



LERGP Crop Update

August 22, 2024

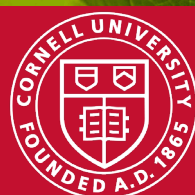
*photo credit:
Kim Knappenberger*

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Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara county NY and in Erie County PA.

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

The Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory officially called Concord veraison on August 17, 2024. This is seven days earlier than last year (August 23rd) and six days earlier than the historical average of August 22nd.

Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Cornell's specialty crop weed scientist, forwarded this release to us to share with our growers. There will be follow-up articles to provide more information.

EPA Finalizes First-of-its-Kind Strategy to Protect 900 Endangered Species from Herbicides

WASHINGTON – Today, Aug. 20, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its final Herbicide Strategy, an unprecedented step in protecting over 900 federally endangered and threatened (listed) species from the potential impacts of herbicide, which are chemicals used to control weeds. EPA will use the strategy to identify measures to reduce the amount of herbicides exposure to these species when it registers new herbicides and when it reevaluates registered herbicides under a process called registration review. The final strategy incorporates a wide range of stakeholder input, ensuring EPA not only protects species but also preserves a wide range of pesticides for farmers and growers.

“Finalizing our first major strategy for endangered species is a historic step in EPA meeting its Endangered Species Act obligations,” **said Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jake Li.** “By identifying protections earlier in the pesticide review process, we are far more efficiently protecting listed species from the millions of pounds of herbicides applied each year and reducing burdensome uncertainty for the farmers that use them.”

The Biden-Harris Administration's new approaches for protecting endangered species, which include the Herbicide Strategy, have resolved multiple lawsuits against EPA. For decades, EPA has tried to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on a pesticide-by-pesticide, species-by-species basis. However, because this approach is very slow and costly, it resulted in litigation against the agency and uncertainty for users about the continued availability of many pesticides. At the beginning of 2021, EPA faced almost two dozen lawsuits covering thousands of pesticide products due to its longstanding failure to meet ESA obligations for pesticides. Some of these lawsuits resulted in courts removing pesticides from the market until EPA ensured the pesticides comply with the ESA. Now, all but one of those lawsuits has been resolved. Unlike EPA's historic approach to compliance, the Herbicide Strategy identifies protections for hundreds of listed species up front and will apply to thousands of pesticide products as they go through registration or



1. Concord grapes in veraison

registration review, thus allowing EPA to protect listed species much faster.

In July 2023, EPA released a draft of this strategy for public comment. EPA received extensive comments, with many reiterating the importance of protecting listed species from herbicides but also minimizing impacts on farmers and other pesticide users. In response to comments, EPA made many improvements to the draft, with the primary changes falling into three categories:

- Making the strategy easier to understand and incorporating up-to-date data and refined analyses;
- Increasing flexibility for pesticide users to implement mitigation measures in the strategy; and,
- Reducing the amount of additional mitigation that may be needed when users either have already adopted accepted practices to reduce pesticide runoff or apply herbicides in an area where runoff potential is lower.

EPA focused this strategy on conventional herbicides used in agriculture in the lower 48 states because the most herbicides are applied there. In 2022, approximately 264 million acres of cropland were treated with herbicides, according to the Census of Agriculture from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The number of cropland acres treated with herbicides has remained fairly consistent since the early 2010s. EPA is also focusing this strategy on species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) because herbicides generally impact those species. For species listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, EPA is addressing pesticide impacts through a separate initiative with that agency.

Final Herbicide Strategy

The final strategy includes more options for mitigation measures compared to the draft, while still protecting listed species. The strategy also reduces the level of mitigation needed for applicators who have already implemented measures identified in the strategy to reduce pesticide movement from treated fields into habitats through pesticide spray drift and runoff from a field. The measures include cover crops, conservation tillage, windbreaks, and adjuvants. Further, some measures, such as berms, are enough to fully address runoff concerns. Growers who already use those measures will not need any other runoff measures. EPA identified these options for growers through its collaborations with USDA under its February 2024 [interagency MOU](#) and through over two dozen meetings and workshops with agricultural groups in 2024 alone.

The final strategy also recognizes that applicators who work with a runoff/erosion specialist or participate in a conservation program are more likely to effectively implement mitigation measures. These conservation programs include the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service practices and state or private stewardship measures that are effective at reducing pesticide runoff. The strategy reduces the level of mitigation needed for applicators who employ a specialist or participate in a program. Geographic characteristics may also reduce the level of mitigation needed, such as farming in an area with flat lands, or with minimal rain such as western U.S. counties that are in the driest climates. As a result, in many of those counties, a grower may need to undertake few or no additional runoff mitigations for herbicides that are not very toxic to listed species. The final strategy uses the most updated information and processes to determine whether an herbicide will impact a listed species and identify protections to address any impacts. To determine impacts, the strategy considers where a species lives, what it needs to survive (for example for food or pollinators), where the pesticide will end up in the environment, and what kind of impacts the pesticide might have if it reaches the species. These refinements allow EPA to focus restrictions only in situations where they are needed.

