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FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

April 2025 - Issue, [001]

Photo Credit: Chris Kitchen (UREL)

I know it's been a while since we sent out a newsletter, and I apologize for our "silence" on that front for the past few months. While every winter is busy with meetings, reports, proposals, etc., this one felt more hectic than past ones for some reason and writing the newsletter just never quite made it to the top of the to do list. But with the pending arrival of spring and budbreak just around the corner, we're recommitting ourselves to regular communication with the industry and our stakeholders this year, and perhaps in some new forms that we're contemplating. We're excited for the season ahead, albeit with one major change to our team (see below). We'll see you in the vineyard!
-Hans

DONALD CALDWELL LEAVING THE FLGP

.....

For the past seven years, Donald Caldwell has been our field technician for the Finger Lakes Grape Program, and my right arm. He has laid out experiments, collected data, guided students and interns, led workshops, sold grapes, taught classes – oh yes, and ably managed the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard for us and Finger Lakes Community College’s Viticulture and Wine Technology Program. He’s done all of this with good humor, patience (mostly with me), and a genuine desire to help people grow better grapes.

Don finished his Master’s degree at Cornell this past winter and is now moving on to a new position doing grape research for New Mexico State University. His last day with us will be next Thursday, April 10. We will be gathering at Brewery Ardennes on Wednesday, April 9 at 4:30 PM to say a final farewell and send Don off on this new adventure for him and his family, if anybody would like to join us. Or if you’d like to send him a quick note, you can send it to him at dc886@cornell.edu.

We are in the process of getting this position approved for posting and to start accepting applications. When it is open, we will let everyone know and would appreciate any help in spreading the word to folks who might be a good fit for the position. Stay tuned.

Most importantly right now, I want to thank Don for all his hard work and dedication to the Finger Lakes Grape Program and the Finger Lakes grape and wine industry. It’s been an absolute pleasure to work with him, and I wish him nothing but the best in his next life adventure in New Mexico.



Donald Caldwell & Hans Walter-Peterson

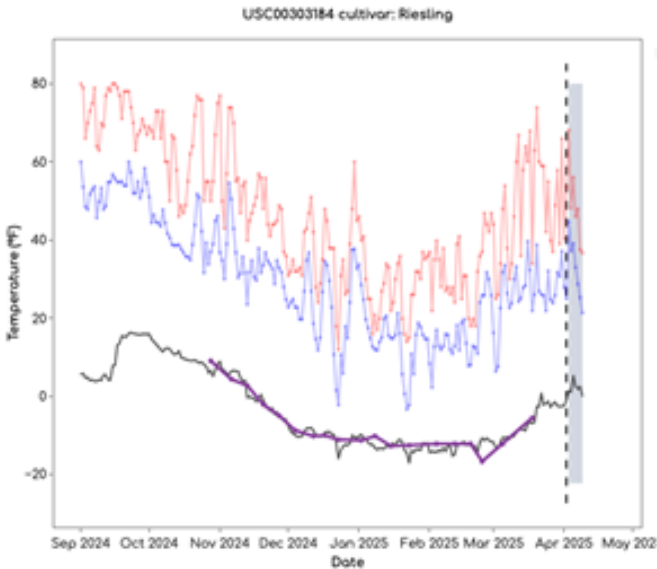
BUD HARDINESS IN 2024-25

With the arrival of spring, we’re switching from concern about temperatures that could cause winter injury to concern about temperatures that could cause spring frost injury, both of which many growers have been familiar within the past few years. It is a good time, though, to take a look at how the vines fared over the past winter, based on data collected and modeled by Jason Londo’s lab.

The graph below shows the high and low temperatures at Geneva this past winter (red and blue lines), along with the measured LT50 values for Riesling (in purple, based on samples collected from the field and frozen in the lab) and the predicted LT50 values (thin black line) using the most recent model for cold hardiness. We can see that the measured and modeled values line up almost identically with each other, showing that the model did a very good job of predicting what the LT₅₀ value would be in the field. The model has performed well for other cultivars also, including Concord, Cayuga White, Marquette, and others. You can find these results at the Grapevine Cold Hardiness webpage, https://cornell-tree-fruit-physiology.shinyapps.io/North_America_Grape_Freezing_Tolerance/.

