Photo Credit-
Kim Knappenberger

LERGP Crop Update
June 12, 2025

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

PennState Extension

In this copy:

Next Week's coffee pot meeting is on **Wednesday, June 18** at 10:00am at Arrowhead Winery- 12073 E Main St, North East, PA 16428

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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.

Business Management

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

Extension and Research Station Funding Restored in latest Appropriations Budget

Good news out of Washington as yesterday Full Committee Markups were held for the 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill. Going into the markups the Subcommittee rejected the President's proposed cuts and program eliminations to agriculture research and extension programs.

The Hatch Act, which funds research stations, funding was proposed at level funding ($265 million, Administration proposed 0) and Smith Lever 3(b&c), which funds Extension was also proposed at level funding ($325 million, Administration proposed $175,000).

At the Coffee Pot Meeting yesterday, that NY Farm Bureau Regional Manager, Tim Bigham, shared that over 500 statewide members signed their letter last week urging funding not to be cut for research and extension. We thank any growers who expressed support and appreciate the continued support of extension and research here in the Lake Erie Region and across the state.

I will continue to monitor this process and make sure any major changes are reported. Once approved in committee, the bills are then brought to the House and Senate floors for debate and once passed it will need to be signed into law. So, there is still a lot that needs to happen before the funding is passed, but this is a lot better position to be in than last week and we are hopeful that funding levels will remain at the newly proposed amounts.

Immigration Raids Targeting Ag Businesses Increase
By: Ryan Hanrahan
Source: https://farmpolicynews.illinois.edu/2025/06/immigration-raids-targeting-ag-businesses-increase/

Progressive Farmer's Chris Clayton reported that "**Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are starting to more aggressively target agriculture and food processing facilities around the country as reports over the past week from (Nebraska), New Mexico and California also highlight.**"
"In Omaha, ICE agents hit a small meat processor, Glenn Valley Foods, rounding up as many as 100 workers suspected of being in the country illegally and potentially providing fake documents to gain employment," Clayton reported. "ICE stated it was the largest enforcement operation in Nebraska since President Donald Trump took office. Nebraska is considered the country's largest red-meat processing state with packing plants in towns and cities across the state, including multiple major plants in southeast Omaha where the raid occurred. Nearly every one of those areas also has a larger Latino population who make up the bulk of the workforce at these facilities."

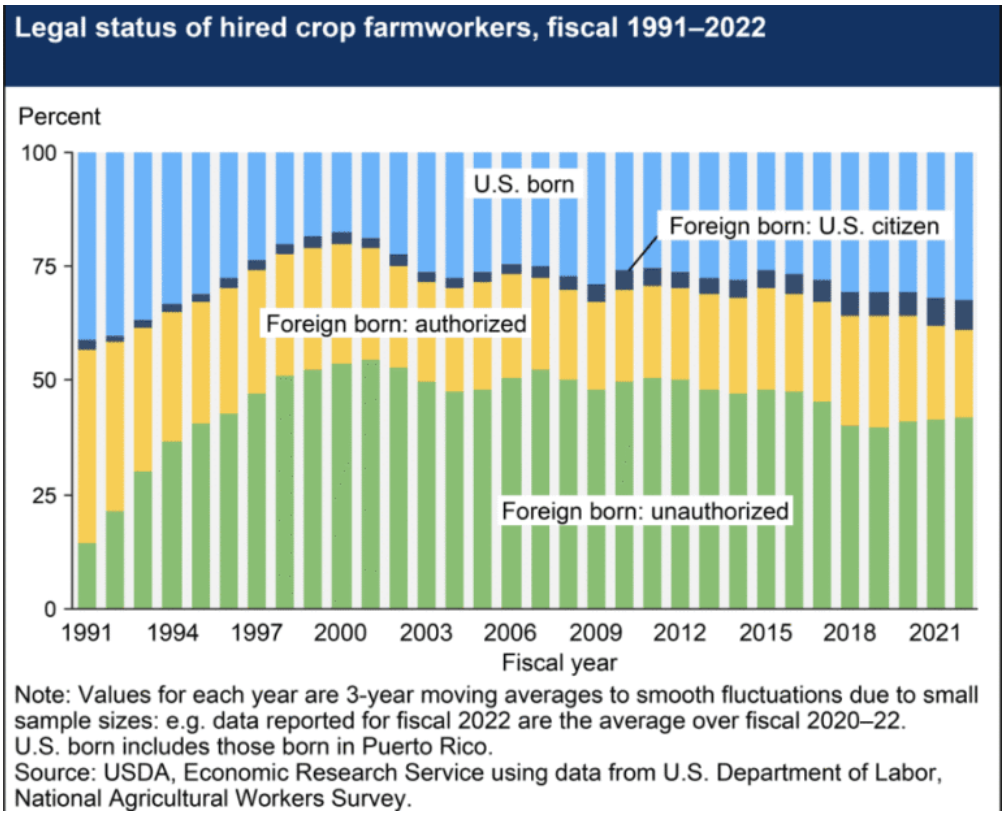
Courtesy of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
"Glenn Valley Foods processes and makes thinly sliced minute steaks, Gary's QuickSteak, at its facility," Clayton reported. "Gary Rohwer, owner and CEO of the company, told an Omaha TV station that federal investigators told him 97 employees had false identification. Rohwer told the

