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# FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

June 2025 - Issue, [007]

*Photo Credit: Chris Kitchen (UREL)*

# TAILGATE MEETING SUMMARY – JUNE 10, 2025

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*I'm trying something new for the Vineyard Updates this season. At each Tailgate meeting, I am recording the discussion that we have and then creating a summary of the meeting using ChatGPT to put into the newsletters that week (the entire transcript is about 22 pages and difficult to read). Many growers tell me each year that they wish they could come to the meetings but find it hard to make it for various reasons. This is an attempt to keep growers up to speed with what is discussed at each meeting. This will be the primary content of the newsletter each week that a Tailgate is held. I am interested in any feedback you might have about this idea. - Hans*

The June 10 Tailgate Meeting was held at Roy and Gordon Taft's farm in Pulteney, and focused heavily on the challenges brought by persistent wet weather, with rainfall totals reaching over four inches in many areas. These conditions have made vineyard access difficult and increased disease pressure at a critical point in the season. Early grape varieties like Marquette, Baco noir and Geneva Red have just begun bloom, with other early varieties like Concord expected to follow by the end of the week, marking the start of the most important period for disease management.

Phomopsis infections appear to be lower than expected, but a final spray is worth considering in blocks with a history of the disease. Attention has now shifted to downy mildew, which is of great concern due to the continued wet weather and the risk of primary infections from overwintering inoculum. Growers were encouraged to rotate FRAC codes and consider materials like Ridomil, captan, Zampro, and Revus where resistance has not been observed. Powdery mildew control was also discussed, with caution advised around relying too heavily on FRAC 11 and 3 materials, which offer limited protection and should be tank-mixed with more effective options. Botrytis was noted as another potential concern, especially in vinifera and susceptible hybrids, with wet conditions increasing the risk of early foliar and cluster infections.

Insect updates included the start of the grape berry moth model, which is running later than usual due to a delayed wild grape bloom of June 3 at the Teaching Vineyard this year – about 5-7 days later than usual. Growers were advised to enter local bloom dates manually into the NEWA model to improve spray timing accuracy. Spotted Lanternfly nymphs have been confirmed in the Finger Lakes again this year, and growers were asked to remain vigilant and report any sightings. Managing populations of Tree of Heaven remains an important non-chemical strategy for controlling SLF. Other pest observations included the presence of potato leafhoppers, which can cause leaf yellowing and curling, and erenium mites, which create gall-like damage on leaves and can be managed with higher rates of wettable sulfur.



*Tufts of white hairs on the underside of a leaf from erenium mites (left). Galls formed by erenium mites on upper leaf surface (right).*

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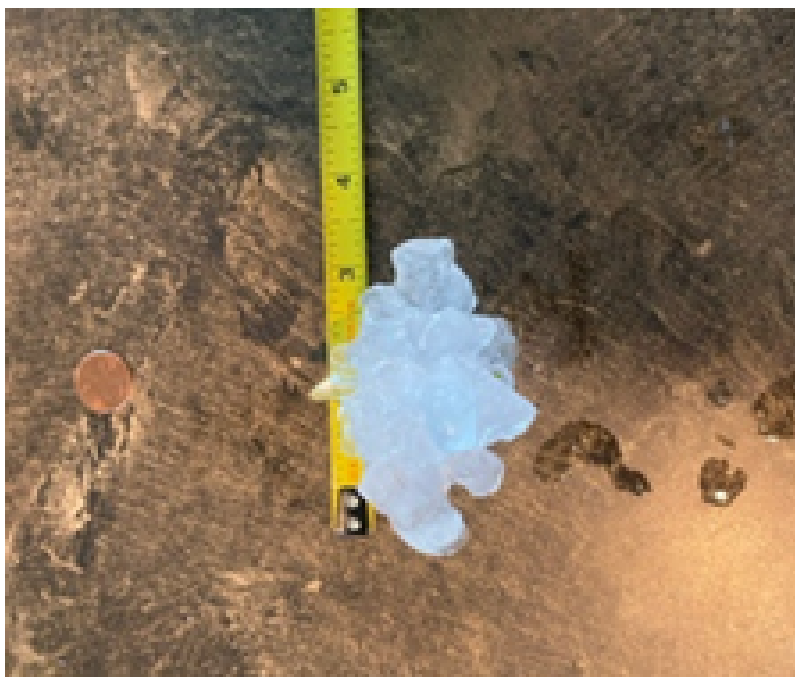
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Some growers in the area experienced minor hail damage during a storm on June 6, with reports of broken shoots and leaf tearing. While damage appeared to be minimal in most cases, growers were encouraged to contact their crop insurance agents if they suspect injury to their vines.

