



Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

This is the final Finger Lakes Vineyard Update newsletter for the 2024 season. Next week, our annual Veraison to Harvest project will begin, which will include a weekly newsletter featuring fruit ripening data from vineyards around the state and brief updates from each of the regional extension programs and Cornell's Craft Beverage Institute. We will also be recording short podcast episodes each week to go along with the written newsletter. Just search for 'Veraison to Harvest' in your podcast app. - Hans



First day of harvest 2024. Photo by Doyle Vineyard Management.

The 2024 harvest season is upon us, as Gallo opened Aurore harvest on Monday, August 19. Early word from a couple of growers has been that yields are higher than normal (which we've been anticipating) with some rots starting to creep in thanks to the recent rains.

The cooler weather earlier this week may have slowed ripening a smidge, but the return of sun and warmth at the end of the week and the next several days should get things ramping up again. We are still about 18 days ahead of average with regard to GDD accumulation and are still on track to have one of the warmest growing seasons in the Finger Lakes if current trends continue.

We will start to get a big picture sense of where we stand with ripening next week with the first week of sampling for our [Veraison to Harvest](#) project. As I mentioned in earlier newsletters, bloom and veraison were a week or more ahead of normal this year, and I anticipate that we will see maturity numbers a little further along than we usually do at the end of August. That may be tempered somewhat, though, by the size of the crop in a given vineyard, as many vineyards are anticipating somewhat higher yields this year.

2024 Finger Lakes Grape Price List

We are still trying to get a few more price lists to include in this year's price list before we publish it. I apologize that we haven't been able to get out by now – we know people are waiting to see it. We anticipate publishing the price list early next week and will send a message to everyone when we do.

IPM

EPA Proposal to Remove Grapes from Mancozeb Label

Below is another summary from Katie Gold about EPA's proposed ban of mancozeb for use in grapes. It is similar to the one included in last week's newsletter, but with a bit more information and clarity about what is being proposed.

As of right now, there are two things that growers can do in response to this proposal:

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1. If you want to submit comments to EPA about the proposal, there are instructions on how to do so in Katie's write-up below. There is a list of information below the addresses for the letters that would be particularly helpful to include if you choose to do so. **Comments are due to EPA no later than September 16, 2024.** There is an effort to try to extend the comment period, but to be safe, don't assume that it will be granted.
2. Complete the short survey to help document the use of mancozeb and certain canopy management practices. This will give us some data to provide to EPA in our responses as well. *Please complete the survey by Friday, September 6.*

Survey link: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_erKGUIRU2XkorCC

Growers who are members of industry associations (e.g., Farm Bureau, NY Wine Policy Institute, Wine America, etc.) may also want to engage those organizations in formulating a response to this proposal as well, if they aren't already.

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From Dr. Katie Gold – Grape Pathologist, Cornell AgriTech

The EPA has proposed to cancel the use of mancozeb in grapevine due to post-application worker exposure hazards (Docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291](#) and supporting document [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291-0094](#)). **The public comment period on this proposal is open until September 16th.**

Cornell Grape Pathology is conducting a survey to better understand grape grower habits around the activities EPA cites as risk factors in their decision. Survey responses are due Friday, September 6.

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_erKGUIRU2XkorCC

Why is the EPA re-registering mancozeb?

[FIFRA](#) is a federal statute that governs how pesticides are registered, distributed, sold, and used in the USA. Recently the EPA announced its intention to [come into compliance with the endangered species act](#), which has led to a FIFRA re-registration review of many multi-site fungicides, including ziram, thiram, ferbam, captan, and now mancozeb.

Why is the EPA proposing to cancel mancozeb use in grape but not in other fruit crops?

The EPA is proposing to cancel mancozeb in grapevine because of post-application worker health hazards. The specific activities in grapevine production that yield post application hazards above the EPA's acceptable threshold after a single mancozeb application (at maximum single application rate of 3.2 lb AI/acre) are tying/training, hand harvesting and leaf pulling up to 45 days; girdling and turning up for 72 days. The EPA has decided that imposing a REI of such length would preclude the use of mancozeb because it would impede growers' ability to conduct other production activities. A lower single application rate (e.g., 2.5lb AI/acre) would still result in risks that could not be addressed with a feasible REI. Other orchard crops do not conduct these activities and are thus able to accommodate the mitigation practices (4-day REI and ban on hand thinning) the EPA deems necessary to sufficiently reduce post-application worker health hazards from mancozeb.

How did the EPA come to this decision?

