



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [1] In the Vineyard
- [2] Grape Cane Gallmaker
- [3] Wet Weather & Weed Control
- [4] Jim Hazlitt Obituary
- [5] Grower Trip Survey
- [6] Equipment Rodeo Flyer
- [7] Events
- [8] GDDs

FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

May 2025 - Issue, [005]

Photo Credit: Chris Kitchen (UREL)

IN THE VINEYARD

The variability in weather patterns this spring has made the early part of the growing season a bit, um... interesting? The first half of the month was much warmer and wetter than normal, and the past 10 days have felt more like early April than the end of May for the most part.

After another earlier than usual budbreak, the cooler weather this past week has slowed shoot development to some extent, which got me wondering about what this might do to our bloom dates. Looking back at our phenology records from the Teaching Vineyard over the past several years, our budbreak dates in 2025 are pretty similar to those from 2021 and 2024 (Table 1), and several days earlier than average, except for Marquette.

Table 1. Dates of bud break, Teaching Vineyard - Dresden NY

	2021	2024	2025	Avg Date ('18-24)
Riesling	May 5	May 2	May 1	May 8
Cab Franc	May 2	May 2	April 30	May 7
Cayuga White	May 4	May 3	May 3	May 8
Marquette	April 28	April 22	April 28	April 28

Over the past several years, we have had a pretty wide range of GDD accumulation between budbreak and bloom, and after looking at the relationship between GDD accumulation and number of days between the two stages since 2018, there isn't a clear relationship between the two, (this is just based on 7 years of data, so longer-term information might point to more of a relationship between the two).

All of this is to say that, as of right now, it's hard to say just where we'll end up with bloom this year. In the Lake Erie region, Terry Bates has found that there is a relationship between the amount of heat accumulated by Lake Erie (water temperatures) as of May 1 and the date of Concord bloom in that region. This year, Terry's prediction is that Concords out there would bloom on June 11, about 3 days earlier than normal. Given an earlier than normal budbreak, a slightly earlier than normal bloom here in the Finger Lakes seems a reasonable assumption at this point as well. The average bloom dates at the Teaching Vineyard for the four varieties listed above are June 15 (Riesling), June 14 (Cabernet Franc), June 13 (Cayuga White) and June 6 (Marquette).

The long-term forecast for June in New York from NOAA is for about normal temperatures (i.e., equal chances of above or below normal) and a higher chance of above average rainfall. Oh goodie...

Early crop estimates using clusters/vine

With the shoots relatively short and easy to see, now is a good time to take a first shot at crop estimation this year. By counting the number of clusters on a vine in several locations around the vineyard, you can start to get a sense of whether the crop is looking light, heavy, or close to normal. If you know that there are parts of a vineyard or block with varying yield in most years because of soil type, vine age, pruning levels, or other factors, you can collect separate counts in those areas in order to take the vineyard's variability into account. Be sure to also take into account the number of missing vines in a block when doing the calculations. If your early estimate is about 8 tons/acre, but 5% of your vines are missing, you need to automatically drop your estimate by about half a ton per acre.

IN THE VINEYARD (CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

There are several components that factor into what the final yield of any vineyard will be:

- Number of bearing vines per acre
- Number of clusters per vine
- The number of berries per cluster (i.e., how good fruit set is)
- The final berry weight

At this point in the year, we can get a handle on the first two of these components. Another assessment would need to be done after fruit set is finished to figure out how many berries an “average” cluster would have, and then finally measuring how heavy the berries are. While each of these steps can be important in coming up with a final estimate, a reasonable “quick and dirty” method can be to calculate an average cluster weight at harvest, which essentially would combine the last two components of yield (berries per cluster and berry weight) into a single measure that can be tracked over years. This would mean that an example calculation might look like the following:

- 907 vines/acre (based on 8' x 6' spacing)
- 862 bearing vines/acre (assuming 5% missing)
- 56 clusters/vine (let's assume a VERY uniform vineyard for this)
- Cluster weight at harvest = 0.3 lbs/cluster

The calculation would then be:



$862 \text{ vines/acre} \times 56 \text{ clusters/vine} \times 0.3 \text{ lbs/cluster} = 14,481 \text{ pounds or } 7.2 \text{ tons/acre}$

Of course, there are plenty of things between now and harvest that will impact the accuracy of this estimate (weather, disease, conditions during bloom, vine nutrition, etc.), but the basic notion of having an early estimate of the final yield can offer some guidance when making decisions later in the season about disease management, canopy practices, deploying labor or equipment resources, and more.

