LERGP Crop Update
May 1, 2025

Photo Credit-
Cara Lanning

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

PennState Extension

In this copy:

Coffee Pot meeting Schedule- Note: Date change for May 28th to May 27th-

Our First Coffee Pot meeting is next Wednesday, May 7th at Militello's Farm Supply at 10:00am

Jennifer Phillips Russo - LERGP Viticulture Specialist:
jjr268@cornell.edu
Cell: (716) 640-5350

Megan Luke –LERGP Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator
MFL5873@psu.edu
Cell:(716) 397-9674 Office:(814) 825-0900

Andrew Holden-LERGP Penn State Extension Business Management Educator
azh6192@psu.edu
716-792-2800 ext 202
Cell: 716-640-2656

Kim Knappenberger – Extension Support Specialist
ksk76@cornell.edu
716-792-2800 ext 209

Kate Robinson – Administrative Assistant
kjr45@cornell.edu
716-792-2800 ext 201

Cara Lanning- LERGP Project Field Technician
cl2748@cornell.edu

Click here to watch Podcasts

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.

NYWGF
Listening Session
at CLEREL

On **Tuesday, May 6th**, the **New York Wine & Grape Foundation (NYWGF)** will host a **Listening Session at Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab**, and we'd love to see you there.

This event is designed to provide **growers and wineries** with important updates on NYWGF initiatives, including:

🔬 Our **2025-26 Research Priorities and Funding**

🍇 The New York State **Vineyard Survey**

🌱 The **Sustainable Winegrowing Program**

We're also thrilled to welcome **Stefan Fleming** from Empire State Development, who will share key information on state incentives, export opportunities, and regulatory updates for the craft beverage industry.

This is more than just an informational session—**it's a chance for growers and wineries to speak directly to NYWGF and help shape the future of our industry.**

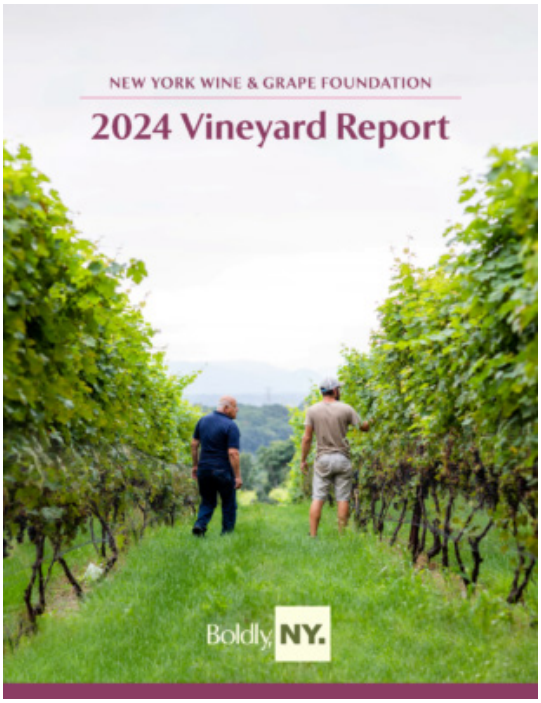
Lunch will be provided, and we hope you'll consider joining us in person.

Event Details & Registration:
Date: Tuesday, May 6th
Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM *(includes lunch)*
Location: Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab, 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY 14769

To make sure we have enough food, we need you to register! See link below.

RSVP Here: Lake Erie Listening Session

Boldly, NY.
www.newyorkwines.org



Benchmarking the Future of New York Vineyards

The New York Wine & Grape Foundation (NYWGF) is pleased to announce the release of the 2024 New York Vineyard Report. This report marks the beginning of a two-year initiative aimed at re-establishing benchmarks for accurate data on vineyard acreage across the state. In this effort, NYWGF has collaborated with Agency 29, Ag Access, and Deep Planet LLC to evaluate vineyard acreage through direct grower reports and advanced machine learning detection technology.

Take the 2025 Vineyard Survey

Growers who complete the Vineyard Survey in its entirety will be entered to win one of three (3) $500 gift cards to the Agricultural Supply Company of their choice.

If you are unable to complete the questionnaire either online or by mailing in your response, please reach out to Gary Scheer for assistance at 314-944-2091 or via email gary.scheer@qlarityaccess.com.

Business Management

Andrew Holden, Business Management Educator, Penn State University, LERGP

Second Marketing Assistance Program Payment Announced

The USDA announced Tuesday, April 29th, that a second round of payments will be coming this week for growers who are enrolled in the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program. The second payment will only be available to those who received the first payment by signing up with FSA in early January of this year. Those who received the first payment don't have to do anything to receive the second payment. FSA says that payment should arrive by next week. The second payment amount has yet to be announced, but the first round of funds totaled $900 million and the second round is set to be $1.3 billion. More information is expected to be released on the final figures once payments are made.
The official USDA FSA press release can be read Here.