The final strategy will also expedite how EPA complies with the ESA through future consultations with FWS by identifying mitigations to address the potential impacts of each herbicide on listed species even before the agency completes the consultation process for that herbicide—which in many cases, can take five years or more. Further, EPA and FWS expect to formalize their understanding of how this strategy can inform and streamline future ESA consultations for herbicides.

The final strategy itself does not impose any requirements or restrictions on pesticide use. Rather, EPA will use the strategy to inform mitigations for new active ingredient registrations and registration review of conventional herbicides. EPA understands that the spray drift and runoff mitigation from the strategy can be complicated for some pesticide users to adopt for the first time. EPA has also developed a [document](#) that details multiple real-world examples of how a pesticide applicator could adopt the mitigation from this strategy when those measures appear on pesticide labels. To help applicators consider their mitigation options, EPA is developing a mitigation menu website that the agency will release in fall 2024 and plans to periodically update with additional mitigation options, allowing applicators to use the most up-to-date mitigations without requiring pesticide product labels to be amended each time new measures become available. EPA is also developing a calculator that applicators can use to help determine what further mitigation measures, if any, they may need to take in light of mitigations they may already have in place. EPA will also continue to develop educational and outreach materials to inform the public and help applicators understand mitigation needs and where descriptions of mitigations are located.

The Final Herbicide Strategy and accompanying support documents are available in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0365 at the [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) page.

Visit EPA's website to learn more about how [EPA's pesticide program](#) is protecting endangered species.

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For Immediate Release: August 20, 2024

STATE AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES CONCORD GRAPE LOSS DETERMINATION FOR NEW YORK TO ASSIST FARMS IMPACTED BY APRIL FREEZE EVENT

Announces Crop Loss Determination, Lifting New York Ingredient Requirement and Allowing New York Farm Wineries to Temporarily Source Grapes or Juice from Outside of New York

Freeze/Frost Event in April 2024 Significantly Impacted New York Growers

Across the State

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball today announced that the Department is issuing a crop loss determination to assist grape farmers impacted by the frost/freeze event in late April. The designation will allow duly licensed farm wineries to manufacture or sell wine produced from grapes grown outside of New York State.

The disaster declaration is based on reporting of crop loss from the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab at Cornell AgriTech, which found that over 40% of the Concord variety of grapes grown or produced for winemaking in New York State were destroyed during the 2024 crop year and was caused by frost/freeze event in April of 2024. The staff at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory have been working with the growers and processor representatives to assess the crop damage since early this spring. Cornell AgriTech projected a 60% crop loss to Concord vineyards in the New York portion of the Lake Erie production region, which translates to approximately 46-51% Concord crop loss in all of New York State.

Crop Loss Declaration for Farm Wineries

Farm Wineries licensed by the New York State Liquor Authority may file an application with the Department to be considered to manufacture or sell wine produced from out-of-state grapes or juice for the above varieties. Farmers must demonstrate that they have been unable to obtain the desired varietal(s) in the quantity needed from at least three New York State grape growers that grow the impacted varietal(s).

Farm wineries can apply for the exemption [here](#). The deadline to apply for the exemption is October 31, 2024. For the Department to consider your request, farmers must complete and return the application by October 31, 2024.

The Department will be hosting an industry-wide webinar on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 1:00 pm, to provide information on the application process and to answer any questions farm wineries may have. The webinar can be accessed [here](#).

Commissioner Ball said, “This latest freeze event left our grape growers and farm wineries struggling with the potential of not having enough New York-grown grapes to maintain their farm winery license and thereby maintain their markets. By issuing this declaration, we’re taking immediate action to help our farm wineries recover from the freezing temperatures experienced in April and allow them to focus on preparing for next year’s growing season. We encourage any impacted farms to take advantage of this respite and to continue to report losses to lessen the impacts of this damaging severe weather event.”

State Liquor Authority Chair Lily M. Fan said, “A massive thanks to Governor Hochul and Commissioner Ball for taking immediate action to ensure our craft wineries can continue producing wine as they recover from freezing temperatures experienced in April. Farming and wine production are subject to the vagaries of the weather each year and winemakers take a risk every time they grow a new year’s crop. New York is committed to taking any actions available to help our vintners so that they don’t have to carry the burden of natural crop disasters on their shoulders.”

