



Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Links To

In the Vineyard

Mike Colizzi

Well we finally got the rain we were hoping for. Unfortunately for some growers those storms that brought rain also brought hail. Most of the severe storms were in the northern part of the Finger Lakes. Table 1 shows the dramatic difference in rainfall totals from north to south across the region.

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Station	Rain Fall (")
Geneva	1.36
Dresden (FLGP/ FLCC)	1.2
Romulus (Thirsty Owl)	0.36
Branchport	.24
Dundee (Wiemer)	0.25
Barrington	0.15
Lodi (Lamoreaux Landing)	0.34
Watkins Glen (Lakewood)	0.24

All varieties appear to be progressing nicely. Growth in natives and most hybrids is averaging E-L stage 15 (8 leaves separated, shoots elongating rapidly; single flowers in compact groups). Some of the later hybrids and most Vinifera are at stage 11 or 12 (4-5 leaves separated with inflorescence clear). With these recent rains things will defiantly start moving more rapidly and spray intervals will need to be strictly adhered to.

If there is the potential for any kind of yield loss due to the hail, be sure to get in touch with your crop insurance agent right away, so they are aware of what happened and can start to document any damage that may result in a claim

Upcoming Events: more details in Upcoming Events

Vineyard Tailgate Meeting

May 28, 2013

ASEV– Eastern Section Annual Conference & Symposium

July 15–18, 2013

Strong Storms Drop Hail in Some Vineyards

Hans Walter-Peterson

The strong, patchy storms that rolled through the area on Tuesday brought some pretty fierce winds and rain, along with dime to quarter size hail in a few spots, including a few vineyards on the northern end of Seneca Lake.

The damage was not as severe as the hailstorms that hit parts of Canandaigua, Seneca and Cayuga Lakes in the middle of last year, which almost completely stripped some vines bare. Most of the damage I saw yesterday involved tearing or holes in leaves, but at a couple of vineyards on the northeast side of Seneca there was damage to some shoots as well, either in the form of small holes or pits on the shoots, or breakage. Some of the pits may be significant enough to weaken the shoot's ability to maintain a full complement of leaves later in the season, in which case the shoot could collapse because the vascular system was too damaged. They can also make the shoot structurally weaker, making it more vulnerable to breakage later in the season from wind or canopy management activities like shoot positioning. Fortunately, the damage was minimized to some extent because shoots are still relatively small (generally less than 6-8") and haven't filled much of the trellis yet.



Based on my early assessment yesterday and today, the damage shouldn't have a major impact on the vineyards that were affected by the storm. But let's just hope this isn't an early sign of what's to come later this summer.

More information on hail damage and how it can affect a commercial vineyard can be found on the [eViticulture.org](http://www.eViticulture.org) website at <http://www.extension.org/pages/31598/hail-damage-on-grapes>.

Early Leaf Removal

Alice Wise, Long Island Horticulture Research & Extension Center

(excerpted from May 16, 2013 edition of the *Long Island Fruit & Vegetable Update*)

Growers and researchers are on a constant search for alternatives in cluster rot management. Botrycides help, but only with Botrytis. Many types of cluster rot involve organisms other than/in addition to *Botrytis cinerea*. It is frustrating and economically devastating to work hard all season and lose fruit to bunch rots in the weeks prior to harvest. The fundamental issue is cluster compactness, particularly in varieties such as Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc. If clusters can be loosened, cluster rot is usually reduced. Sounds simple but it is not straightforward. The only truly safe and reliable method to reduce cluster compactness is to send in a crew to meticulously clip off random arms of the clusters. On anything more than a small area, this would be ridiculously expensive.

Early Leaf Removal: Many local growers leaf pull certain varieties such as Chardonnay early in the season, even during bloom. The early leafing ensures a less favorable environment for disease as well as better spray coverage at the critical times of bloom and early fruit set. This is especially important for powdery mildew control. There is a body of work emerging that demonstrates the use of early bloom cluster zone leaf removal as a means of reducing cluster compactness. In one Italian study (Am.J.Enol. Vitic. 61:3:372-381, 2010), prebloom vs. fruit set and manual vs. mechanical leafing were evaluated. Yields per shoot were reduced 30-70% by both methods done prebloom. Leafing at fruit set did not impact yields at all. Penn State grape specialist Mark Chien summarized comments from one of the key Italian researchers who gave a presentation in Ontario in 2012. At this meeting, it was reiterated that 6-7 leaves (i.e. more than we would normally pull) are necessary to get a measurable impact. Apparently, effects can vary by variety and may not show up the first year due to some kind of buffering by the vine. Mark went on to say that he saw vineyards in the Piedmont region of Italy that were stripping half the leaves from 12-16" shoots not just to reduce rot but to reduce the need for cluster thinning, an expensive practice. In an informal trial at LIHREC in 2010, we did trace bloom leafing on some Chardonnay panels. Removal of 6 leaves/shoot just about defoliated most shoots and it indeed was a bit shocking to see. However, there was definitely a treatment effect. The clusters were much looser (fewer berries/cluster) so we achieved our goal; however, berries became very sunburned later in the season. This was 2010, heat/drought stress must have played a role. Given the potential benefits, early leafing is worthy of at least a trial area. If time allows, try several different treatments by varying variety, timing and/or number of leaves removed. Downside of this practice – timing is critical (early bloom) and it is expensive to implement, as shoots are very tender at this time. On the other hand, if it eliminates the need to cluster thin later on and reduces cluster rot, it may be worth it.