Lawmakers Send More Signals Farm Bill Uncertain This Year
By: Ryan Hanrahan
Source: https://farmpolicynews.illinois.edu/2025/05/lawmakers-send-more-signals-farm-bill-uncertain-this-year/

Politico's Grace Yarrow and Marcia Brown reported Wednesday that **Republican "lawmakers are currently weighing whether to put Biden-era conservation programs into their party-line megabill that might have otherwise been included in their separate reauthorization of federal farm programs, according to three people granted anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.**"
Yarrow and Brown reported that the possibility of moving conservation programs into the megabill is "sending more signals they doubt their ability to pass a new, bipartisan farm bill this year."
"One of the people said it's 'likely' that Republicans will pull unspent conservation program dollars from the Democrats' 2022 climate law into their party-line megabill to continue funding those popular programs," Yarrow and Brown reported. "But Republicans will also likely push to remove climate-related guardrails on those climate law initiatives as they have during previous negotiations."
Courtesy of the House Ag Committee.
"GOP lawmakers previously rejected a similar push from Democrats to add conservation money to the farm bill; now, they are open to adding certain programs to the other pending piece of legislation as U.S. producers grapple with economic headwinds and an outdated farm safety net," Yarrow and Brown reported. "Republicans are also considering including two key farm bill provisions — increased reference prices and updated crop insurance for farmers — into the legislation that would enact broad swaths of President Donald Trump's domestic agenda, one of those people said."
Democrats Maintain Stance that Farm Bill is Uncertain This Year
E&E News Marc Heller reported that "**while (House Ag Chair GT) Thompson and Senate Agriculture Chair John Boozman (R-Ark.) laid out an optimistic scenario for the farm bill, Democratic lawmakers who addressed agriculture reporters said they're uncertain about the bill's prospects and worried about the Trump administration's cuts to agriculture agencies that aren't raising many public objections from Republicans.**"
"Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) said she's 'petrified' by staff reductions and frozen grants and contracts at the Forest Service. Her home state is dominated by privately owned forest that benefits

from the Forest Service's state and private forestry programs — a 'great legacy industry in our state,' she said," according to Heller's reporting. "Among the effects in Maine, and other states, has been the freezing of wood innovation grants to mills, provided by the Inflation Reduction Act."
"Pingree, who's on both the House Agriculture and Appropriations committees, said the Agriculture panel could write a bipartisan farm bill on its own but that the reality of passing legislation on the floor and satisfying the Republicans' right wing complicates the picture," Heller reported. "Thompson, she said, has been a 'great' chair who hosted bipartisan listening sessions. 'The committee is pretty reasonable at figuring these things out,' she said. Now that lawmakers are juggling reconciliation and a farm bill together, Pingree said, 'all hell has broken loose.'"
"**Senate Agriculture ranking member Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said Republican lawmakers have become more likely to complain privately or to the administration through back channels as they see the home-state effects of suspended grants and staff losses**," Heller reported. "**Voting against Trump administration priorities is a different matter but would be the only way to block some of the actions with biggest impact in farm country, Klobuchar said. Only on tariffs, she said, have Senate Republicans begun to show more public resistance to the administration.**"
"The House Agriculture Committee is due next week to mark up its component of the major package of tax cuts and extensions, border security investments, energy policy and more," Yarrow and Brown reported. "The biggest fight is set to be over the level of cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which is worrying to many Republicans who don't want their constituents to lose food aid benefits."

What I'm Reading:

- **Lawmakers Send More Signals Farm Bill Uncertain This Year - FarmDoc**
- **Balancing the Scales: Finding Relative Advantage Incentives for Mechanization of Specialty Crops**
    - Serviss M. and Thornsbury S. 2025. "Balancing the Scales: Finding Relative Advantage Incentives for Mechanization of Specialty Crops". 2025. Online

My contact information:
Andrew Holden, Business Management Educator
Mobile (call or text): (716) 640-2656
Office: (716) 792-2800
Email: AZH6192@psu.edu

Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

Current Phenology

The research staff at Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory tracks Concord phenology throughout the growing and has continued these efforts over four decades. This information is useful for looking at trends and average dates of grapevine growth, for instance, the average date for the last four decades for Concord bud break Click Here for Historical Concord Phenology. When tracking phenology, the CLEREL Research team uses the Modified Shaulis Field Score (MSFS) resource see Figure 1 below) and you can also access it on our website Click Here for Modified Shaulis Field Score.

The CLEREL staff officially calls bud break (BB) when the buds are at a MSFS score of 4.0, or when 50% of the buds have half or more of the leaf edge exposed. This occurred on April 26, 2025, in our phenology block at CLEREL and on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center (LERGREC) by Bryan Hed in North East, PA.

Photo 1. Concord bud photo by Cara Lanning

Last year we called bud break on April 22, 2024. Many of you remember the frost/freeze events in the end of April because the phenology on early bud breaking varieties was further along. For a resource, work by Stan Howell of Michigan State and Terry Bates, CLEREL Director, was compiled to put together the visuals below (Figure 1. and Figure 2.) Figure 2. is the Modified Shaulis Field Score with corresponding photos to track the phenology in your blocks and better understand the numbers that I report to you. Figure 3. is the visual of Critical Temperatures that different phenological Concord stages can withstand. Looking at a 4.0 on the MSFS, and the corresponding photo on the Critical Temp Figure, the buds at this stage should be hardy to a temperature of 28-29 degrees Fahrenheit, and currently there is not a chance in the extended forecast to get that low in our region. See Figure 3. below.

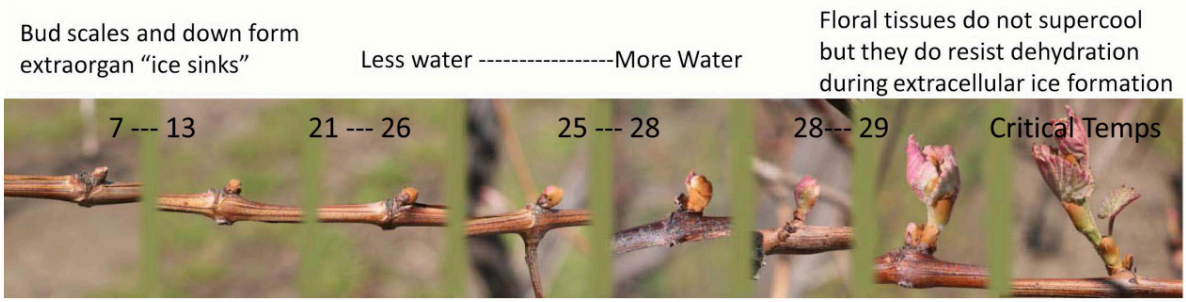


Figure 1. Resource by Stanley Howell and Terry Bates of Critical Temperatures on new tissue