If you would like some help getting started with crop estimation this year (or thinking about refining your current method), feel free to reach out and I'd be happy to help.

GETTING TO KNOW THE GRAPE CANE GALLMAKER

Kyle Bekelja - Cornell IPM



One pest that came up at this week's Tailgate Meeting was the Grape Cane Gallmaker. Turns out, aside from some basic info, there's not a whole lot known about this insect. So here's a quick rundown of what we do know, some thoughts on management, and some work that could be done at Cornell IPM to learn more about this insect that inhabits our vineyards in New York.

The Grape Cane Gallmaker (*Ampelogyptis sesostris*) is a beetle in the weevil family. Weevils are just beetles with snout noses—basically, they look like tiny elephants. A shot of the adult and the associated injury is depicted above.

Life cycle:

Adults are the stage responsible for the damage you might notice on canes. Females spend hours picking the perfect spot, then carve out a series of little cavities to lay a single egg. Eggs hatch in 7–10 days, and the larvae feed inside the cane before pupating and emerging as adults. These new adults overwinter and restart the cycle the following spring.

Management:

Interestingly, females prefer to lay eggs on vegetative nodes above the terminal fruit cluster. So unless they're around in high enough numbers to cause breakage or other issues across a significant portion of the vineyard, there's usually no need to intervene. Plus, because they lay eggs in open cavities, those eggs and larvae are easy targets for predators and parasitoids. This beetle's been part of our ecosystem for a long time, and a whole community of natural enemies has evolved to keep its population in check. That natural balance probably explains why you might see a bunch of gallmakers one year, and none the next—they build up, predators catch up, and the cycle repeats.

GETTING TO KNOW THE GRAPE CANE GALLMAKER

Kyle Bekelja - Cornell IPM

If you're concerned, you can prune out and destroy canes with galls by clipping just below the gall. Doing this during the growing season might help knock back the population for the following year. Removing galled canes in the winter is easy to do, but won't affect the insect's population, since the adults will have already emerged. If you feel an insecticide application is warranted, the ideal timing is around 4–6 inch shoot growth. Once the eggs are laid, it's unlikely that an insecticide will be effective, since the larvae are sheltered inside the canes. As always, check your management guidelines to select the product that will work for you at your vineyard.

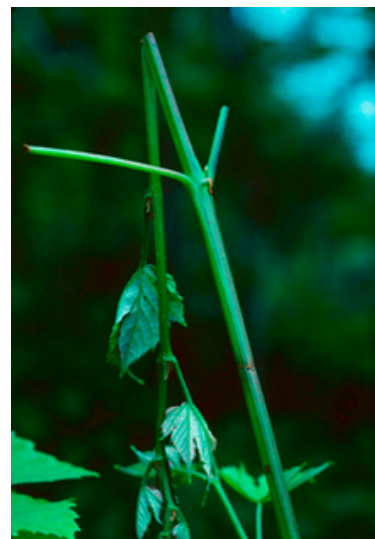
Future work—and how you can help:

I'd love to dig deeper into how much natural enemies contribute to keeping this insect in check. If you're seeing damage or suspect you've got gallmaker activity, PLEASE reach out by email or phone. My contact info is listed here, and I'd love to hear from you.

As a side note, if you see damage like what is depicted on the right, also reach out! This could be caused by the closely-related grape cane girdler—which is a story for another day—and I'd also like to know about it!

Sources

- Brooks, F. (1909). Biology of the Grape Cane Gallmaker in West Virginia. WV Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletin. [West Virginia University](#)
- Riedl, H., Taschenberg, E. F. (1984). The Grape Cane Gall-Maker. Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin. [Cornell University eCommons](#)
- Pfeiffer, D. (1986). Grape Cane Gallmaker. Virginia Fruit Web. [Virginia Tech Entomology](#)



Kyle M. Bekelja

Grape IPM Specialist
IPM House, Cornell AgriTech
607 W North St Geneva, NY
P: 315-787-2205
kmb399@cornell.edu

CornellIPM
New York State Integrated
Pest Management

WET WEATHER AND WEED CONTROL

Lynn Sosnoskie, Cornell Agritech

With the recent wet weather, I just wanted to share some thoughts about how weeds and weed control can be affected. Feel free to adapt the information as needed to any extension efforts.