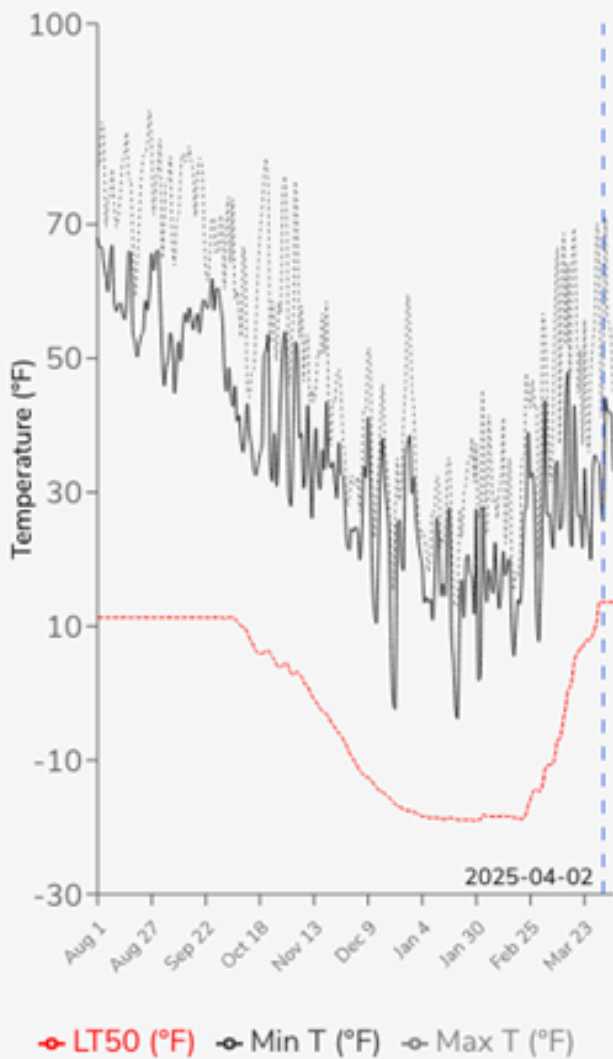
In other cold hardiness news, the model is now available on the NEWA website. This means that cold hardiness predictions can be made from data at any weather station. The current number of cultivars is fairly small, but it covers a wide range of bud hardiness levels, from cold-hardy varieties like Marquette and Petite Pearl to vinifera cultivars Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon. The site gives a visualization of the hardiness relative to temperature similar to the Cold Hardiness website (see graphs below), and includes a freeze risk assessment for the next 5 days based on current temperature forecasts. This will allow growers to assess winter hardiness at their own vineyards using localized weather data in order to decide if physical inspections of some buds should be done to assess actual injury.

Based on the information from these sites, there has been minimal risk of bud injury over the winter, even in our most susceptible varieties. Now we just need to get to Memorial Day without any frost damage...

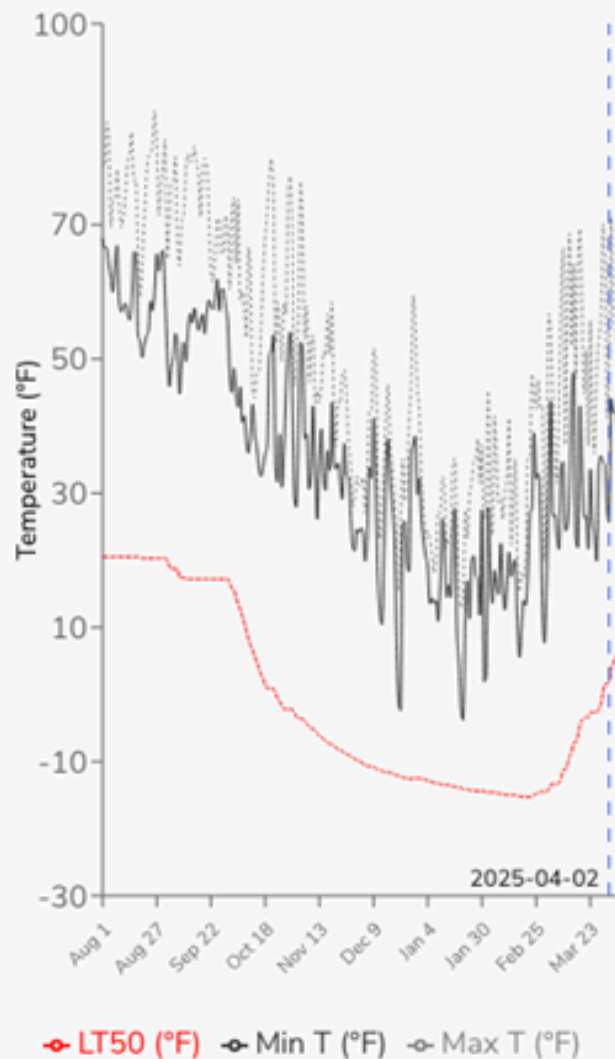


Comparing measured and predicted LT50 for Riesling at Geneva.

BUD HARDINESS IN 2024-25



Modeled LT50 values for Marquette at Hammondsport



Modeled LT50 values for Riesling at Hammondsport

TRAINING FOR VINEYARD WORKERS ON SLF

The IPM Program has developed a short workshop to help vineyard employees to identify spotted lanternfly while out in the field. With the recent discovery of two populations of SLF in relatively close proximity to Finger Lakes vineyards, the ability to identify the pest will be even more important in the next couple of years as the populations spread. The focus of the workshop is SLF identification in vineyards. The training concludes with a quick egg mass ID activity and incorporates information on all of the insect's life stages.

The workshop can be presented in both English and Spanish, and is about 15-30 minutes long, so it could easily be held during a lunch hour and cause minimal disruption to the workday. It is designed to be a "portable" workshop and will therefore be presented at the farm, so employees do not need to travel for the training either.

