



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- [1] In the Vineyard
- [2] Dr. Gold goes to Washington
- [3] Endangered Species Act & Pesticides
- [4] Immigration Enforcement Webinar
- [5] Events
- [6] GDDs

# FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

June 2026 - Issue, [006]

*Photo Credit: Chris Kitchen (UREL)*

# IN THE VINEYARD



Wild grapes have been reaching bloom in the past couple of days, which means that bloom in our cultivated varieties is not far behind. We typically reach wild grape bloom at the end of May in warmer portions of the Finger Lakes, so we're hitting this stage several days later than we have in recent years. Given the weather until the last couple of days, this is not a surprising development. Bloom in our earliest varieties like Marquette, Baco, and Geneva Red generally comes about 7-10 days after wild grapes, but the arrival of this warmer weather may speed that up a bit. Over the past 10 years, the average bloom date for Marquette, the earliest variety at the Teaching Vineyard, is June 8, but it has been as late as June 18.

How early or late bloom happens generally has an influence on when we reach veraison and the beginning of the ripening period. The earlier that ripening begins, the more days in the warmer and longer daylength of August and September that the vines get and therefore can ripen a crop earlier, more of it, and/or potentially improved quality. In Concord, the general rule of thumb is that for every 3 days that bloom is earlier than average, the vines will be able to ripen an additional ton/acre of grapes to maturity (i.e., 16 Brix).

We don't have similar data for other varieties, but the general concept can still probably apply. If bloom is significantly delayed this season, it likely means that we will reach that ripening window later, and it will be a bit harder to fully ripen a full crop of grapes. There's lots of season left and things can certainly change, but at this point we're running a bit behind schedule.

## IPM

### Grape Berry Moth

The arrival of wild grape bloom means that the grape berry moth (GBM) model gets up and running. The model can be found on the NEWA website at <https://newa.cornell.edu/grape-berry-moth>. The model will have a default day based on growing degree days in past years, but that can be changed based on actual observation at the site. At our vineyard in Dresden, the model's default date was May 30, but we know that is earlier than the actual date, which is closer to June 3 or 4, so we will use that date going forward. The model can give a heads-up of when to start scouting for GBM and an estimate of the best timing to apply an insecticide spray, if necessary.



# IN THE VINEYARD (CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

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Eutypa – from Bryan Hed, Penn State University

This time of year is a good time to be scouting for the effects of Eutypa, when the stunted, yellow/chlorotic shoots of canes, branches, and arms affected by Eutypa, are most easily seen. Eventually, Eutypa affected branches will die and will need to be removed. Damage from some herbicides can appear similar on shoots and leaves, but Eutypa often affects only some parts of a vine... not the whole vine.

Vines affected by Botryosphaeria canker can show similar symptoms but are caused by a different group of fungal wood pathogens. You may not have time to prune these infected vine parts out at this busy time but flagging these shoots now will enable you to come back later and do the necessary pruning work to remove affected wood. Prune off at least 6" back from the infected (dead or discolored) wood into healthy wood.

Once removed, infected wood should not be left in the vineyard where the pathogen within can continue to release more spores and spread. Rather, it should be removed from the vineyard and burned.



Source:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/diseases/eutypa\\_dieback](https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/diseases/eutypa_dieback)

# DR. GOLD GOES TO WASHINGTON

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Last week, Katie Gold and Phil Brannen attended a meeting with EPA staff regarding the proposed ban of mancozeb use in grapes. Katie said the meeting went very well, stating that “[o]verall, I anticipate that there will still be reductions to mancozeb allowance in grapevine as well as mitigation requirements that growers will not be thrilled about, but I am optimistic that the full ban will be rolled back.” Katie was kind enough to provide the following summary for us to share with the industry.



I am writing to share fresh thoughts on today’s very productive meeting with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs in Washington to discuss the Mancozeb PID released last August. Please feel free to pass this along to your stakeholders if you think they would be interested in hearing these thoughts. The presentation included a short introduction to the grape diseases that plague the eastern industry, our typical IPM recommendations, and importantly, the Mancozeb survey data.