Sam Filler, Executive Director, New York Wine & Grape Foundation, said, “We appreciate Commissioner Ball’s commitment to our grape growers and farm wineries. The State Department of Agriculture and Markets responded quickly to this devastating weather event, visiting our vineyards this spring, advocating for disaster declaration funding, and issuing this exemption to the farm winery law.”

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also [issued a disaster designation](#) in response to the April frost/freeze event, declaring 11 counties in New York as primary natural disaster areas and an additional 25 counties as contiguous disaster counties. Farmers in the counties included who were impacted by the severe weather event may be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans, and should visit [USDA’s Emergency Farm Loans webpage](#) to learn more.

New York is the third largest grape producer and the third largest wine producer in the country. According to the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, these growers generate a \$6.65 billion economic impact for New York State. There are 471 wineries in New York, growing a variety of grapes on 35,000 acres.

PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

Alert: A comment period regarding label changes to mancozeb opened and will close September 16th.

Mancozeb- has been added to the pesticide review process and has a docket number. Currently, all applications in grapes are being removed from the label, registration of this chemistry will be canceled ONLY in grape production and seed applications in other cropping seasons.

Other cropping systems are receiving label changes including (but not limited to): increased PPE requirements, closed cab tractor application, 48-hour rain event non-application requirement, increased REI, and respirator requirements for handlers.

If you are interested in commenting on the mancozeb docket, here are a few pointers for creating an impactful statement. Remember: while many of the organizations, processors, researchers, and institutions will be submitting documentation to support the continued use of this chemistry in grape production, they cannot tell your personal story and how this impacts your individual operation. Those stories are important and need to be told as well.

Impactful comments include:

- Anecdotes regarding the benefits of use
- Numbers and percentages where possible: for example, stating that skipping mancozeb in your spray program one year resulted in a 20% crop loss to black rot.
- Concerns around the loss of additional chemistries (cost or resistance issues)
- Practices that you already use that allow for the safe use of this chemistry
 - Mechanization
 - Timing of applications
 - Reduced rate from max allowed
- Possible changes that you would be willing to make to make applications safer

When commenting, avoid:

- Angry or abusive language
- Accusations- these changes are not due to malice
- Typos and grammar errors (We are happy to review your comment prior to submitting if requested!)

Our team is working diligently to mobilize efforts to respond to this issue and present an industry-wide unified front. We deeply appreciate your help in these efforts and will update as relevant.

Comment on changes to the mancozeb label: [here](#)

regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291/document

Admin Research Organizations Publications and Q...

Mancozeb Registration Review

Created by the Environmental Protection Agency

Docket Details Docket Documents (39) All Comments on Docket (62)

REFINE RESULTS

SEARCH RESULTS SORT BY Comments Due (Newer-Older)

Only show documents open for comment (1)

Document Type

- Supporting & Related Material (35)
- Notice (3)
- Other (1)

Posted

- Last 30 Days (14)
- Last 90 Days (14)

NOTICE

Pesticide Registration Review: Proposed Decisions for Several Pesticides

Environmental Protection Agency | Posted Jul 17, 2024 | ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291-0087

Comment

Comments Due Sep 16, 2024

Give Feedback

Click this box to write your comment!

A breakdown of the timeline for pesticide label review*:

Current: The Proposed Interim Decision (PID) will be published and posted for public comment.

60 Days: From the publication of PID, there will be a final 60-day public comment period.

6 months: After the 60-day comment period closes, the EPA will review the comments and finalize the decisions, including publishing the Interim or Final Decision (ID or FD). As per above, the ID is expected to be published two quarters after the PID

60 Days: Once the Final Decision is made, labels are updated within 60 days and sent for a federal stamp. It can take over 60 days to review updated labels, receive a federal letter, and stamp it.

12 Months: From the date the federal letter is stamped, there is a 12-month “grace period” to utilize or responsibly dispose of any remaining product within the supply chain. This includes on-farm products and products located at suppliers and distributors.

*This timeline is general and may be longer or shorter depending on the response from the public and situations where additional research is conducted

Spotted Lanternfly Scouting Tips

There have been reports of adult SLF in Erie County, PA at Presque Isle. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has not found an established population of SLF so far this year; all adult insects have been individual “hitchhikers” from infested areas. Erie County is not currently expected

to come under quarantine.

That being said, the PDA and Penn State Extension is strongly encouraging any sightings to be reported. In the event of the discovery of an aggregation or established population in Erie County, the PDA will provide mitigation and eradication of the pest on your property to prevent it from spreading.