Growers who are interested in hosting a workshop for their employees this spring can use the form linked below to indicate potential times for one. Any questions about the workshops can be directed to Kathleen Kanaley at kk697@cornell.edu.

[SLF Workshop Form](#)



SLF egg masses on tree bark

NY VINEYARD SURVEY – PART DEUX

From the NY Wine & Grape Foundation

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The statewide Vineyard Survey is back for its second year, and we need your input to make it even better. By contributing your vineyard data, you're helping build a detailed picture of New York's grape-growing industry—one that benefits growers, legislators, and the future of our grape products.

All grape growers should complete the survey for 2024 regardless of whether you participated in the survey last year or not.

Your individual responses will be kept confidential and be combined with others to form a summary report. All respondents will be provided with a copy of the results. **This survey will remain open until May 15, 2025.**

Link to online survey: <https://survey.qclarityaccess.com/survey/selfserve/32cc/250226?list=4>

If you are completing the downloadable paper survey, please return it to Qclarity Access via email or mail:

- Email: gary.scheer@qclarityaccess.com
- Mail: ATTN: Qclarity Access 105 Margaret St. Suite D Cuba, MO 65453

Link to Paper Version of Survey: <https://newyorkwines.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/NYWGF-Survey-PDF-Version-2025.pdf>

Invitation to Participate in a Survey on Weed Management in Perennial Specialty Crops

A team of Weed Scientists and Sociologists are leading an SCRI planning grant that is conducting a short and anonymous survey about weed management technology in perennial specialty crops (i.e., tree fruits, tree nuts, grapes, and berries).

Effective weed control is essential for sustainable production and high-quality yields, but growers face several challenges, including limited herbicide availability, herbicide resistance, changing regulations, safety concerns, and the high cost and reduced availability of labor for hand weeding.

Although new weed control technologies (such as autonomous robots, precision sprayers, and electric weeders) have been developed, many growers may not be aware of these innovations or their effectiveness. Additionally, university scientists require more information on grower interest and willingness to adopt new technologies to guide future research.

The goals of this survey are to:

1. Identify what weed control tools and technologies growers know about/are interested in.
2. Understand the factors that will drive or hinder the adoption of these technologies.

We invite you and your community members/stakeholders to participate in our survey to help us understand your experiences and interests in adopting new weed control technologies.

Your input will be invaluable in shaping future research and guiding the development of solutions that benefit New York state, the Great Lakes Fruit Production Region, and the US at large.

Thank you for your time and participation and support!

Survey link: https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqzMrFKtlcDjjgO

The survey is being administered out of Iowa State University and has been IRB approved.

First Aid & CPR Training

THURSDAY

APRIL 10, 2025

BRANCHPORT FIREHOUSE

3686 NY-54A, BRANCHPORT, NY

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hosted by New York State
Wine Grape Growers

Learn Life-Saving Skills!
Join Our First Aid
& CPR Training



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Certified instructors with hands-on training
- Earn a certificate of completion
- Essential skills for everyone- no prior experience needed!



WHY ATTEND?

- Safety on the farm includes more than equipment, weather and animal disasters
- Free for New York Wine Grape Growers Members
- \$20 for non-members

Limited spots available! Don't miss out, secure your spot by April 1.

RSVP by Tues., April 1!
Contact Chris King
nyswgg@gmail.com

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.

First Aid & CPR Training

Thursday April 10, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Branchport Fire House
3686 NY-54A, Branchport NY

Hosted by the NY State Wine Grape Growers (see enclosed flyer). Free for members, \$20 for non-members. RSVP to Chris King at nyswgg@gmail.com.

Eastern Viticulture & Enology Forum: Vineyard Sprayer Best Practices

Tuesday, April 15 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Hosted by Penn State University

Registration: <https://extension.psu.edu/vineyard-sprayer-best-practices-expert-forum-discussion>

Discover how to enhance your vineyard's efficiency and productivity with an informative workshop focused on vineyard sprayer practices. Learn the essentials of maintenance, calibration, and optimization to ensure that every application hits its intended target, reducing waste and maximizing the impact of your investment in costly products. This session will empower vineyard managers and growers with practical strategies to fine-tune their equipment, improve coverage, and support sustainable practices. Whether you're new to vineyard management or looking to refine your techniques, this workshop offers valuable insights to elevate your operations.

There is no fee, but pre-registration is required to receive the link for this webinar. Upon registration, a Qualtrics link will be provided for submitting questions to the panelists in advance.

Save the Date! Spring Grape IPM Meeting

Tuesday, May 6 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Doyle Vineyard Management
10223 Middle Road
Hammondsport, NY 14840
Registration will be available soon.



Ryan Young (UREL)



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WEBSITE

[FLGP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/](https://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!

flgclassifieds.cce.cornell.edu/

TEAM

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Team Leader

Donald Caldwell
Viticulture Technician

Ellen Coyne
Project Field Technician

Brittany Griffin
Team Coordinator

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