TV station his company uses the federal E-Verify program."
"The ICE raids on agriculture reflect the demands of President Donald Trump's aide Stephen Miller who met with ICE leaders in late May demanding the agency increase its volume of daily arrests, the Wall Street Journal reported," Clayton reported. "Agriculture is an industry ripe for aggressive actions given a high volume of undocumented workers in farming and in food processing facilities, going back decades. Agriculture groups have pressed for years for Congress to pass legislation that would legalize the workforce, but those bills have failed to pass."

Roughly 40% of US Farmworkers Are Unauthorized to Work

The USDA's Economic Research Service reported in January that "the share of hired crop farmworkers who were not legally authorized to work in the United States grew from roughly 14 percent in 1989–91 to almost 55 percent in 1999–2001; in recent years it has declined to about 40 percent," the ERS reported. "In 2020–22, 32 percent of crop farmworkers were U.S. born, 7 percent were immigrants who had obtained U.S. citizenship, 19 percent were other authorized immigrants (primarily permanent residents or green-card holders), and the remaining 42 percent held no work authorization."

"The share of workers who are U.S. born is highest in the Midwest, while the share who are unauthorized is highest in California," the ERS reported.



Courtesy of the USDA ERS.

"Legal immigration status is difficult to measure: not many surveys ask the question, and unauthorized respondents may be reluctant to answer truthfully if asked," the ERS reported. "The U.S. Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) provides data on farmworkers' legal immigration status. NAWS data, believed to be of high quality, is gathered by trained and trusted enumerators who conduct face-to-face interviews with workers at their job sites and with their employers' permission."

At the House Agriculture Committee hearing yesterday, Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins was asked about ICE targeting agriculture business and the ag labor industry more broadly. She told the committee that while President Donald Trump's first commitment is to ensuring that all laws are followed, he also understands the challenges of finding labor and that his cabinet is "doing everything we can to make sure that these farmers and ranchers have the labor that they need."

Agriculture-Related Raids Take Place in California and New Mexico, too
KOAT Action News' Aliyah Chavez reported that "eleven people were arrested during an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at Outlook Dairy Farms near Lovington, (New Mexico) last week, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Federal officials said nine of those arrested, while ICE was executing a search warrant, were previously banned from the United States."

In addition, Clayton wrote that "the Los Angeles Times reported, 'Alarm spread through California agricultural centers Tuesday as panicked workers reported that federal immigration authorities — who had largely refrained from major enforcement action in farming communities in the first months of the Trump administration — were showing up at farm fields and packinghouses from the Central Coast to the San Joaquin Valley.'"

"ICE agents raided produce farms in Ventura County, California. The CEO of the Ventura County Farm Bureau cited that immigration agents visited five produce-packing facilities and farms in the area. Farms were also raided in Tulare County where farm workers had been picking blueberries, the LA Times reported," Clayton reported. "Dozens of immigrant workers were detained. Video posted by a California TV station showed workers fleeing and ICE agents arresting them in the field."

What I'm Reading:

- Deere Must Face FTC Right-to-Repair Lawsuit, Judge Rules – FarmDoc

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

Today is June 12, 2025, and the warmer weather has finally arrived. However, along with this season there has been plenty of moisture and strong winds which makes the timing of pre-bloom spray applications difficult. Speaking of Bloom, it is critical for your crop estimation efforts that you record the bloom date in your individual blocks. This will allow you to use the Crop Estimation Calculator that Dr. Terry Bates constructed and I wrote about in last week's Crop Update (Click Here to Access the Crop Estimation Calculator). I was in vineyards around the belt yesterday, and some are at bloom, where 50% of the clusters are at 50% flowers, and many others are not even close. The variability is high, not only from the lake to the escarpment, but within one grower's blocks. Knowing your bloom date is very important to crop estimation, which helps take out the guess work for accurate predictions.