If you see an adult SLF, catch and crush it, take a photo, report it, and contact a member of the LERGP team immediately!

- **Pennsylvania Reporting:** 1-888-4BAD-FLY (1-888-422-3359) or <https://services.agriculture.pa.gov/SLFReport/>
- **New York Reporting:** <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5b-d04229e00acdd63>

Additionally, if you or someone you know is traveling into a quarantine zone, be sure to check vehicles for adult SLF hitchhikers upon arrival in Erie, PA or Chautauqua County, NY. Encourage folks to go through a car wash on their way into town to reduce the likelihood of bringing in adult SLF.

I had the opportunity to travel to Kutztown, Pennsylvania, last week for a veraison workshop at Setter Ridge Winery. While in the area, I visited several vineyards and research plots and observed spotted lanternfly infestations. I thought it would be helpful to our growers to see some of the signs of infestations that may be present in early-stage infestations, even when the insects are not easy to find, and I have collected some photos that I think will help when scouting vineyards.

Signs of SLF in Woodlands

When scouting the edges of woodlots surrounding vineyards, look for areas of general decline, including yellowing leaves, flagging, and a scorched/blackened area near the base of trees and shrubs.



Woodline with spotted lanternfly damage; yellow, flagging leaves are circled, indicating possible SLF damage and a prime location for traps or scouting efforts.



Out-of-season yellowing and decline in black walnut trees caused by spotted lanternfly feeding.



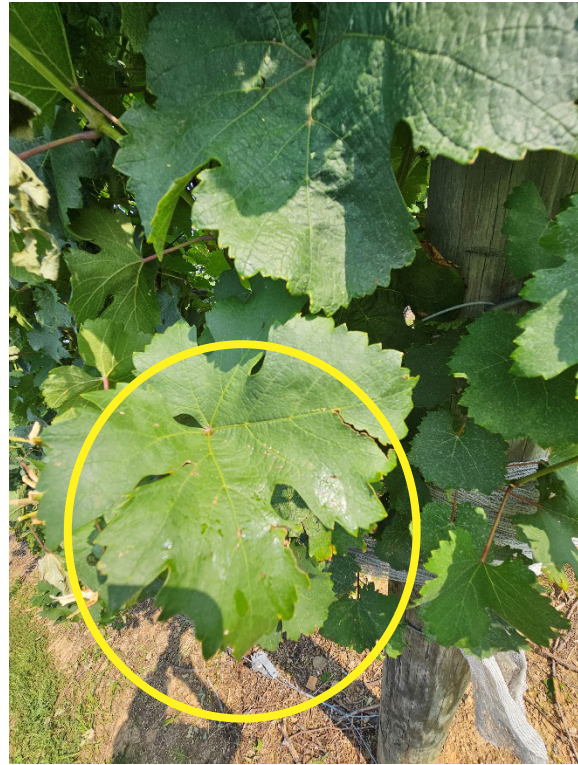
Spotted lanternfly feeding damage on ailanthus (Tree of Heaven). The black coloration that causes the tree to look like it has been scorched by fire is caused by sooty mold forming on excessive honeydew. This is a telltale sign of SLF infestations in the landscape.



Spotted lanternfly adults feed on a tree trunk and leave deposits of honeydew that cause sooty mold to form and blacken the surrounding area.



Spotted lanternfly adult on a mature grapevine (circled). Notice the darkening of the trunk wood caused by sooty mold and multiple years of SLF feeding.



Honeydew deposits on grape leaves are caused by spotted lanternfly feeding. Look for shiny, sticky spots on the upper surface of the leaves. Oftentimes you can search within the canopy directly above the honeydew and find the adult lanternfly responsible.

Honeydew deposits on grape leaves are caused by spotted lanternfly feeding





Honeydew deposits on various trees may be caused by spotted lanternfly feeding. A high level of shiny honeydew in the wood line can indicate spotted lanternfly infestations in the canopy.