Upcoming Events

Vineyard Tailgate Meetings

Tuesday, May 28, 2013 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Hicks Farm

5301 Seneca Point Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424 ([click here for map](#))

These are a series of informal meetings held with growers in different locations around the Finger Lakes during the growing season. Meetings are held every other Tuesday afternoon, starting at 5:00 PM and usually ending around 6:30 PM. During the day of each meeting, Mike and I visit a few growers and vineyards near the meeting location to get a sense of what has been happening in the area, and give us some ideas about some potential topics for the meeting later that day. There will also be ample time to discuss any questions or issues that others want to bring up as well. There is no need to register ahead of time – just show up when you can, and leave when you have to.

There will be 0.75 pesticide recertification credits available for each meeting. As with other events where credits are available, you need to be present at the beginning of the meeting to sign the meeting roster – make sure to have your card with you - and stay until the end to receive your certificate.

Here is the schedule for the rest of our Tailgate meetings this season:

Date	Address
June 11	Hosmer Vineyards, 6999 Route 89, Ovid NY 14521
June 25	Dr. Konstantin Frank's Wine Cellars, 9749 Middle Road, Hammondsport NY 14840
July 9	Hermann J. Wiemer Winery, 3962 State Route 14, Dundee NY 14837
July 23	Vine Country Farms (Roy & Gordon Taft), 8531 County Rd 79, Prattsburgh NY 14873
August 6	Atwater Vineyards, 5055 Route 414, Hector NY 14841
August 20	Goose Watch Winery, 5480 Route 89, Romulus NY 14541

ASEV-Eastern Section Annual Conference and Symposium

July 15-18, 2013

Winston-Salem Marriott and Embassy Suites

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Join us for the 38th Annual American Society of Enology and Viticulture Eastern Section Conference and Symposium July 15-18, 2013 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

On Monday, July 15th, there is a **preconference tour** of North Carolina wineries and vineyards. The **conference** will begin with technical/research presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16th -17th and include Tuesday's Oenolympics Grazing Dinner with Wines of the East and Wednesday's Sparkling Wine Reception and Grand Award Banquet.

The conference will be followed by the **Symposium on Advances in Red Wine Production: Berry to Bottle** on Thursday, July 18th. The Symposium, designed for vineyard managers and winemakers, will feature experts in red wine production.

Additional information about lodging and conference events coming soon.

We look forward to seeing you in North Carolina!

2013 GDD Accumulation

We are tracking growing degree day (GDD) and precipitation accumulation again this year, but we will be reporting data from [our weather station located at the teaching & demonstration vineyard in Dresden](#), at Anthony Road Wine Company, instead of using the station at Geneva. We will continue to monitor GDD accumulation at Geneva in order to see how our new location compares with it, and to provide context of where we are with regard to heat accumulation compared to our long-term average.

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
5/8/13	69.6	57.7	0.32	13.7	178.6
5/9/13	69.6	51.2	0.02	10.4	189.0
5/10/13	71.7	54.7	0.27	13.2	202.2
5/11/13	62.6	52.4	0.27	7.5	209.7
5/12/13	52.9	38.2	0.02	0.0	209.7
5/13/13	49.7	36.4	0.00	0.0	209.7
5/14/13	58.7	33.7	0.00	0.0	209.7
May 2013 Total	-	-	0.90"	140.4	-
Season Total	-	-	3.08"	209.7	-

Average GDD on May 22: 210.6


Average Rain on May 22: 5.16"

Additional Information

Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the [NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website](#) today!

Become a fan of the [Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter \(@ccefllg\)](#). Also check out our website, "The Grape Lakes – Viticulture in the Finger Lakes" at <http://flg.cce.cornell.edu>.

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