The EPA is by mandate required to do a cost-benefit "BEAD" analysis. The BEAD methodology for mancozeb involves assessing the benefits of its use at the acre-level and reflecting on how growers make pest control decisions. This

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analysis includes reviewing mancozeb usage data, identifying use patterns, target pests, and the attributes that make it valuable for pest control. BEAD also evaluates the biological and economic impacts of using alternative pest control strategies if mancozeb were unavailable, considering factors like costs, resistance management, and crop yield or quality. The methodology relies on data from university extension services, USDA, grower surveys, public comments, and professional knowledge, with pesticide usage data provided by sources like Kynetec USA Inc.

Does the EPA understand the impacts of banning mancozeb in grapevine?

In their BEAD analysis (supporting doc EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291-0094), the EPA cites the following anticipated impacts:

"With the loss of mancozeb in grape production, BEAD anticipates that at a minimum, grape growers east of the Rocky Mountains will experience an increased cost of pest control as growers will need to integrate more single site fungicides. The growers would have to rely primarily on captan to control Phomopsis disease and downy mildew and single site fungicides (e.g., myclobutanil) for effective control of black rot increasing the risk of resistance. Further, single site fungicides are generally more expensive than mancozeb (Kynetec, 2021a), resulting in additional costs of fungicide treatment."

What happens now?

The EPA is accepting public comment on their proposed interim decision until September 16th. If you wish to contribute a comment to the EPA on their proposed interim decision, you can either mail or email a letter to the below individuals:

Jean Overstreet (overstreet.anne@epa.gov)
Director, Pesticide Re-evaluation Division
Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Ben Tweed, Chemical Review Manager (tweed.benjamin@epa.gov)
(202) 566-2274.

EPA is interested in receiving new and relevant information that will inform their BEAD analysis regarding the risk assessment and risk management of mancozeb in the overall grape disease and fungicide resistance management picture. Julius Farado, plant pathologist in residence at the USDA, has shared the below list of information that the EPA will consider relevant if supported with economic, quantitative, scientific data and recent information (not anecdotal).

- 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

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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 other 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)

What other PID have the EPA released relevant to grape production?

- As of April 30, 2024, the EPA proposes to ban the use of Ziram in grapevine ([EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0568-0111](#)). The EPA is currently reviewing comments received on this decision.
- As of April 30, 2024, the EPA ([EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0296-0339](#)) has proposed to extend the REI for Captan and has reversed its previous decision to reduce the maximum application rate.
 - For table grapes: 5-day REI for girdling and turning for grapes grown on T-shaped trellises, no changes to REI for table grapes grown on Y-shaped trellises.
 - For wine and juice grapes: 3-day REI for high-contact activities, including tying and training vines as well as hand harvesting and leaf pulling.
 - **The EPA reversed its previous decision to reduce Captan application rate in grapevine because of stakeholder comments they received.**
- "Stakeholder comments mentioned the need to maintain the 2 lbs. a.i./A application rate for Eastern wine grapes for effective pest control. The comments also mentioned viticulture practice of applying captan to wine grapes early in the season because it interferes with fermentation. Therefore, EPA is proposing longer REIs for wine and juice grapes (rather than reducing application rates). Although these proposed activity-based REIs for grapes result in MOEs less than the LOC of 100, these longer REIs will address most risk concerns for re-entry workers exposed to captan on foliage."

NYS Ag Society Century Farm Program

The New York State Agricultural Society prides itself on recognizing the best in agriculture. The Century Farm Program is one of the premier programs that recognizes farms when they reach the centennial mark. To date the Ag Society has recognized 408 Century farms, 59 Bi-Centennial farms, and 2 Tri-Centennial farms. The program rules are simple – the farm needs to have hit the centennial mark prior to the convening of the New York State Agricultural Society's annual meeting on January 9, 2025. If your farm has hit this mark, we would love to recognize this amazing achievement. To register your farm as a Century Farm, go to the following link <https://www.nysagsociety.org/century-bicentennial-farm-award> and fill out the information requested. The information you provide documents the farm's journey to 100 years. The deadline is coming fast – October 15 of 2024. If interested, please send in your information – we would love to see you and recognize you at our upcoming annual meeting.

Soil Health Testing Available for FLX Vineyards



The Finger Lakes Grape Program is working with Cornell's [Soil Health Program](#) this year on an effort to increase the level of information about soil health conditions in New York vineyards. As part of this work, the Soil Health Program has provided funding for analysis of soil samples from 10 Finger Lakes vineyards by the [Soil Health Laboratory](#), along with tissue samples to analyze nutrient content, which we collected a couple of weeks ago. We would like to increase the number of vineyards that are included in this project, and are looking for vineyards willing to have us collect samples from one of their vineyard blocks to include in this survey of soil health parameters in Finger Lakes vineyards.