Dr. Katie Gold provided an important update on the proposed EPA changes to mancozeb use. Following a productive in-person meeting with EPA staff in Washington, she reported that the agency is reconsidering its initial proposal to ban its use altogether in light of data showing widespread use of closed-cab tractors and highly mechanized practices in Eastern vineyards. While a full ban now seems unlikely, some form of mitigation—such as restrictions on activities within 15 or 45 days of application—is expected. A final decision is anticipated later this summer, but new label restrictions likely will not take effect until 2027, allowing time for growers to adjust.

The meeting also included discussion of ongoing research and new tools. Biological products such as Warhammer (chitosan), Regalia, Howler Evo, and Lifegard are showing promise as components of standard spray programs, even in bulk varieties where cost is a limiting factor. A Concord disease management trial is underway to evaluate the performance and economics of several spray programs with varying cost levels and product types. Katie also talked about upcoming hyperspectral imaging flights that will be done by NASA in the region this summer to support development of precision disease forecasting tools and vineyard phenology mapping. She also asked growers to consider downloading a simple photo-based phenology app that will help her program to build more accurate phenology and disease management models. A flier about the app is included in this week's newsletter following this article.

The next Tailgate will be held on June 24 at Sheldrake Point Vineyard on Cayuga Lake. Hans will be attending the American Society of Enology and Viticulture conference next week, so there will be no newsletter next week.



# 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 24, 2025 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Sheldrake Point Winery

7448 County Road 153 Ovid NY

Our next Tailgate Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 24 at Sheldrake Point Winery in Ovid, NY. 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:

- 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

## Cover Crops and Soil Health in New York Vineyards

Thursday, July 17, 2025 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Simmons Vineyards

3433 Skyline Drive, Penn Yan, NY

The field staff from Gallo are organizing a field meeting focused on soil health in vineyards. The meeting is being held in collaboration with Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District, New York Soil Health, Helena Agri-Enterprises, Certis Biologicals and Himrod Farm Supply. There will be in-field discussions and briefs, equipment displays and soil health trailer demonstrations.

This meeting is open to all growers, not just those who have contracts with Gallo, and there is no need to register ahead of time.



Ryan Young (UREL)



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July 17 2025 | 9 AM – 12 PM

## FIELD DAY

Simmons Vineyards | Penn Yan, NY


**Free and Open to All**  
No registration required



### COVER CROPS AND SOIL HEALTH IN NEW YORK VINEYARDS

Equipment Demos, Nematode Management, Cover Crops, Soil Health Demonstration, Resources

Simmons Vineyards  
3433 Skyline Drive  
Penn Yan, NY 14527



Ryan Young (UREL)

## Equipment Rodeo 2025

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

Wagner Vineyards

9322 Route 414, Lodi NY

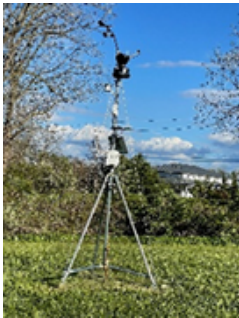
Sponsored by the NY State Wine Grape Growers, the Equipment Rodeo is the largest vineyard equipment show on the East Coast. The event will feature equipment from more than 20 dealers, including numerous harvesters and sprayers. Mark your calendars now!

# 2025 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
6/5/25	82.0	64.4	0.43	23.2	424.5
6/6/25	70.2	61.5	0.51	15.9	440.3
6/7/25	76.3	61.3	0.03	18.8	459.1
6/8/25	76.8	54.0	0.10	15.4	474.5
6/9/25	81.1	61.3	1.35	21.2	495.7
6/10/25	75.6	61.9	0.05	18.8	514.5
6/11/25	82.8	60.1	0.00	21.5	535.9
Weekly Total			2.47"	134.7	
Season Total			12.60"	535.9	

GDDs as of June 11, 2024: 685.5

Rainfall as of June 11, 2024: 9.31"



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	173.0	484.3	0
July		647.2	
August		596.8	
September		361.1	
October		113.9	
TOTAL	476.2	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	0.83"	3.58"	
July		3.48"	
August		3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	8.87"	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

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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

**Hans Walter-Peterson**  
Team Leader

**Ellen Coyne**  
Project Field Technician

**Brittany Griffin**  
Team Coordinator

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