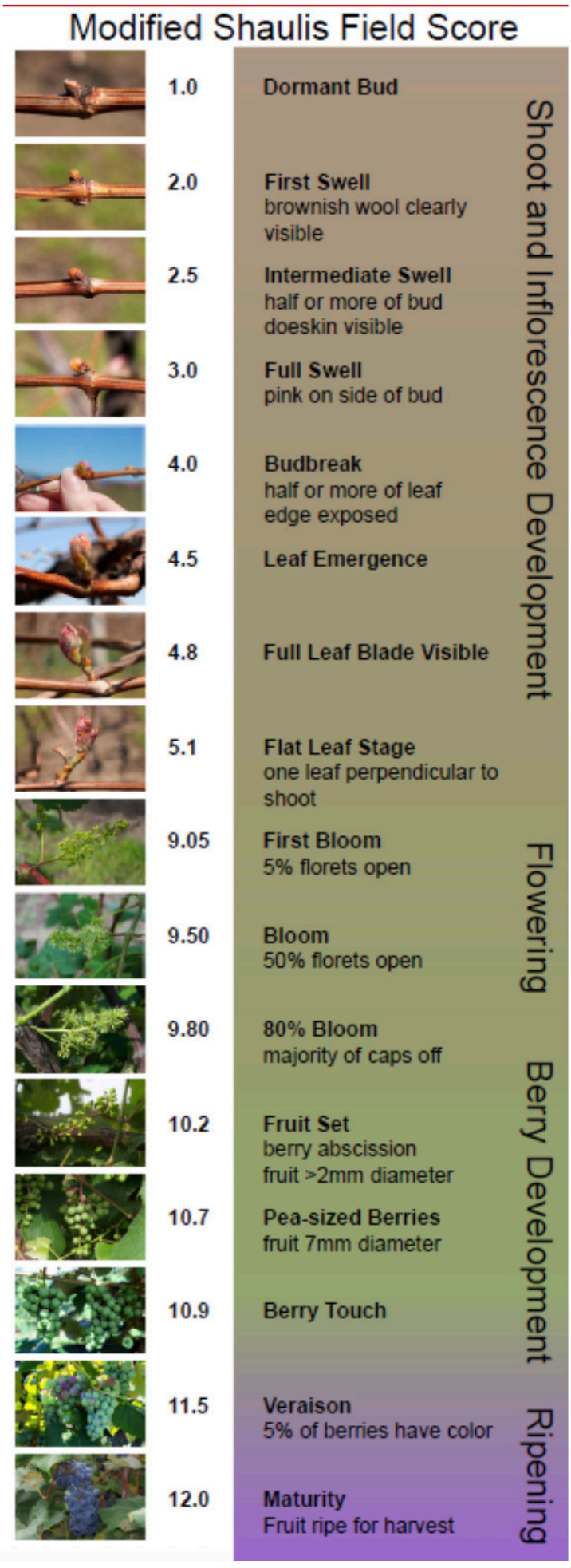


Figure 2. Modified Shaulis Field Score

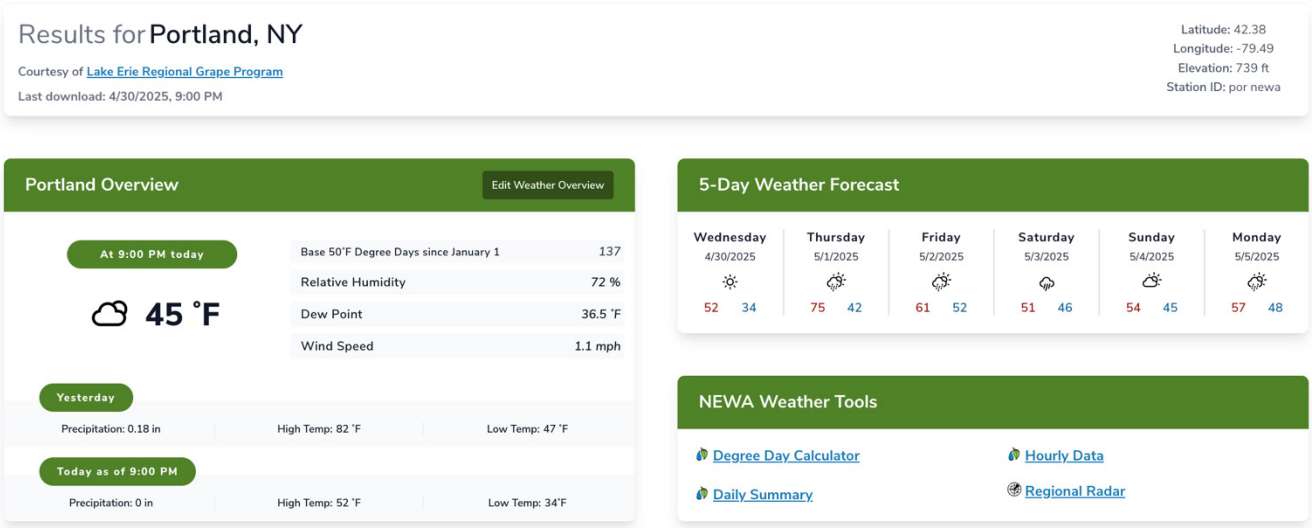


Figure 3. Screenshot of the 5-Day forecast for Portland, NY, from the Cornell NEWA site