In our latest episode of, ***Between the Vines***, we explored the new fertilizer calculators available on EfficientVineyard.com, these are tools that aim to revolutionize vineyard nutrient management. Rather than relying on outdated rules of thumb or isolated data points, these calculators integrate three critical components of nutrition planning: soil nutrient supply, plant uptake capacity, and crop demand. It's an integrated tool that helps growers match fertilizer applications with the actual needs of their vineyard, avoiding both under- and over-fertilization. See Figures 1 and 2 below for a screenshot of what the calculator tools look like or Click here to access the Concord Nitrogen Calculator and Click here to access the Concord Potassium Calculator.

The calculators start with the basics, or soil test results. These include organic matter percentage, pH and buffer pH, and concentrations of calcium, magnesium, and potassium. From there, it factors in vine uptake data, such as nitrogen levels in petiole or leaf tissue samples (taken at bloom or veraison), and crop demand, based on yield estimates or vine size. The calculator allows growers to input their own fertilizer product options and current pricing, giving them customized recommendations that are not only agronomically sound but economically efficient.

One of the strengths of the tools is its ability to distinguish between maintenance and corrective fertilizer applications. Maintenance applications replace the nutrients removed through harvest or growth, while corrective applications address deficiencies identified through tissue testing. For example, the nitrogen calculator uses the organic matter content to estimate natural soil N contributions (approximately 20 lbs N per 1% organic matter), then adjusts recommendations based on tissue tests and observations of vine size or productivity. The potassium calculator, meanwhile, takes a deeper dive into soil cation balance, something especially relevant in high-yielding vineyards where magnesium can suppress potassium uptake. By prioritizing potassium when magnesium-to-potassium ratios are unbalanced, the tool helps prevent nutrient lockout and ensures fruit quality.

For growers who have adopted precision viticulture practices, this tool offers even greater value. Data from yield monitors, soil sampling grids, or vineyard sensors can be imported into the MyEV tool to generate zone-specific fertilizer recommendations. This functionality supports variable-rate applications, allowing growers to fine-tune nutrient management at a sub-block scale and optimize fertilizer use across spatially diverse vineyards.

The calculator also provides real-time comparisons of fertilizer products, showing not only the recommended application rates (in pounds per acre of actual nutrient), but also the corresponding amounts of commercial fertilizer (e.g., urea or ammonium nitrate) and associated costs. This makes it easy for growers to compare products and make informed decisions based on both performance and budget. By outputting results in familiar units and using customizable cost inputs, the calculator bridges the gap between agronomic science and practical farming.

Ultimately, this tool represents a major step forward in vineyard nutrition planning. It takes the guesswork out of fertilizer decisions by synthesizing multiple layers of data into a single, user-friendly interface. Whether you're managing Concord or vinifera, traditional or precision blocks, the calculator helps you apply the right nutrients, in the right amounts, at the right time.

If you haven't yet explored this resource, we encourage you to visit Efficient Vineyard Vit Blog and navigate to where the nitrogen and potassium calculators are currently hosted. Gather your soil test results, yield records, tissue data (if available), and fertilizer cost information, and start using the tool to generate both maintenance and corrective nutrient recommendations. Growers with precision data can upload zone-level inputs to create detailed, spatially variable prescriptions. And if you're using the calculator in the field, we want to hear from you; your feedback will help refine the tool further for a broader range of varieties, rootstocks, and growing conditions.

This fertilizer calculator blends decades of vineyard nutrition knowledge with modern data tools to support more sustainable, profitable, and precise nutrient management. It's a practical example of how technology can turn complexity into clarity, and ultimately, into improved production and better juice and wine.

Nitrogen Fertilizer Calculator for Concord Vineyards (Beta)
April 9, 2025
Written By Terry Bates

I am looking for feedback on this new Nitrogen fertilizer calculator for Concord vineyards. Based on input from soil tests, field observations, and tissue tests, it will calculate N rates for vineyard maintenance and corrective actions. Calculations are based on organic matter decomposition rates for Lake Erie soils, nutrient needs from both vine growth and crop yield, fertilizer uptake efficiency studies, and tissue values collected from the Hi-Res Vineyard Nutrition Project.

