



August 14, 2024

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

EPA proposal to eliminate grapes from mancozeb label

We have talked several times this year about the fact that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been reviewing (or planning to review) the labeling for a number of pesticides, including ziram, captan, and mancozeb. The EPA had proposed to eliminate grapes from the ziram label (this may be changing – stay tuned), but fortunately very few Finger Lakes growers use ziram in their vineyards.

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At the end of July, however, we were very surprised to learn that EPA has already come out with a proposed decision to eliminate grapes from the label for mancozeb as well. We knew that this review was going to happen but had been under the impression it was still a year or two away. This took all of us (especially Katie Gold and her pathologist colleagues) by surprise.

The biggest and most consequential factor in this, and the reason that EPA is proposing to eliminate grapes from the label, is that mancozeb represents a significant health risk to workers for up to 45 days after it is applied (we're not toxicologists so we have no idea how to evaluate this claim). If they were to restrict hand work like leaf pulling, fruit thinning or hand harvesting for this long, EPA assumes that mancozeb's use wouldn't be practical, and therefore they propose to just remove all grapes from any future labels.

The EPA is accepting public comments about this proposed change until September 16, or longer if EPA grants a requested extension to the deadline (we're acting as if there won't be an extension until we know otherwise). Katie Gold has been working with several of her colleagues to figure out the best ways to respond to this proposal, which she outlines below.

Part of the response that is needed is for the industry to tell EPA how the loss of mancozeb will affect their operations, along with giving them information about how growers actually use mancozeb. To address those two parts, we are asking growers to do two things:

- Write a letter to EPA that mentions the following:
 - ◆ Respectfully drawing attention to inadequacy of the data used to make decision
 - ◆ Attesting to the importance of mancozeb for DM resistance management, lack of suitable alternatives
 - ◆ Attesting to the importance of mancozeb for Phomopsis control
 - ◆ Explanation of how lack of control will compound over time given perennial nature

You can use the template included in this newsletter as it is (just sign and return to us), or feel free to edit it to

EPA proposal to eliminate grapes from mancozeb label (continued from pg. 1)

make it more specific to your operation. We have attached a Word version of the letter to the email message that you received with this week's Vineyard Update.

- ◆ Fill out the short survey asking about how you use mancozeb in your vineyard and your vineyard practices **by September 6**. This will help us to provide EPA with industry data to include in our response to this proposal. Follow this link to take the survey: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_erKGUIRU2XkorCC

Katie's summary of the situation and the strategy we have decided to pursue is included below. Please read it and take action as you are able and comfortable with.

FROM KATIE GOLD

As you may have heard, the EPA released a proposed interim decision (PID) on mancozeb that would deregister its use on grapes. My colleagues and I in eastern grape pathology are reeling from the unexpected speed the EPA has moved with its mancozeb review. I am quickly mobilizing with these colleagues and CCE to coordinate a strategic action plan to affect a coordinated response. **Comments are due September 16th. While we have requested an extension, we must move forward with the assumption that this is our deadline.**

Now is the time to SHOUT with our collective voice. Losing mancozeb entirely would be a very difficult loss to NY grape production. Please read the below in detail.

I have consulted with my predecessor, Wayne Wilcox, and Julius Farado, USDA's plant pathologist in residence and liaison to the EPA, to build what we hope will be a successful action plan. By mandate, the EPA is required to do a cost/benefit analysis. **Our efforts are focused on educating the EPA on the unique benefits mancozeb offers to Eastern grape growers.**

1. Grower letter campaign- We are aiming for sheer numbers here. We want everyone who touches the vineyard in any way to sign one of these. This letter will be tailored to each growing region by its respective CCE. Letter will hit four key themes:
2. Respectfully drawing attention to inadequacy of the data used to make decision (CA only)
3. Attesting to the importance of mancozeb for DM resistance management, lack of suitable alternatives
4. Attesting to the importance of mancozeb for Phomopsis control

Explanation of how lack of control will compound over time given perennial nature

A template of this letter is included in this week's newsletter. You can sign and submit it as it is, or feel free to modify it to discuss your own personal experience with mancozeb. Either way, please sign the letter and return it to

EPA proposal to eliminate grapes from mancozeb label (continued from pg. 2)

2. Key stakeholder letters: Individuals representing larger operations and/or organizations that can attest to the above 4 themes broadly, **but also specifically in the below ways with either quantitative, economic, and/or scientific numbers**:

- Adoption of new sprayer technologies that reduce drift and chemical loading to environment (e.g. X number of growers associated with us have adopted Y technology that reduces drift)
- Adoption of decision support systems (e.g. forecasting tool) adopted by growers that reduce fungicide applications (e.g. We invested in weather systems to improve NEWA model use over X acres)
- Prevalence of fungicide resistance occurring in your sphere of responsibility (X growers who have reported it, X vineyards tested positive, etc.)
- Adoption of cultural practices (e.g. Y trellis system) that could help reduce occupational exposure (e.g. % of acres, growers who have adopted new practice)
- Survey data conducted from growers and grower meetings on the value of mancozeb
- Economic impact analysis relative to disease control and mancozeb in particular (e.g. \$ losses suffered when DM or phomopsis went unchecked one year)
- Export/import impacts (e.g. MRL/tolerances issues)
- Changing weather patterns (e.g. climate change impacts in your region) (e.g. we have experienced X more damaging weather events in Y years than the previous decade).
- Extension or otherwise bulletin where mancozeb is the recommended as standard treatment (e.g. mancozeb is recommended in our spray guidelines for X growers who interact with us)

Please reach out to Katie AND your CCE representative (cc us on the same email, kq557@cornell.edu) if you are willing to write a more extensive letter than the template. We will be able to provide you guidance.

My letter: I will focus on overviews quantitative data (e.g. trial data, cost/benefit analyses, etc) that supports 4 core themes (trials, resistance surveys), precedent for geographic consideration in chemical use, potential economic damage, and illustrating examples of how we are adopting and moving towards strategies that allow for more strategic usage. I am in contact with colleagues gathering extensive data, published and unpublished, that will attest to these things. **The examples and numbers shared in your letters will contribute to the case I am building in my letter.**

Leveraging connections: We are surveying what strings we can pull to arrange 1) the benefits of mancozeb in eastern vit to be included in a broad range of comms from influential governmental offices (e.g. the NASA visit in August) and 2) for an in-person meeting with the EPA decision makers where I can respectfully educate them on the benefits of mancozeb use in eastern viticulture. **If you have a lead on either of these, please reach out to Katie AND your CCE representative (cc us on the same email, kq557@cornell.edu)**

Printed Name: _____

Business or Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Date: _____

Melanie Biscoe
Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508P)
Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Melanie Biscoe:

I am writing in regard to the use assessment for grapes conducted as part of the registration review for mancozeb Docket (EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291) and supporting document EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291-0094. **As a New York grape producer, I do not feel as though the needs of my industry have been adequately assessed in the decision-making process for mancozeb.** High fungal disease pressure due to our humid climate demands the frequent use of fungicides, and mancozeb has been a cost-effective part of our disease management programs.

Mancozeb is a key component to integrated disease management in New York for **Phomopsis and downy mildew**. We typically only use mancozeb until just before bloom because strong early season disease control prevents economically devastating disease for the entire season. Mancozeb plays a critically important role in **downy mildew resistance management**. Pathogen resistance to strobilurin (FRAC11), CAA (FRAC40), and phosphorous acid oomycides are **COMMON** in New York vineyards. The loss of this multi-site fungicide will only speed up the breakdown of our few remaining single-site chemistries for downy mildew control. This will interfere with all resistance management practices, leading to higher pathogen pressure and higher rates of fungicide application broadly. Additionally, mancozeb is the **ONLY** chemistry registered to protect grapevine from Phomopsis which can weaken rachises and cause severe crop loss at harvest.

We recognize and appreciate the EPA's intent to protect workers from the hazards of post-application exposure to mancozeb. The EPA has identified post-application exposure risks via tying/training, hand harvesting, and manual leaf pulling for up to 45 days after a single mancozeb application at maximum rate (3.21b AI/ac). **However, these activities often occur MORE than 45 days AFTER our last typical mancozeb spray (pre-bloom).** Many growers in our industry have made great strides towards mechanization of some of these practices, which would drastically reduce human exposure for these activities. There are also many growers in New York and the eastern U.S. who farm grape varieties (e.g., Concord, Niagara, many 'hybrid' cultivars) that do not require any canopy manipulation at all, but would still lose the ability to use mancozeb based on this proposal. In addition, while not ideal, **we could accommodate the proposed four-day restricted re-entry interval.** Removing mancozeb from our repository of registered chemistries will result in immediate loss of productivity and crop yield, creating cascading economic impacts through the grape industry and threatening the livelihood of thousands of producers, many of whom have farmed their vineyards for 6+ generations. Processors will be forced to seek imported grapes, and an entire stable industry will collapse.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the impacts of your proposed decision and include grapes among the other commodities that will retain mancozeb usage through increased mitigation measures and label updates. DO NOT cancel the use of mancozeb on grapes.

Sincerely,

Signature: _____

NASA ESD #Space4Ag New York Tour
Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Cornell University

NASA leadership is visiting Cornell University on a 'Space for Ag Tour' to have conversations with growers, stakeholders, and researchers about their needs and challenges. The goal of this visit is to have two-way dialogue with end users, stakeholders, and researchers to improve NASA Earth Science's research portfolio in specialty crop agriculture and viticulture while fostering a broader conversation about effective research translation into practice. Members of the Finger Lakes grape and wine industry are invited to participate in a conversation to provide thoughts and ideas on how these tools and technologies might help solve issues on their farms.