While rainfall is needed to incorporate soil-applied, pre-emergent herbicides, heavy rainfall can have negative impacts:

- Heavy rainfall can lead to the loss of treated soil, reducing herbicide effectiveness.
- Weed seeds can disperse through running water, leading to new infestations.
- Herbicides may concentrate in low-lying areas, increasing the risk of crop injury in those zones.
- Uneven herbicide distribution results in inconsistent weed control.
- Wet conditions can delay crop emergence and/or stress crops, decreasing their vigor and ability to compete with weeds. It may also make the crop less able to metabolize herbicides, leading to increased injury.

POST herbicide use can also be affected:

- Most POST herbicides require 1–8 hours of dry weather after application; rainfall during this period can reduce herbicide performance.
- Weeds that are stressed by wet conditions may be less responsive to herbicide treatments.
- Weeds that survive initial control efforts may re-root, regrow and become harder to manage.

Cultivation is also affected:

- Saturated soils delay cultivation and reduce its effectiveness (i.e., clumps that protect seedlings), while increasing the risk of soil compaction.



JIM HAZLITT OBITUARY

(reproduced from <https://www.roycechedzoy.com/obituaries/james-hazlitt>)



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of James Roberts Hazlitt who passed away peacefully at the age of 88 at home, surrounded by the love of his family, on May 20, 2025.

Born in Geneva New York, Jim lived a rich and fulfilling life defined by his deep connection to the land and waters of the Finger Lakes region. He was a star basketball player at Watkins Glen High school. He played baseball all through his youth on the Hector baseball team before going on to Cornell, where he was a proud member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. When not throwing horseshoes or playing ball, he loved to sail his Hobie. Sunday sailboat races created great memories, and he always boasted about having the first Hobie Cat on Seneca Lake, #290. He loved to tell the story about the winter of '77 when he, alongside his buddies Guy Schamel and Dave Kendall, crossed Seneca Lake when it froze over..

Jim's passion for farming was evident in every carefully tended row of the family grape farm. His skilled hands pruned countless vines over the decades. After Cornell, he joined his dad and brother on the farm. In the late 70's Jim and Jerry started planting vinifera grapes. He soon became a pioneer in the Finger Lakes Grape industry. His accomplishments were well known, and he was respected by many as a teacher and a mentor. Jim sat on many boards, Farm Bureau, Schuyler County Soil and Water and the New York State Wine Grape Growers to name a few. He was a proud member of the VLH Fire Company, also serving as president.



Above all else, Jim treasured his family. He was a devoted husband to Sue for 39 years, a loving father to Eric and Kristin, stepfather to Andra, Tim, and Allison and a cherished grandfather to 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. His legacy lives on through the family he loved and the traditions he instilled.

Jim is survived by the love of his life Sue Hazlitt, son Eric (Tina) Hazlitt, Kristin Hazlitt, Andra (Marijn) Dekkers, Timothy (Wendy) Moffett, Allison (John) Santos. He was preceded in death by his father James Hazlitt, mother Elisabeth Hazlitt, brother Jerome Hazlitt, sister-in law Elaine Hazlitt.

A celebration of Jims's life will be held on June 8, at Hector Wine Company from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Hector Food Pantry or Hector Fire Department.

Jim's wisdom, gentle humor, and steadfast presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his spirit will continue to sail freely over the vineyards and waters he so dearly loved

WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT? HELP SHAPE A GROWER LEARNING TRIP

Sam Filler, Executive Director – NY Wine & Grape Foundation

.....

As we look ahead to winter and early spring, the New York Wine & Grape Foundation (NYWGF) is exploring an exciting opportunity: an educational tour for New York grape growers to visit a leading winegrowing region in the U.S. or abroad.

The goal of this trip?

To learn from other successful grape-growing regions, build connections, and bring valuable insights back to our vineyards here in New York.

We're still in the early stages, and we want your help.

We'd love to know if you're interested in participating, and which regions you think would offer the most meaningful experience. Whether you're curious about new varietals, vineyard management techniques, sustainability practices, or just want to grow your network, this could be an incredible opportunity.

[Please take our short survey here to share your interest and ideas!](#)

This opportunity is open to all New York grape growers, and we hope to begin planning as soon as possible based on your feedback.