Enter your own information from soil and tissue tests by adjusting the sliders and see if the calculator gives you a reasonable response for your vineyard management. If not, let me know where you think the calculator is falling short.

Disclaimer: These calculators were built based on Lake Erie Concord production for juice and wine production where Concord is predominantly grown on its own roots and not irrigated.

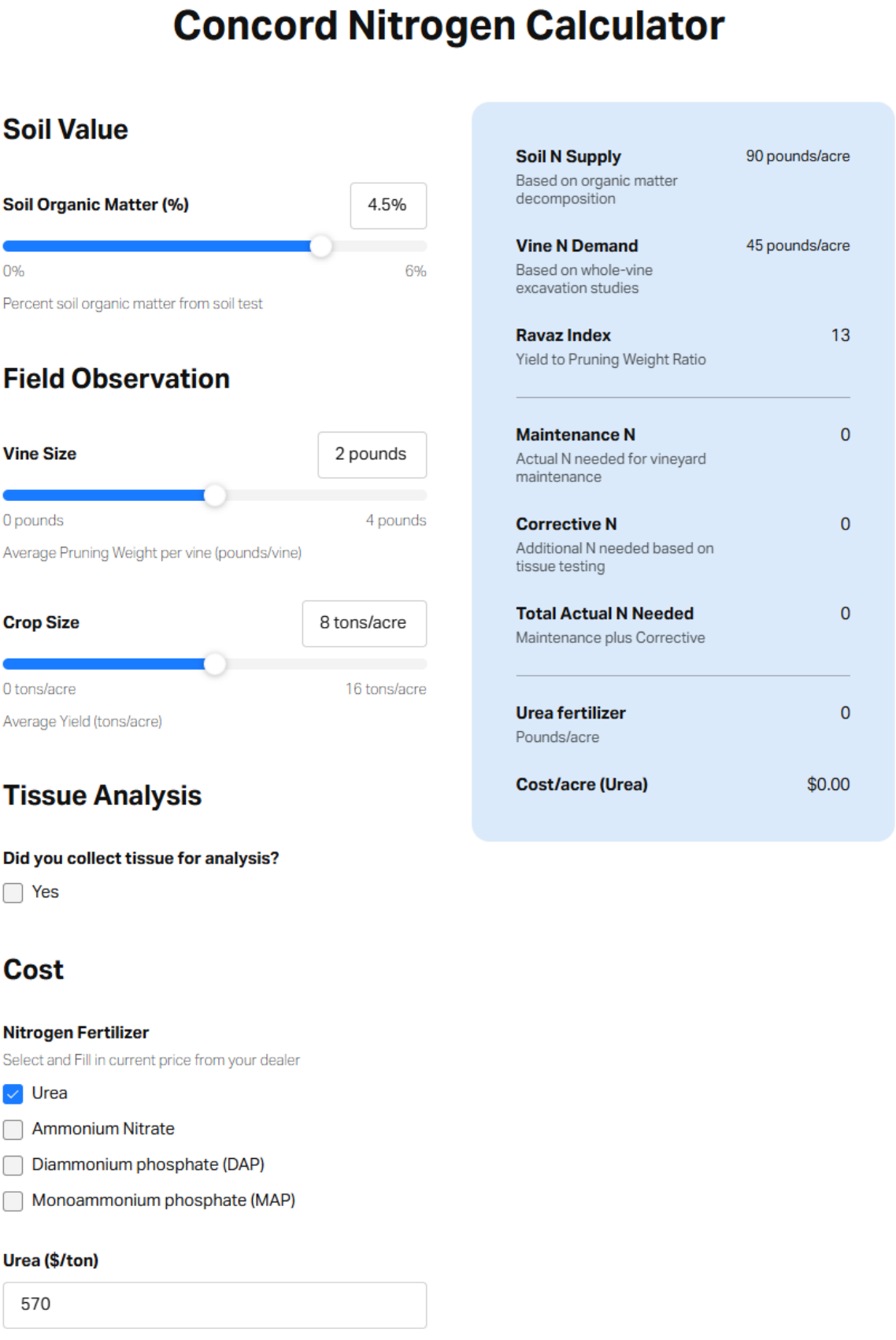


Figure 1. Screenshot of the Concord Nitrogen Fertilizer Calculator on efficientvineyard.com vit blog site