Bloom Prediction

Dr. Terry Bates uses the Lake Erie Growing Degree Day Accumulation to make a prediction on Concord bloom every year. **Disclaimer, this is only a prediction,** the R-squared value is 0.4 which is about 40% accuracy**.** On Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Terry looked at the maximum depth of Lake Erie at 210 feet. The magic happens in the equations and his Concord bloom prediction for 2025 is estimated to occur on June 10, 2025, at 2:45 PM (just kidding about the time, but if it does happen at that time we are taking him to Vegas). That is over three days earlier than the historical average of June 14th. The same predictive model performed well in 2021, where bloom was predicted to occur on 6/8 and actual bloom was 6/7. Other close years to 2022 were: 2004, 2005, 2008. This bit of information is important because of where the buds are in your vineyard at this time in regard to your projected spray schedules with predicted bloom date of June 10th. Per research and Dr. Bates, "three days early gives us an extra ton to ripen. Get the tanks ready!" Please see the graphs below that Terry creates to make this prediction.

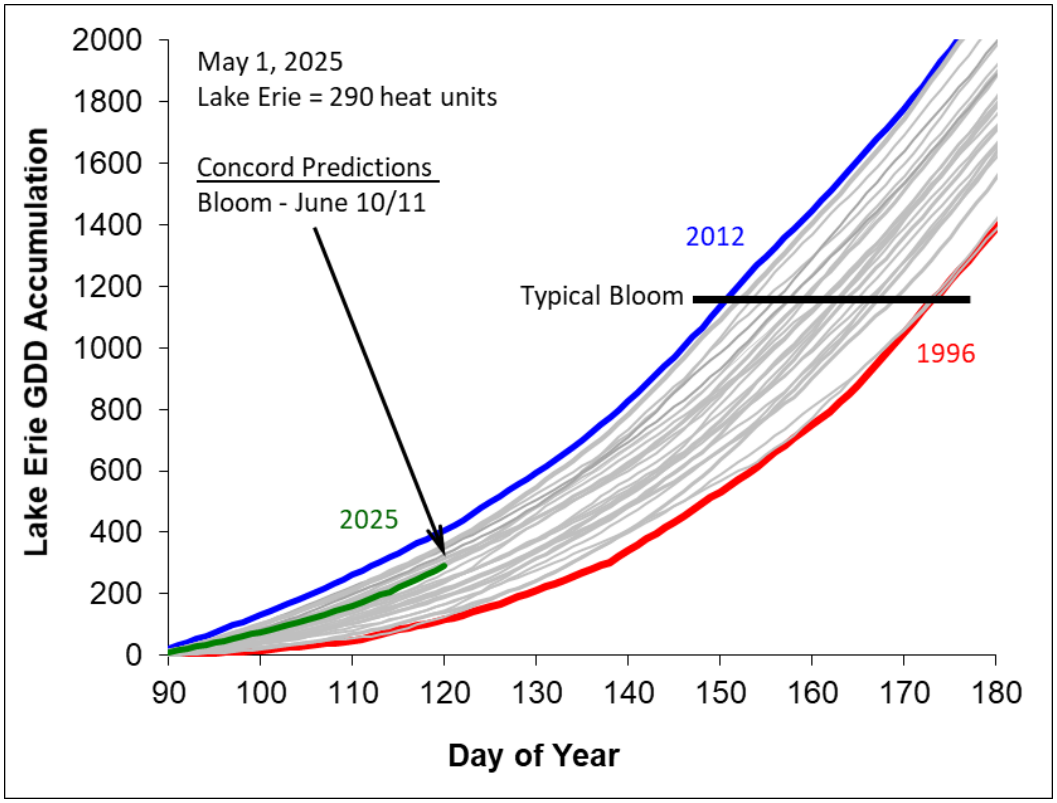


Figure 1. Dr. Terry Bates, Director of Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, Concord Bloom Prediction graph