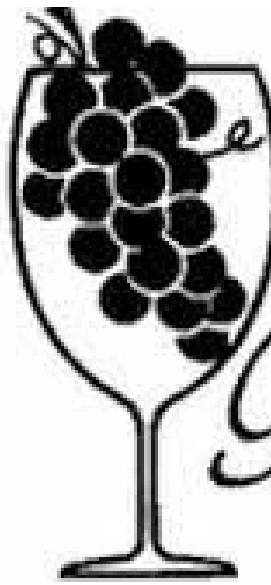
Thank you for helping us explore this potential program and for everything you do to strengthen New York's grape and wine community.



Wednesday,
August 13, 2025
11am - 4pm



Wagner Vineyards,
9322 Route 414,
Lodi, NY



New York State

*Wine Grape
Growers*

EQUIPMENT RODEO 2025



**LARGEST
VINEYARD
EQUIPMENT
SHOW ON THE
EAST COAST**



Wagner Vineyards



Over 20 vineyard
equipment
dealers



Numerous
harvesters and
sprayers on
display

FREE ADMISSION

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.

Tailgate Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Vine Country Farms

8531 County Route 74, Prattsburg NY

Our next Tailgate Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 10 at Vine Country Farms in Prattsburg. These meetings are a time for growers and the FLGP staff to discuss what's going on in the vineyards, ask questions, and learn from each other. There is no set agenda for the most part, so bring questions, observations, thoughts, etc. and let's talk about them. Bring a chair if you want to. Each meeting has been approved for 1.5 pesticide recertification credits by DEC.

Here is the remaining schedule for Tailgate Meetings this year:

- June 24 - Sheldrake Point Winery, 7448 County Road 153, Ovid NY 14521
- July 8 - Boom Point Vineyards, 7483 Salmon Creek Rd., Williamson NY 14589
- August 5 - Anthony Road Wine Company, 1020 Anthony Rd., Penn Yan NY 14527
- August 19 - 680 Cellars, 3050 Swick Rd., Ovid NY 14521



Ryan Young (UREL)

Equipment Rodeo 2025

Wednesday, August 13 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Wagner Vineyards

9322 Route 414, Lodi NY

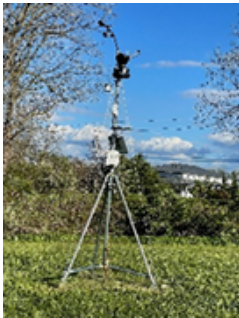
Sponsored by the NY State Wine Grape Growers, the Equipment Rodeo is the largest vineyard equipment show on the East Coast. The event will feature equipment from more than 20 dealers, including numerous harvesters and sprayers. Mark your calendars now!

2025 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
5/21/25	52.7	43.0	0.57	0.0	285.7
5/22/25	54.3	46.8	0.26	0.5	286.3
5/23/25	54.1	48.2	0.14	1.2	287.4
5/24/25	57.0	47.8	0.11	2.4	289.8
5/25/25	61.9	46.6	0.11	4.3	294.1
5/26/25	69.8	42.8	0.00	6.3	300.4
5/27/25	74.1	47.8	0.00	11.0	311.3
Weekly Total			1.19"	25.6	
Season Total			8.88"	311.3	

GDDs as of May 27, 2024: 469.2

Rainfall as of May 27, 2024: 7.19"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2025 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	86.3	63.9	+5
May	181.9	257.2	0
June		484.3	
July		647.2	
August		596.8	
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	268.2	2522.9	

1 Accumulated GDDs for each month.
2 The long-term average (1973-2024) 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.

2025 GDD & Precipitation

Precipitation

	2025 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ⁵	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	2.81"	2.86"	-0.05"
May	4.26"	3.04"	
June		3.58"	
July		3.48"	
August		3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	7.07"	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)



FINGER LAKES GRAPE PROGRAM

RESEARCH • RELATIONSHIPS • RELEVANCE

FOLLOW FLGP:



@CCEFLGP



[FINGER LAKES GRAPE
PROGRAM](#)



@CCEFLGP

BLOG

[BLOGS.CORNELL.EDU/FLXGRAPES/](https://blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes/)

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

Hans Walter-Peterson
Team Leader

Ellen Coyne
Project Field Technician

Brittany Griffin
Team Coordinator

Cornell is an equal opportunity employer. For more information click [here](#). CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service. This program is solely intended to educate consumers about their choices. Contact CCE if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.