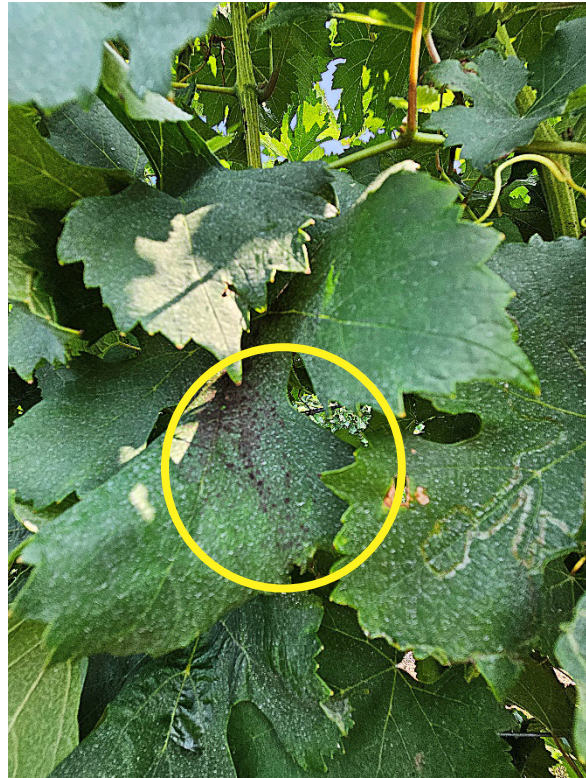
These photos have been provided to aid you in your SLF scouting efforts. Observing these common signs can help you locate SLF adults and potential sites for traps or treatment going forward. If you have questions about SLF, find an adult insect, or observe any of these signs of infestation, please contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Team and report as necessary to state authorities.

Contact information:

Mobile (*call or text*): (716) 397-9674 (*preferred*)

Office: (814) 825-0900

Email: MFL5873@psu.edu



Honeydew deposits on grape leaves can lead to the growth of sooty mold.

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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

NEWA

Thanks to the recent rains it has been obvious that some of the weather stations in our region have been having trouble recording precipitation. A recent trip to visit those stations revealed that the Brant, East Westfield and North East Side Hill stations were plugged with debris. Those were all cleaned and ready for the next rainfall. The Ripley State Line station was found to have a wasp nest blocking the tipping mechanism. That was removed. Another round of rain revealed that the North East Side Hill and Ripley State Line stations are still not recording the precipitation accurately and need a little more attention to see what is wrong. Hopefully those will be repaired prior to the next round of rain – which looks to be at least a week away if you trust the forecast...



VIP

Many of our Vineyard Improvement Program applicants have been working hard to finish up their projects due to the impending end of the grant. There are a number of projects about ready to be finalized.

As a reminder, you can still participate if you have a Concord vineyard of at least 1 acre that you are planning to remove this season. The removal needs to be complete - vines and trellis gone with a cover crop/crop planted and up at least a couple of inches before the end of the growing season. This is a reimbursement grant, so you will be reimbursed 50% of removal expenses up to \$1,500 per acre, and if you have an eligible replant you can be reimbursed 25% of replant expenses up to \$1,500 per acre. Work can be hired out and invoices submitted, or can be done by you as long as you keep records of your work so expenses can be calculated. If you think this can work for you, contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu or just go ahead and fill out the application at <https://lergp.com/vip-application>.



Station	Wild Grape Bloom Date	GBM GDD 8/22/24	Forecast GBM GDD 8/27/24
Burt (NY Mesonet)	6/1/24	1817	1938
North Appleton	6/1/24	1901	2022
Newfane (Chateau Niag)	5/24/24	2051	2172
Ransomville	5/22/24	2194	2318
Lockport	5/22/24	2181	2302
Brant	5/20/24	2163	2276
Versailles	5/20/24	2059	2174
Sheridan	5/20/24	2204	2321
Silver Creek (RT5)	5/23/24	2090	2208
Silver Creek (Double A)	5/20/24	2219	2335
Hanover	5/22/24	2069	2186
Forestville	5/22/24	2063	2181
East Fredonia	5/22/24	2047	2165
Fredonia (NY Mesonet)	5/23/24	2003	2122
Brocton	5/22/24	2055	2170
Portland (CLEREL)	5/22/24	2079	2198
Westfield (South)	5/22/24	2092	2210
East Westfield	5/22/24	2032	2150
Westfield	5/23/24	2047	2165
East Ripley	5/21/24	2190	2313
Ripley	5/22/24	2124	2245
Ripley (State Line)	5/21/24	2151	2272
Ripley (Escarpment)	5/22/24	2054	2174
North East (State Line)	5/22/24	2042	2156
North East Lab	5/22/24	2118	2240
North East (Escarpment)	5/21/24	2106	2215
North East (Side Hill)	5/22/24	2059	2168
Harborcreek Escarpment	5/23/22	1966	2081
Harborcreek	5/21/24	2191	2310
Lake City	5/21/24	2171	2289
Lake City (Mason Farms)	5/21/24	2163	2281
Reduced egg-laying after this time, most pupae enter diapause (overwintering stage) after 1700 DD.		With the exception of extremely warm years no further action is required.	



Andy Campell
General Manager

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