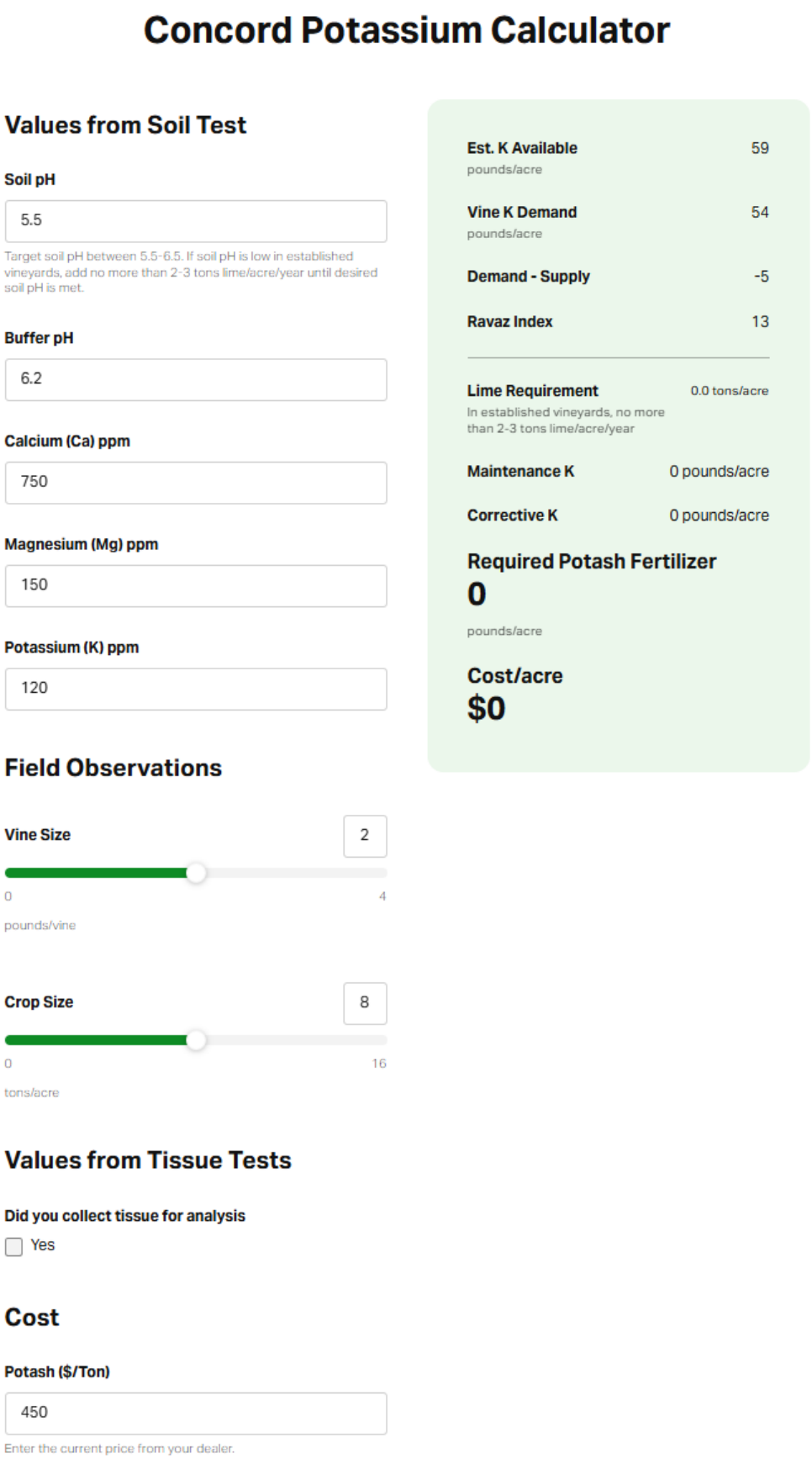
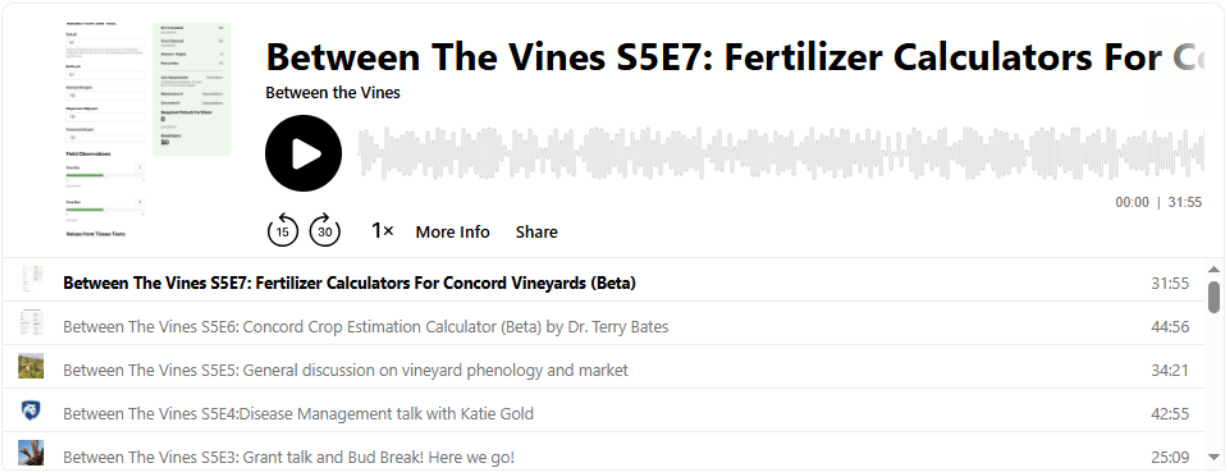