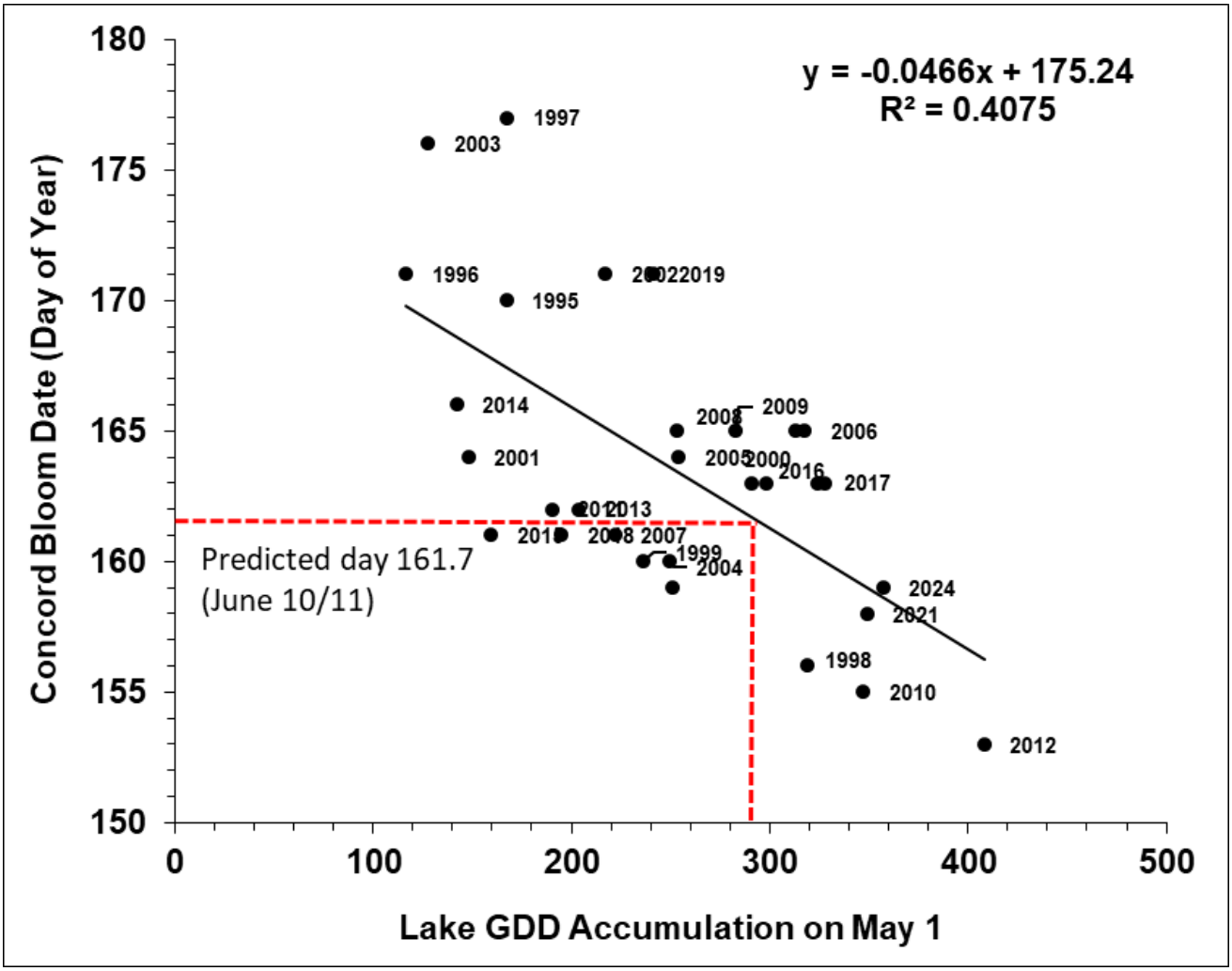


Figure 2. Dr. Terry Bates, Director of Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, Concord Bloom Prediction graph with r-square

Cornell AgriTech
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

The Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory

Summer Employment Opportunity in Vineyard Research Support

Who We Are

The Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory is a 50-acre agricultural research farm in Portland, NY. We are a remote facility of Cornell AgriTech and our programs support the grape and other agricultural industries in western, New York. Dr. Terry Bates is seeking two temporary summer hires to directly support research programs focused on vineyard production, precision viticulture, agricultural sensors, mechanization, and automation. https://www.efficientvineyard.com/

What You Will Do

- Grapevine maintenance: The primary function of this position is to assist the CLEREL field research unit with general vineyard, farm, and facility care. Considerable assistance is needed in maintaining research vines and planting a new four-acre research vineyard to support the application of new vineyard technology and robotic automation. You will gain knowledge and experience in general plant biology and modern vineyard production.
- Field data collection: In Dr. Bates' research, agricultural sensors are used to collect spatial data on vineyard soil, canopy, and crop characteristics. Assistance is needed to deploy vineyard sensors and collect field validation measurements, such as shoot growth, cluster counts, vine pruning weight, and tissue nutrient samples. You will learn about agriculture sensing technology and the process of turning data into information.
- Spatial Data Mapping: During periods of inclement weather, assistance is also needed in importing, cleaning, and mapping spatial vineyard data in the MyEV software platform. You will learn the basics of collecting, processing, and using spatial sensor data in vineyard management.

What We Need

We are looking for two hard-working individuals who appreciate agriculture and are comfortable working in production vineyards. We need individuals who like to work outside, can follow directions, and have the patience to complete repetitive tasks. A positive attitude and the ability to work on a team is critical.

Some Details

- If you are interested, contact Terry Bates at trb7@cornell.edu
- The Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab (CLEREL) is located at 6592 West Main Road, Portland, New York, 14769
- This is a temporary summer position for 39-hours per week for up to 14 weeks (mid-May through August) @ $20/hr
- You must be at least 18-years-old to apply

PA Update

Bryan Hed, Research Technologist, Lake Erie Grape Research and Extension Center

Weather and Phenology: At the North East PA lab by the lake we accumulated 105 growing degree days (gdds) and 3.45" precipitation in April. That's a bit warmer than our long-term average but about average for rainfall. Warm weather is quickly moving shoot development ahead, and we currently have about 1-1.5" shoots on Concord here by the lake. There is rain in the forecast for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, but it appears that none of the predicted rainfall will result in an infection period for Phomopsis in the near term (according to the infection model in NEWA). Time will tell.

Diseases: This is your annual reminder that Phomopsis cane and leaf spot is the first disease we will grapple with about this time each year. Once we reach about 3" of shoot growth (NOW in some places), inflorescences become exposed and vulnerable to the Phomopsis fungus. Rain periods are what enables this fungus to do its dirty work on your new green shoots and cluster stems, by causing spore release from overwintering sources in the wood of the vine. The older the wood, the more potent the spore source may be, as more inoculum can accumulate on wood each year. Dead wood is probably the most potent source of inoculum for this fungus, which is why machine pruning can contribute to greater problems with Phomopsis than hand pruning. If you rely on machine pruning, a judicious hand follow-up can enable you to remove sick older wood and dead wood from the trellis, reducing the level of overwintering inoculum of this fungus, and improving your ability to control new infections. Phomopsis cane and leaf spot typically leaves scabby black lesions and cankers on the first few nodes/internodes of new shoots and, most importantly, on inflorescences. An early spray of captan or mancozeb, applied around 3" of shoot growth, will need to be present on susceptible tissue before the next wetness/rainfall period occurs, in order to prevent infections. Strobilurin fungicides, like Sovran/Narvos, and Abound have also been shown to provide control of Phomopsis on shoot tissue and may be useful alternatives for early shoot protection where mancozeb and/or captan are not allowed, and strobilurins are no longer useful for control of powdery and downy mildew, later in the season. There are no fungicides with "reach-back" activity for Phomopsis; all must be applied before infection, as protectants, to control infections. Therefore, the timing of these early sprays should be dictated by shoot length but also forecasted rain periods.