To participate in this project, we are asking vineyards for the following:

- The FLGP will split the cost of the soil health and nutrient testing with each participating vineyard, up to a maximum of ten. FLGP staff will collect the samples from each vineyard. The soil health test costs \$130, and the tissue analysis test costs \$30. We will invoice each vineyard for 50% of the total cost (about \$80) for the analysis once the samples are submitted.
- Participating grower will need to respond to a short questionnaire about their soil and weed management practices under the trellis.
- Each vineyard's results will be shared with them individually. The aggregated data (without identifying information) will be compiled and analyzed by the FLGP and Soil Health Program and presented to the industry at BEV NY and possibly other venues.

The cost-sharing and sample collection is available to vineyards in Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Brittany Griffin at bg393@cornell.edu or 315-536-5134 to sign up. Cost-sharing will be available to the first ten growers who sign up. Other vineyards are more than welcome to participate in the project, but we will not be able to share in the costs of the tests or collect the samples. We will be happy to provide guidance on how to collect the samples and submit them for testing, however, and would still like to have growers answer the short questionnaire.

NE SARE: 2025 Farmer Grant Call for Proposals Now Open

Farmers in the Northeast can apply for up to \$30,000 in funding for sustainable agriculture projects starting in 2025. These projects can range from experiments to on-farm events and demonstrations or other educational activities.



The Call for 2025 Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Farmer Grants is [now available](#). Approximately \$850,000 has been allocated to fund projects. Awards of up to \$30,000 are available and proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on November 12, 2024.

Q&A Sessions are taking place alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October. [Register once to attend any of the sessions.](#)

Sessions will take place on October 8, 16, 22, and 30 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM EST

How to Identify a Farmer Grant Project video: https://youtu.be/Q_ovYIkO7V

Farmer Grants are designed to be a strong starting point for farmers interested in pursuing grant funding for projects. Since Farmer Grants are intended as a starting point, applicants must identify a Technical Advisor who can provide expertise in areas such as research design, troubleshooting, and promotion. The Technical Advisor acts as a go-to support person throughout the grant project, making it easier on first time grantees and forging new relationships in agricultural communities across the Northeast.

View interviews with previous grantees and their technical advisors: <https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/videos-farmers-and-their-technical-advisors/>

The Farmer Grant program, like all Northeast SARE grant programs, is driven by the Northeast SARE outcome statement:

“Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is accessible, sustainable, and just, addressing historic and current inequities so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life.”

Northeast SARE funds projects in a wide variety of topics, including marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, social sustainability, climate-smart agriculture practices, urban and Indigenous agriculture and more.

[Click here to read the full Call for Proposals](#)

[Click here to learn more about Farmer Grants from Northeast SARE.](#)

Concord Crop Loss Determination

The following determination from Ag & Markets is in response to the heavy crop losses in Concord vineyards in western New York this year due to freeze injury this past April. It is included here just as an FYI to the Finger Lakes industry.

Dear Farm Wineries:

On August 19, 2024, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets issued a [Crop Loss Determination](#) to help farm wineries impacted by the late April frost/freeze event sustain their business operations. The emergency declaration allows farm winery owners, licensed by the New York State Liquor Authority, to request authority to temporarily source Concord grapes or juice from outside of New York through December 31, 2024, while still maintaining their New York farm winery status and enabling them to continue to manufacture or sell wine produced from out-of-state grapes or juice for the impacted varietals. The full press release can be found [here](#).

Note: Other than Concord, no other varietals are eligible for out-of-state purchase under this provision.

The application is [here](#) for convenience. Applications are due **October 31, 2024**. Wineries with licenses that require New York grape purchases are advised not to purchase out-of-state juice or grapes until an approved application is received from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Submit applications to:

Email: FPDL@agriculture.ny.gov

Mail: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Agricultural Producers Security Program

10B Airline Drive

Albany NY 12235

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.



A big THANK YOU to all our Spring IPM and Tailgate Meeting hosts this year.

- Hosmer Winery
- Three Brothers Wineries and Estates
- Heron Hill Winery
- Thorpe Vineyard
- Dr. Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars
- Simmons Vineyards
- Knapp Winery
- Randall Standish Vineyards
- Miles Wine Cellars

If you would like to host a Tailgate Meeting next year, please let us know!

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 9:00 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 9:00 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 technology 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
8/16/24	85.1	61.5	0.00	23.3	2198.7
8/17/24	77.0	68.0	0.02	22.5	2221.2
8/18/24	78.6	68.2	0.17	23.4	2244.6
8/19/24	68.9	55.8	0.96	12.4	2256.9
8/20/24	65.1	54.7	0.00	9.9	2266.8
8/21/24	67.3	52.9	0.09	10.1	2276.9
8/22/24	74.5	56.1	0.00	15.3	2292.2
Weekly Total			1.24"	116.9	
Season Total			20.90"	2292.2	

GDDs as of August 22, 2023: 2049.8

Rainfall as of August 22, 2023: 18.88"



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	421.2	596.8	+18
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	2187.6	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	6.26"	3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	20.36"	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

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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

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