Figure 2. Screenshot of the Concord Potassium Fertilizer Calculator on efficientvineyard.com vit blog site

Between the Vines Podcasts

For those of you looking for other ways to hear receive content pertinent to our grape growing region, please check out our *Between the Vines* podcasts. You can download it from any of the podcast hosting sites or go to lergp.com and scroll the bottom of the page to access our latest episodes.



Concord Crop Estimation Guide

Click Here for More Information about Crop Estimation

Collecting a little bit of information from the vineyard during the growing season can greatly improve your prediction of final yields with better accuracy than the eyeball method. Know your Bloom Date, Space Between Vines, and Space Between Rows. Calculate how many vines equate to 1/100th of an acre and know how many Days After Bloom (DAB) samples were collected.

Example:

- **Row and Vine Spacing.** If 9' between rows the table provides the 1/100th acre calculation for you which equals **48.4 feet**.
- How many vines are in **48.4** feet if vines are spaced **8** feet apart? **48.4/8=6.05 vines (round down to 6)**
- **Use Spatial Map to direct Sample locations to capture vineyard variation.**
- **Clean Pick Fruit from Calculated 1/100th Acre (In this example it equals 6 vines form 48.4/8).** Clean pick fruit from 2 vines from high vigor zone, 2 vines from medium vigor, and 2 vines from low vigor.
- **Total Weight of lbs of Fruit Collected.** Weigh each sample taken above, be sure to subtract the weight of the bucket or bin used from total weight. Sum weights from all 6 samples to get total weight.
- **Consult Table to Find Corresponding Crop Estimation**
  Mechanical Crop Estimation

Cut a length of rope to guide your sampling lengths, lay it down along the row, clean pick with the harvester the length of the rope, weigh lbs of fruit collected. Walk behind afterwards to assess how many grapes are still on the vine/or that are on the ground.

Using the chart:

Once you have the sample, the chart does the rest of the work for you. Follow the corresponding DAB down and the respective weight over and you have the estimated tons/acre at harvest. For example, let's say it's July 25th or 40 DAB (bloom on June 15th) and the fruit weighs 100 pounds. Crop estimated 8.3 ton/acre potential crop.

Click here for a pdf of this information.