Spring infections on cluster stem tissue can result in fruit rots during later stages of ripening, as the pathogen moves into berries months after the infection period took place. Progression of the pathogen into berries during ripening causes fruit to shell before or during harvest. This means that lesions occurring on cluster stems during early growth periods, can lead to crop loss months later during the ripening period. Heavy infection at the base of the shoots (Figure 1) may result in weakening of the shoot and shoot breakage under windy conditions. Leaf infections are far less serious, appearing as pinhead sized black spots surrounded by a yellow halo (Figure 2), but they do indicate the presence of an overwintering source of the Phomopsis fungus.

Fig. 1 Lesions at the base of the oldest internodes result in scabby areas that weaken the shoot.

Fig. 2 Leaf infections of Phomopsis cane and leaf spot on Concord grape. These are rarely consequential, but they do indicate the presence of overwintering inoculum in the trellis.

Fig. 3 Phomopsis fruit rot on ripe Vignoles and Niagara grapes; from infections of the cluster that occurred months earlier.

As was mentioned above, Phomopsis management with fungicides should begin at about 3 inches of shoot growth, but this is a ball-park figure. In early spring, this stage of development is a swiftly moving target, so monitor your crop daily and watch weather forecasts, paying close attention to the prediction of lengthy wetting periods during this early shoot growth period. ***This early shoot growth spray will, in most years, be the most important spray for Phomopsis.*** Mancozeb products, Captan, and Ziram (if even available) are the 'go to' materials for Phomopsis control, but as I mentioned above, they have no "reach back" activity and have to be applied *before* an infection period, to do their job. The same goes for the strobilurins. You don't have to use full rates of these 'protectants' for that first early shoot spray. Timing that first spray is often a 'crap shoot'; you don't have to use maximum rates, but it's an important part, perhaps the most important part in some years, of a 'standard' spray program for Phomopsis.

The next issues we will need to plan for are black rot and powdery mildew. First off, a captan, mancozeb, or a strobilurin spray at 3-5" shoots for Phomopsis will also provide control of early

black rot infections. Black rot is generally only a problem in juice vineyards at early shoot stages, IF you had serious issues with black rot last year. In such cases there may be clusters of infected, mummified fruit hanging in your trellis and plenty of black rot infected berries on the vineyard soil, poised to release their spores during early rain periods. Early black rot infection will manifest itself on leaves in the fruit zone, just inches from developing fruit. Infected leaves in the fruit zone will go on to release more spores of the fungus during, and just after, bloom, when fruit are most susceptible, making it harder to control this disease when its most critical to do so. If your vineyard was relatively clean of black rot last year, then this disease should not be much of a concern at this early time.

Juice vineyards will not need sprays for powdery mildew until that 10-12” shoot stage or even the immediate pre-bloom spray, depending on weather and the amount of disease in the vineyard last year. However, wine vineyards of *Vitis vinifera* or susceptible hybrids, that had lots of powdery mildew disease last year, may benefit from spraying during early shoot growth at around 3” shoots. Sulfur would be a great option for this early spray on varieties that are not damaged by it. Do not delay powdery mildew sprays past 8-12” shoots for susceptible hybrids and *Vitis vinifera* grapes.

PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

We have not received our printed copies of the 2024 NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes. I will keep you informed when those become available and will do my best to get those in your hands as quickly as possible. I will post my office schedule and bring copies to Coffee Pot Meetings as needed once I have them.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently released updated guidance on Application Exclusion Zones (AEZ) as mandated under the Federal Worker Protection Standards. As you prepare for your early-season and pre-bloom spray applications, reviewing these guidelines and understanding how these laws impact your applications is essential.

Per the EPA:

In 2021, EPA began reviewing the 2020 AEZ Rule in accordance with Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. The Agency determined that the provisions in the 2020 AEZ Rule that weakened protections for farmworkers and nearby communities from pesticide exposure should be rescinded. The proposed rule to reinstate several provisions of the 2015 rule was published in March of 2023 and finalized in October 2024. It reinstates AEZ protections, extends protections for neighboring communities, makes requirements easier to understand, and provides flexibilities for family farms without compromising protections.

The 2024 AEZ Rule can be found on www.regulations.gov using Docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0133.

The interim guidance document and other materials can be found on EPA's Application Exclusion Zone webpage and Worker Protection Standard webpage. The interim guidance addresses topics such as compliance with AEZs that extend off-establishment, determining the size of the AEZ using the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers standards for droplet size, and the exemption for immediate family. EPA plans to revise this guidance over time in response to various stakeholders' questions and needs. Suggestions for additional guidance topics and improvements can be submitted to opp_occupational_pesticide_safety@epa.gov. This interim guidance supersedes all of EPA's previous guidance on the AEZ. It will be effective when the final AEZ rule goes into effect, 60 days after the publication date in the Federal Register.

Insecticide Strategy Update

In addition to updating guidance on AEZ, the EPA has also released the revised version of the Insecticide Strategy, the third phase of its significant changes to pesticide labels during the registration and re-registration processes (the rodenticide and herbicide strategies have been finalized).