On Thursday May 29, 2025, my colleague Dr. Phil Brannen (Fruit Pathologist, UGA) and I were graciously hosted by scientists and economists in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs for a 90 minute meeting to discuss the viticultural habits of Eastern grape growers. Also in attendance today were two individuals from the USDA Pesticide office. In total, we had 11 people in attendance (5 in person and 6 virtual ones) from either the EPA or the USDA.

The meeting was very positive, productive, and engaging. The EPA and USDA scientists were so attentive, interested, and grateful to learn about our industry. Multiple people who attended expressed gratitude throughout the presentation saying the information was exactly what they needed to make informed decisions regarding mitigation. Key quote from one of the BEAD analysts: “when we first realized the hazard was going to be 45 days, we lost hope that mitigation could be made, but after today, well it seems like something could be workable after all.”

I cannot emphasize more strongly how important the survey data was for today’s conversation. To all the growers who filled out the Cornell grape pathology survey, THANK YOU! [For a write up on the data, please see my write up in Appellation Cornell.](#) One of the EPA scientists said (paraphrasing) that so often the commentary they receive is non-quantitative, which isn’t actionable for them, but the survey information was so helpful in aiding them to understand viticultural habits, how they are temporally distributed and relative to grape species (vinifera, hybrid, American, muscadine), production target (wine, juice, etc.), trellis style, etc., and how mitigation could actually be feasible if these factors are taken into account.

One thing we learned today was that one of the greatest drivers of risk was from irrigation, and that if a vineyard does not have irrigation, then the hazard goes down from 45 days to 15 days. They very much appreciated hearing that irrigation is uncommon in the Eastern industry (outside of vineyard establishment) and how common the use of closed cab tractors are, since using a closed cab tractor brings hazard risk for mechanized actions down to 0 (e.g. mechanized leaf pulling done in a closed cab tractor yields 0 worker hazard). This, coupled with the high rate of mechanization in the eastern industry, makes me very hopeful for acceptable mitigation moving forward



# DR. GOLD GOES TO WASHINGTON

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The EPA and USDA scientists are good people trying to do a hard job with limited information. They took notes throughout, asked detailed questions, and I really got the feeling that they were “on our side,” looking to enact an equitable outcome that protects human health while ensuring economic viability. Overall, I anticipate that there will still be reductions to mancozeb allowance in grapevine as well as mitigation requirements that growers will not be thrilled about, but I am optimistic that the full ban will be rolled back. Additionally, one scientist shared that the time horizon for adaption will likely be multiple years, as there is currently a large study being undertaken about residue in a different crop that they are waiting to complete before issuing an Interim Decision. This makes me hopeful that we will have time to aid our growers in preparing for the transition away from heavy mancozeb use.

## THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND PESTICIDES – WHAT TO EXPECT

Michael Helms, Pesticide Safety Education Program Leader  
Cornell Integrated Pest Management

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The Endangered Species Act, or ESA, was signed into law in 1973. It was adopted to protect fish, wildlife, and plant species that are threatened or endangered as well as their critical habitats. The ESA requires federal agencies to make sure any action they take, authorize, fund, or carry out won't affect a listed species or their critical habitat.

During the pesticide registration process, the EPA is required under the ESA to evaluate a pesticide's impact on these listed species or their habitats. The evaluations are done in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The consultations help identify measures to safeguard protected species or their habitats when pesticides are used.

EPA has faced numerous lawsuits over the years for failing to comply with the ESA. In response, the EPA has developed strategies to address identified concerns with pesticide use and endangered species. Currently, strategies have been adopted for herbicides, insecticides (including miticides and insect growth regulators), and rodenticides. The strategies include adding new use requirements to pesticide labels when appropriate. Labels may now require:

- More specific spray drift mitigation. While spray drift requirements have been on pesticide labels for many years, it may now be more detailed than before. Labels will list familiar drift management measures but may require use of ecological spray drift buffers. Ecological spray drift buffers are specific buffers based on the application equipment used, equipment set up (such as boom height above the target), and spray droplet size used. However, labels may direct the applicator to the EPA's [Mitigation Menu](#) website for ways to reduce these buffers.

# THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND PESTICIDES – WHAT TO EXPECT

Michael Helms, Pesticide Safety Education Program Leader  
Cornell Integrated Pest Management

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- Runoff/erosion mitigation. Mandatory runoff/erosion mitigation needs may be on the label. This will require a certain number of “points” be achieved for the field or crop being treated. Applicators will need to visit the EPA’s Mitigation Menu website to determine the point values for mitigations already in place or to identify other mitigations to achieve the required point value. Certain existing field conditions or pesticide application factors (like application equipment used or reduced rates) may even eliminate the need to meet runoff/erosion mitigation points. The EPA’s Mitigation Menu provides a calculator and worksheets to help applicators determine point values.
- Accessing Bulletins Live! Two. Bulletins Live! Two, also referred to as BLT, is an EPA website the label will direct pesticide applicators to check and obtain any Endangered Species Protection Bulletins for the fields they plan to treat. These bulletins are for specific geographic locations, called pesticide use limitation areas, where additional pesticide use requirements are needed to protect listed species. Additional use requirements could include such things as expanded buffer zones, additional runoff/erosion mitigation needs, or achieving rate-specific mitigation points. Use requirements in an Endangered Species Protection Bulletin may be in place of or in addition to other label requirements.

Currently, few labels include these new requirements. However, this will change as the EPA registers new products and reregisters existing products. It will take time for labels to be updated. Only when the new requirements appear on the label do they need to be followed. Be sure to read and follow the label for the product you’re using.

# RECORDING AVAILABLE: PLANNING FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AT YOUR FARM VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR

Andrew Holden, Business Management Specialist - Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

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On May 20, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development had the largest audience for the Virtual Office Hour since its inception in 2024. The topic was Planning for Immigration Enforcement at Your Farm. Ramped-up immigration enforcement is spreading fear and resulting in family and workforce disruptions across the farm landscape. This webinar primarily focused on making a plan for what to do in case of an immigration enforcement action at your farm.

The Virtual Office Hour is hosted by Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development director, Richard Stup. Guest panelists included:

- Mary Bess Lewis, Cornell Ag Workforce Development
- Jason Stowel, Immigrant Community Liaison – The North Country, NYS DOS
- Tonya Van Slyke, NEDPA
- Varvara Chinenova, NY Immigration Coalition

[The webinar recording can be viewed here](#)

Resources from the webinar:

📄 [Planning for Immigration Enforcement at Your Farm](#)

📄 [Introduction to Family Preparedness](#)

📄 [Introduction to the NYS Office for New Americans](#)

📄 [DOCE Detention Wage Services](#)

🌐 [DHS Protected Areas FAQs](#)

🌐 [Know Your Rights, Know Your Resources](#)

🌐 [Community Resources for Immigrant NYers](#)

Email to request a 'Know Your Rights' presentation: [kyr@nyic.org](mailto:kyr@nyic.org)



# 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
5/28/25	63.0	48.9	0.77	6.0	317.3
5/29/25	68.9	54.1	0.42	11.5	328.8
5/30/25	75.9	55.0	0.00	15.5	344.2
5/31/25	60.8	48.2	0.02	4.5	348.7
6/1/25	59.5	46.9	0.04	3.2	351.9
6/2/25	72.9	46.6	0.00	9.8	361.7
6/3/25	82.2	49.3	0.00	15.8	377.4
Weekly Total			1.25"	25.6	
Season Total			10.13"	377.4	

GDDs as of June 3, 2024: 559.4

Rainfall as of June 3, 2024: 7.78"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

## Growing Degree Days

	2025 GDD <sup>1</sup>	Long-term Avg GDD <sup>2</sup>	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) <sup>3</sup>
April	86.3	63.9	+5
May	216.9	257.2	-2
June	23.0	484.3	-3
July		647.2	
August		596.8	
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	326.2	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 <sup>4</sup>	Long-term Avg Rain <sup>5</sup>	Monthly deviation from avg <sup>6</sup>
April	2.81"	2.86"	-0.05"
May	5.23"	3.04"	2.19"
June	0.03"	3.58"	
July		3.48"	
August		3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	8.07"	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)





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## 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/](https://flgclassifieds.cce.cornell.edu/)

## TEAM

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