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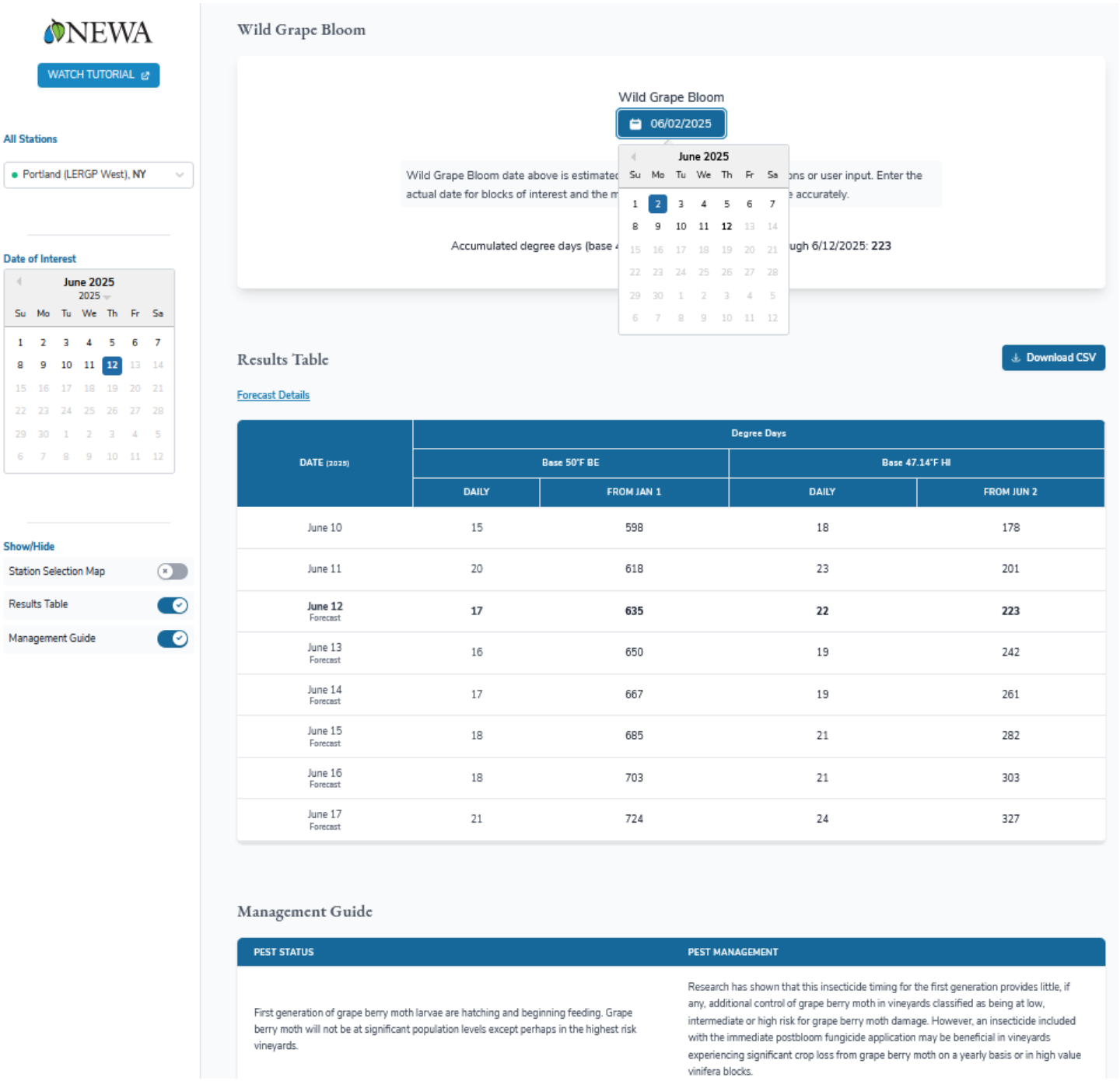
Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD total on June 12	Forecasted DD for June 17
Burt (NYS Mesonet)	6/9/25	79	158
Newfane (Chateau Niagara)	6/5/25	153	238
Ransomville	6/3/25	209	302
Lockport	6/3/25	208	299
Brant	5/29/25	263	368
Versailles	5/3025	238	345
Hanover	6/4/25	184	291
Silver Creek (Route 5)	6/4/25	180	284
Silver Creek (Double A)	5/30/25	251	357
Dunkirk (Route 5)	6/4/25	179	281
Sheridan	5/29/25	265	370
Sheridan (Liberty)	5/31/25	240	345
Forestville	6/3/25	210	315
East Fredonia	6/4/25	183	288
Fredonia (NYS Mesonet)	6/4/25	181	287
Brocton Escarpment	6/3/25	204	307
Portland/Portland LERGP West	6/4/25 6/2/25	182 223	284 327
East Westfield	6/4/25	179	283
Westfield	6/3/25	205	303
Westfield (South)	6/3/25	209	312
East Ripley	6/2/25	222	315
Ripley	6/3/25	213	318
Ripley Escarpment	6/3/25	207	315
Ripley State Line	6/3/25	211	317
North East State Line	6/4/25	181	284
North East Escarpment	6/3/25	205	308
North East Sidehill	6/3/25	206	309
North East Lab	6/4/25	177	274
Harborcreek	6/2/25	223	331
Harborcreek Escarpment	6/4/25	177	283
Lake City	6/2/25	215	321
Lake City (Mason Farms)	6/3/25	203	309