In July 2024, the draft Insecticide Strategy was released, followed by a 60-day public comment period. The EPA received over 26,000 comments during that time. In response, EPA made several

changes in the final Strategy, supported by scientific analysis, to provide greater flexibility and options for pesticide users and growers, while ensuring that endangered species are protected. Some of the science-based modifications to the draft strategy include:

- Reducing buffer distances across all application methods
- Separating spray drift and runoff exposure estimates, so that the level of mitigation is more consistent with the exposure calculation
- Providing credit for any reduction in the proportion of a treated field for ground applications
- Expanding mitigation menu options to allow credit for a reduction in boom length for aerial applications, artificial screens for airblast and ground applications, skipping the last downwind row, use of axial deflectors, and targeted or precision application equipment
- Increasing mitigation points for higher sand soils
- Developing a process to qualify conservation programs or standards that will give growers credit for the implementation of those programs for runoff and erosion mitigation needs
- Developing a process to qualify external parties that would assess a grower's farms and determine the existing mitigation points that could be achieved
- Adding anionic polyacrylamide (PAM) as a new runoff and erosion mitigation option
- Clarifying language on subsurface applications, including alignment of language on subsurface chemigation with the mitigation menu website
- Updating key data sources and identification of invertebrate species that may occur in agricultural fields
- Adding a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) group for generalist species residing in wetlands to reduce mitigations applied outside wetland habitats

EPA anticipates continued engagement with stakeholders and federal partners to ensure effective implementation of the Strategy. For example, the EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to develop PULA maps intended to focus mitigation efforts where they are needed, thereby greatly reducing pesticide restrictions, especially in situations where mitigation efforts are not needed. EPA will also continue to evaluate the positive effects of adjuvants for reducing spray drift, identify ways to implement and provide credit for offsets, explore the further inclusion of additional conservation programs, and develop digital tools for growers (like an electronic app) to make it easier to identify PULA areas and to capture credits for drift and runoff mitigations that growers are implementing.

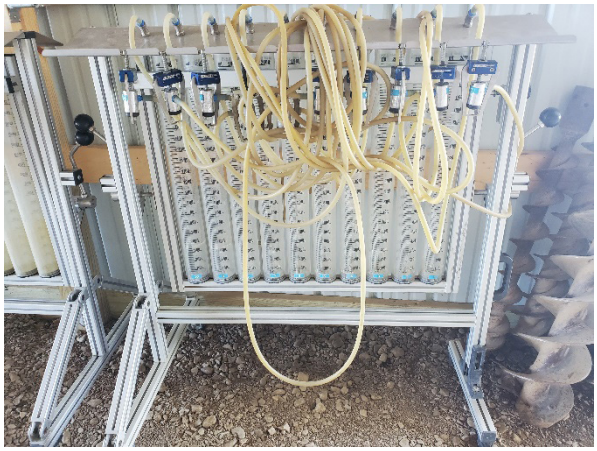
Read the final Insecticide Strategy. The Insecticide Strategy and accompanying support documents, including a Response to Comments document and an updated Ecological Mitigation Support Document describing mitigations and supporting data that inform implementation of both the herbicide and insecticide strategies, will be available on Regulations.gov in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0299.

The LERGP is committed to keeping our growers up-to-date with these changes and their respective impacts on farming in our region. We have invited PDA and DEC compliance specialists to attend Coffee Pot meetings this year to provide guidance and answer concerns or questions about what a compliance check might look like and what documentation to have available to make the process as simple as possible.

Registration for the on-site calibration program is open for spring 2025, and I have only a few remaining openings in my schedule for May. If you have a sprayer that requires manual calibration, I am available for **on-site** appointments to calibrate your equipment. This service is **FREE** for Pennsylvania growers and ALL LERGP members within the Lake Erie region, regardless of which state you are in. If you have a request, I will contact you by Monday to schedule a weather-dependent appointment in the next few weeks.

Register online here

LERGREC Field Day and Penn State Wine and Grape Team Pre-Bloom Workshop Agenda
May 21st, 9:00 AM -2:30 PM
662 Cemetery Rd, North East, PA 16428



Airblast sprayer calibration equipment

Coffee Pot Meeting #3 will double as the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center's annual field day this year. The LERGP will host the Penn State Grape and Enology Team for this full-day event. You can attend informative talks with two Core and two Category PDA credits available, get free lunch from Ramsey's Food Truck, participate in a wine tasting, and enjoy a slice of cake as we celebrate Bryan Hed's retirement!

We encourage pre-registration for this free event to ensure a sufficient headcount for lunch and cake.

You can register online at: Vineyard Field Day and Pre-Bloom Program

Contact information:

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

Office: (814) 825-0900

Email: MFL5873@psu.edu

VINEYARD FIELD DAY

Explore the latest research and best practices for the juice and wine grape industry

Join fellow grape producers and wine industry professionals for this free open house. Learn the latest research on viticulture best practices, pesticide application, and business management. Take a walking tour of Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center facilities. Explore how field decisions influence flavor and quality with an optional wine tasting.

Earn two Core and two category pesticide applicator credits.

TOPICS:

- Statewide viticulture updates
- Grape disease management
- Business management for vineyards
- Grape berry moth and spotted lanternfly update
- Worker protection compliance
- Recordkeeping for weather stations
- Winery updates

Seats Limited, Register Today!
extension.psu.edu/vineyard-field-day
or 877-345-0691

VINEYARD FIELD DAY AND PRE-BLOOM WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 21
8:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Penn State Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center
662 Cemetery Rd.
North East, PA

Lunch provided

Registration deadline: May 20

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

UBR AGR 25-467

PennState Extension

DATE:
August 12, 2025

TIME:
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Quarry Hill Winery & Orchard
8403 Mason Rd #2
Berlin Heights, OH 44814

REGISTRATION COST:
Early Registration: $45 per person until July 1

Late Registration: $60 per person July 2 until August 1

New Sprayer Technolgies and Best Practices: Vineyards and Orchards

This workshop will feature presentations on best spraying practices using conventional sprayers and new sprayer technology, including spray drones and Intelligent sprayer units. The afternoon will provide field demonstrations showing adjustments to improve effectiveness of conventional sprayers as well as sprayer operation and calibration demonstration. This workshop is being developed by OSU, MSU, and PSU Extension Specialists and the USDA-ARS Application Technology Research Unit. Registration is required. Please see the agenda for program details. Lunch and workshop materials are included with registration.

