect to the H-2A program. This answers the first question.

Are asylum seekers in the country now U.S. workers?

The asylum seekers who have entered the country in large numbers in recent years *may* or *may not* be authorized to work in the U.S. at this time. Asylum seekers who have been given parole can [apply for temporary work authorization](#). If they are granted work authorization, usually with an [Employment Authorization Document](#), then for purposes of the H-2A program they become “eligible individuals” and “U.S. workers.”

So, work-authorized asylum seekers are U.S. workers, this means that H-2A employers are obligated to provide employment to any “qualified, eligible” work-authorized asylum seekers who apply for work until one half of the period of the work contract has ended. If there is enough work, then these workers may be absorbed into the H-2A workforce. If there is not, then it is possible that H-2A workers could be displaced in favor of the U.S. workers.

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.



Tailgate Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Three Brothers Wineries

623 Lerch Road, Geneva NY

Our first Tailgate Meeting in 2024 will be on Monday, May 13 at Three Brothers Wineries in Geneva. These meetings are a time for growers and the FLGP staff to discuss what's going on in the vineyards, ask questions, and learn from each other. There is no set agenda for the most part, so bring questions, observations, thoughts, etc. and let's talk about them. Each meeting has been approved for 1.5 pesticide recertification credits by DEC.

Here is the remaining schedule for Tailgate Meetings this year:

- May 28, 2024 Heron Hill Winery, 9301 CR-76, Hammondsport, NY
- June 11, 2024 Thorpe Vineyards, 8150 Chimney Heights Blvd., Wolcott NY
- June 25, 2024 Dr. Frank Vineyards, Beattle Hill Rd, Hector, NY
- July 8, 2024 (Monday) Simmons Vineyard, 3243 Fingar Road, Bluff Point NY
- July 23, 2024 Knapp Vineyard, 2770 Ernsberger Road, Romulus, NY
- August 13, 2024 Randall Standish Vineyards, 5506 NY-21, Canandaigua, NY
- August 20, 2024 Miles Wine Cellars, 168 Randall Crossing Rd, Himrod, NY

What's New in Grapevine Genetics?

Tuesday, May 21 10:00 AM

Fox Run Vineyards

670 Route 14, Penn Yan NY

Speaker: Dr. Lance Cadle-Davidson, USDA Grape Genetics Research Unit

The NY State Wine Grape Growers invite you to join them on Tuesday May 21 for a discussion of current developments in the field of grape genetics with Lance Cadle-Davidson. Since 2003, Dr. Lance Cadle-Davidson has researched the genetics of grape powdery mildew and downy mildew at the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Research Unit at Cornell AgriTech. As a co-leader of the VitisGen grape breeding projects since 2011, Lance's research team has developed DNA marker tools to help grape breeders genetically map traits and select desirable seedlings and has developed automated analysis of disease severity in the laboratory (Blackbird microscopy robot). He recently established a participatory breeding program with the Virginia winegrape industry. He has extensive international collaborations, including co-hosting research projects at Cornell for 48 visiting scientists from 23 countries.

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Novel Technologies for Ag Field Meeting

Tuesday, June 4 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Cornell AgriTech Robbins Research Farm ([click here for location](#))

Geneva, NY

Artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous platforms, and novel pest management tools and strategies have the potential to dramatically alter grape production systems. This includes technology to assist with phenotyping and selection efforts, the detection and treatment of diseases, and the elimination of weeds under vine rows using fewer herbicides and less soil disturbance. On June 4th, Researchers at Cornell AgriTech will host Naio Technologies, demonstrate the TED robot ([Ted - Naio Technologies \(naio-technologies.com\)](http://naio-technologies.com)), at Cornell AgriTech's Lucy Robbins Farm and discuss the potential for autonomous tool carriers to assist with breeding and pest management efforts. The labs of Dr. Yu Jiang (Digital Agriculture), Dr. Katie Gold (Plant Pathology), and Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie (Weed Science) will also showcase their own research with respect to crop and disease mapping and using electrical weeders and targeted, precision sprayers to suppress unwanted vegetation. Drs Jiang, Gold, and Sosnoskie, as well as representative for Naio Technologies will take the opportunity to talk with stakeholders about current and future needs regarding novel technologies in perennial crops, which will help shape local, regional, and national research efforts.



2024 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
5/1/24	71.1	48.6	0.00	9.8	79.8
5/2/24	69.6	54.1	0.00	11.9	91.6
5/3/24	76.3	46.0	0.00	11.2	102.8
5/4/24	67.6	52.0	0.11	9.8	112.6
5/5/24	64.2	50.2	0.45	7.2	119.8
5/6/24	69.6	50.5	0.00	10.1	129.8
5/7/24	73.2	43.7	0.00	8.5	138.3
Weekly Total			0.56"	68.4	
Season Total			5.02"	138.3	

GDDs as of May 7, 2023: 160.1

Rainfall as of May 7, 2023: 5.43"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2024 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days
April	69.9	64.2	+1
May	67.7	255.5	+7
June		484.3	
July		647.2	
August		596.8	
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	137.6	2522.9	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for each month.

² The long-term average (1973-2023) GDD accumulation for that month.

³ Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year's GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. The most recent number represents the current status.

Precipitation

	2024 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	4.73"	2.86"	+1.87"
May	0.57"	3.04"	
June		3.58"	
July		3.48"	
August		3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	5.30"	22.97"	

⁴ Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

⁵ Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

⁶ Monthly deviation from average (calculated at the end of the month)

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

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Dave Orzel– Nutrien Ag

Matt Doyle- Doyle Vineyard Management

Tara Farnan- Barrington Cellars

Chris Gerling- Cornell University Extension

Mike Colizzi- E & J Gallo

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

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<https://blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes/>

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