Table 1. Phenology-based Degree Day model results for Grape Berry Moth by NEWA station location in the Lake Erie Region on June 12, 2025. *Estimated date provided by NEWA website

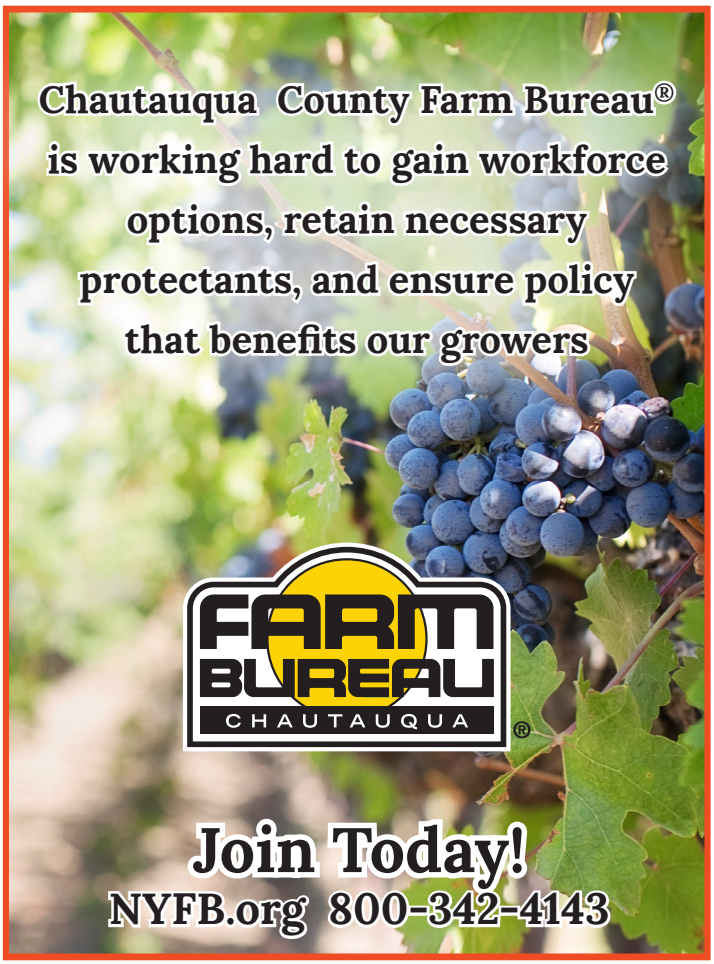
NEWA



Here at CLEREL in Portland, NY the NEWA model for Grape Berry Moth kicked off on Monday, June 2 for the Onset HOBO weather station and Wednesday, June 4 for the Rainwise station. The wild grape bloom date is estimated based on degree day accumulations (Base 50° or the standard GDD). You can change that date by going to https://newa.cornell.edu/grape-berry-moth and entering your actual observed wild grape bloom near your vineyards. Our actual date for wild grape bloom (50% of clusters have 50% bloom) at CLEREL was Tuesday, June 3.

The chart that is generated below that date shows the degree days accumulated for both base 50° on the left and base 47.14° on the right. The accumulated Grape Berry Moth Growing Degrees are reported in the far right column. As you can see from the table put together from the stations around the region we are still well below the 810 GBM GDD of when the adults are out and susceptible to insecticide treatments. According to NEWA the pest status is: First generation of grape berry moth larvae are hatching and beginning feeding. Grape berry moth will not be at

significant population levels except perhaps in the highest risk vineyards. And the pest management is: Research has shown that this insecticide timing for the first generation provides little, if any, additional control of grape berry moth in vineyards classified as being at low, intermediate or high risk for grape berry moth damage. However, an insecticide included with the immediate postbloom fungicide application may be beneficial in vineyards experiencing significant crop loss from grape berry moth on a yearly basis or in high value vinifera blocks.



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

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