This visit and listening tour are supported by Cornell AgriTech and the Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture ([CIDA](#)).

Visit hosts: Katie Gold (kg557@cornell.edu), Steven Wolf (saw44@cornell.edu), and Yu Jiang (yujiang@cornell.edu)

To register, please go to <https://bit.ly/4dJiUEN>

Tuesday August 20th, 2024

5:00 - 6:00pm Stakeholder and Grower Community Listening Session at Anthony Road Wine Company, 1020 Anthony Rd, Penn Yan, NY 14527

- Emceed by [Hans Walter-Peterson](#) and Katie Gold.



WNY Bilingual Soil Health and Beneficial Fungi Meeting

August 22nd, 2024 — 3-6PM

Location:

CCE Orleans County, 12690 Rt 31, Albion, NY 14411

Limited Attendance Register Now
for this Free Event!

<https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1948>

Scan QR
code to
register



Join the members of CCE LOFP, CCE ENYCP, and Cornell Soil Health Program for a bilingual training on the basics of soil health, the potential benefits of mycorrhizal fungi, and an update on the current project status of our SARE grant on orchard mycorrhizal products.

Agenda

- 3:00 PM - The basics of orchard soil health
 - (Concurrently presented in English with Dr. Deborah Aller and Spanish with Mario Miranda Sazo)
- 4:00 PM - The basics of soil mycorrhizae in New York apple orchards
 - (Concurrently presented in English with Mike Basedow and Spanish with Mario Miranda Sazo)
- 5:00 PM - Refreshments and Socializing until 6PM

All programming will be given in both English and Spanish



This meeting is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number LNE23-472R.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Ontario Fruit Program



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program



Please contact Mike Basedow with any questions: 518-410-6823 | mrb254@cornell.edu

Upcoming Events

Don't forget to check out the calendar on our website (<https://blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes/events/>) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.



Tailgate Meeting

Wednesday, August 21 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Miles Wine Cellars, 168 Randall Crossing Rd, Himrod, NY

Our final Tailgate Meeting of 2024 will be on **Wednesday, August 21** at Miles Wine Cellars in Himrod, NY. 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. Like our other Tailgates, this meeting has been approved for 1.5 pesticide recertification credits by DEC.

NASA Acres Conversation

Tuesday, August 20 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Anthony Road Wine Company

1020 Anthony Road, Penn Yan NY

See announcement in this week's Vineyard Update for details about the meeting. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/4dJiUEN>

2024 Cornell AgriTech Vineyard Pathology Field Day

September 4, 2024 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Barton Lab, Cornell AgriTech

15 Castle Creek Drive, Geneva NY

The 2024 Cornell Vineyard Pathology Field Day will be held on September 4 from 9 am to approximately 12:30 pm. This is open to all industry representatives, as well as anyone involved in the grape industry in the northeast.

We will meet in the lobby of Barton lab (15 Castle Creek Dr), starting at 8:30 am with a departure to the field about 9 am. You will be getting an overview of all the field trials we have conducted this season against all the major diseases, as well as a new biological/conventional pesticide testing arena in our Traminette block. We will also visit the VitisGen III vineyards, where some exciting research will be taking place next season. Students will also be on hand to talk about some of the tech that is being used and how it could impact the industry going forward.

There is no cost, but registration is requested for everyone who attends. To register, please visit <https://bit.ly/3Y7Fxhw>.

2024 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
8/7/24	77.7	60.8	0.00	19.3	2018.4
8/8/24	75.7	65.7	0.01	20.7	2039.1
8/9/24	79.3	69.3	3.20	24.3	2063.4
8/10/24	77.4	60.8	0.00	19.1	2082.5
8/11/24	74.3	59.7	0.09	17.0	2099.5
8/12/24	70.7	59.4	0.06	15.1	2114.6
8/13/24	77.9	62.2	0.00	20.1	2134.6
Weekly Total			3.36"	135.5	
Season Total			19.66"	2134.6	

GDDs as of August 13, 2023: 1880.7

Rainfall as of August 13, 2023: 18.11"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2024 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	69.9	64.2	+1
May	393.5	255.5	+11
June	589.0	484.3	+13
July	714.0	647.2	+16
August	268.3	596.8	+18
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	2034.6	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	2.75"	3.04"	-0.29"
June	3.75"	3.58"	+0.17"
July	2.87"	3.48"	-0.61"
August	5.28"	3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	19.38"	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

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

Steve Sklenar– Sklenar Vineyard

Justine Vanden Heuvel- Cornell University

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
Ellen Coyne—Project Field Technician

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

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