REGISTER AT GO.OSU.EDU/SPRAY2025

PennState Extension

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Michigan State University | Extension

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

NEWA

In response to recent uncertainty about the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) funding status, an article has been drafted to inform NEWA users about the importance of the NRCC and how it is integrated in our NEWA network. This letter was sent out April 25, 2025, and since then the NRCC has received overwhelming positive support enabling them to make significant progress toward assuring funding for 2025.

What Keeps NEWA Running? The Cornell Integrated Pest Management Partnership with Northeast Regional Climate Center

***April 25, 2025**. According to NRCC Director Art DeGaetano, the NOAA contracts that authorize FY 2025 funding for regional climate centers have been signed. However, operating funds for the remainder of FY 2025 (beyond June 17, 2025) are pending at the time of this message. All indications suggest these operating funds will be received but the status of operating funds for FY 2026 and beyond is unknown.*

If you've ever used the **NEWA website** to check when pests might arrive, track crop development, or see local weather data, you've experienced a small part of a larger system. Behind the scenes, powerful tools and trusted weather data work together to help farmers, gardeners, educators and researchers make better decisions. One of the most important partners in making this happen is the **Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC)**.

NEWA is part of **Cornell Integrated Pest Management (Cornell IPM)**, a program within Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that supports safe, science-based strategies for managing pests and crop health. Cornell IPM partners with the NRCC to power the NEWA platform and ensure the tools you rely on stay accurate, reliable and available every day.

How the NRCC Supports You through NEWA

Gathering and Organizing Weather Data

NEWA pulls in hourly weather data from more than 1,000 stations across the Eastern United States. The NRCC collects that information, checks it for accuracy and organizes it into a format that can be used by NEWA tools. This includes measurements like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind and solar radiation.

Linking Real Conditions with Weather Forecasts

The NRCC helps NEWA match real-time weather observations with forecast data from NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This unique connection means users receive both current conditions and smart predictions for what's likely to happen in the days ahead.

Hosting and Maintaining Tools

NEWA's decision support tools don't run on their own. The NRCC hosts these tools on secure servers and keeps them running smoothly 24/7. This includes tools for managing pests, tracking crop stages and monitoring disease risks — resources used by growers every single day.

Quality Control for Better Accuracy

Weather data isn't always perfect. Sensors might fail or report strange values—like saying it's 120

degrees in the middle of the night. The NRCC performs quality checks to catch and fix these issues before the data is used in any NEWA tool.

Building for the Future
As NEWA expands, the NRCC supports the development of new tools and helps improve existing ones. Their technical team works closely with Cornell IPM to build a platform that grows with the needs of the agricultural and environmental communities.

Why This Partnership Matters
Cornell IPM created NEWA to help people make smart, safe decisions using weather-based information. But it's the partnership with the NRCC that makes this vision a reality. Without the NRCC's data systems, technical support and connection to NOAA forecasts, NEWA simply couldn't function the way it does today.
This behind-the-scenes work keeps NEWA strong, reliable and free for the people who depend on it —whether they're managing a commercial farm or growing vegetables in a community garden.

Last updated 4/25/2025 by Dan Olmstead, NEWA Project Lead and Senior Extension Associate at Cornell Integrated Pest Management, which is part of the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
This letter can be found at https://go.cornell-ipm.org/newa-nrcc-partners

2025
LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

May 7, 2025 10:00am	**Militello Farm Supply** **2929 Route 39 Forestville, NY 14062**
May 14, 2025 10:00am	**Knight Vineyards** **18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775**
May 21, 2025 9:00am	**LERGREC Field Day** **662 N. Cemetery Rd, North East, PA 16428**
May 27, 2025 10:00am **Note: This is a Tuesday!**	**Paul Bencal** **2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131**
June 4, 2025 10:00am	**Sprague Farms** **12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081**
June 11, 2025 10:00am	**AgriAmerica** **2465 Route 20 Silver Creek, NY 14136**
June 18, 2025 10:00am	**Arrowhead Winery** **12073 East Main St. North East, PA 16428**
June 25, 2025 10:00am	**Liberty Winery** **2861 US Route 20 Sheridan, NY 14135**
July 2, 2025 10:00am	**Chris & Heather Kaczor** **10468 Lake Shore Rd. Irving, NY 14081**
July 9, 2025 10:00am	**NO COFFEE POT MEETING**
July 16, 2025 10:00am	**Grower Demo Day at CLEREL** **6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769**
July 23, 2025 10:00am	**Schulze Vineyards & Winery** **2090 Coomer Rd. Burt, NY 14028**
July 30, 2025 10:00am	**NO COFFEE POT MEETING**

Questions? 716-792-2800 or kjr45@cornell.edu

Links of Interest:

Cornell Cooperative Extension:
https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension

Efficient Vineyard:
https://www.efficientvineyard.com/

LERGP:
https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/

https://lergp.com/

NYSIPM:
https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management

Veraison to Harvest:
https://cals.cornell.edu/viticulture-enology/research-extension/veraison-harvest

Spotted Lanternfly Pocket Guide:
https://lergp.com/spotted-lanternfly