Photo Credit-
Kate Robinson

LERGP Crop Update
June 26, 2025

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

PennState Extension

In this copy:

Next Week's coffee pot meeting is on **Wednesday, July 2** at 10:00am at Chris and Heather Kaczor Farm, 10468 Lake Shore Rd, Irving, NY 14081

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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

Yield Appraisal to Account for Allocated Averages

With high yield potential this fall and an over supplied grape market, I am already hearing word of processors planning on allocating harvest and some contracts not being renewed for 2025. While these scenarios are ones we'd ideally not have to contend with, they are what we are currently faced with moving into this years harvest and potentially future years as well.

If you are unable to bring any portion of your crop to market, it could effect your crop insurance average. By only having verified yield data from what you deliver, your insurance provider can not account for any of the additional grapes left undelivered. The solution to this issue is to work with your insurance provider and get your crop appraised before or after harvest. This way all your yield will be verified, regardless of what is brought to market. If you believe you will be allocated or won't have a market for any of your grapes, contact your crop insurance agent soon to coordinate your future appraisal. If you were effected by the freeze last year, you likely are familiar with the process of having insurance appraisers out to look at your grapes. While insurance uses long term averages for grape production, don't let your numbers dip due to unmarketed production.

Regarding oversupply in the grape market, the solution must be industry wide, because the oversupply is a result of market conditions on a national and global level. There are certainly practices that individual growers can use to help them weather the storm and manage the potential downturn, but for the market to rebound, industry wide changes will have to occur. One way that processors can work to mitigate oversupply is allocation.

Allocation is tool that can be used to keep prices from going lower by limiting the amount of grapes they have for sale. Processors allocate by setting a percentage of growers historical average tonnage (or in some cases acreage) that they can deliver in the fall. The grower can't sell any additional grapes beyond that number. This limits the amount of grapes the processor must market and combats the issue of oversupply.

In the simplest economic terms, in a market economy with all other variables constant, an oversupply results in a reduction in price. If prices fall to a level that some suppliers are no longer profitable, they will exit the market. Suppliers exiting the market will reduce the amount of goods sold and prices will rise back to equilibrium.

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Area

GRAPES - ACRES BEARING & NON-BEARING

	CATTARAUGUS NEW YORK	CHAUTAUQUA NEW YORK	ERIE NEW YORK	NIAGARA NEW YORK	ERIE PENNSYLVANIA	ALL COUNTIES	
2002	407	19349	1925	1293	11171	34145	2002
2007	620	22276	1881	1298	12427	38502	2007
2012	1043	20557	1743	912	10581	34836	2012
2017	301	16953	1024	1067	11915	31260	2017
2022	231	17040	1612	695	12576	32154	2022

In our industry, that would look like lower grape prices and less profitable growers exiting the market or taking acres out of production. We know from NASS data that grape acreage in our region has historically fluctuated up and down with the market (See graph below). Agriculture markets are often cyclical with weather, global trade, and input cost all creating variability in supply and in turn price.

As growers, the focus is often on the supply side, increasing production and decreasing cost. But oversupply could also be resolved by increasing demand. Unfortunately, we have seen demand for juice and wine decrease in recent years, adding to the glut in the market. Innovation in juice/wine products or marketing to new demographics or counties are ways that demand could be increased.

As we navigate this changing market, the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program strives to provide timely and researched based information to all growers. If you have any questions on potential allocation and how to navigate them, please feel free to contact me to discuss your management options.

What I'm Reading:

- Trump Again Considering Immigration Relief for Farmworkers – FarmDoc

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

The past few years, I have been conducting a floor management research project on both gravel and heavy silt loam locations. We help the NY Soil Health Alliance Soil Health Day at the Betts Farm location last summer. This project is nearing its close. As part of this work, I would like to survey our grower population to acquire data on their past and current floor management strategies, reasons for either implementing cover crop strategies or not, and your perspective on herbicide or fertilizer habits. This survey is a quick 15 multiple choice questions that will inform my research, please **Click Here for the Cover Crop Survey.** These questions build a comprehensive picture of grower practices, motivations, knowledge, and economic outcomes related to cover cropping, a key sustainable soil management tool.

Conducting grower surveys about cover crop use in vineyards is important to this research for several reasons:

- The results help to gather data on current cover crop practices among growers, including what species are being used, planting and termination methods, and overall management strategies.
- Growers can share their experiences regarding the benefits of cover crops, such as soil health improvement, weed suppression, moisture retention, and pest management.
- Surveys can reveal challenges and barriers that growers face, such as cost, labor, or lack of knowledge, which can inform future education and support efforts.

Photo 1. Jennifer Phillips Russo standing in a multi-species cover cropped middle row in a Concord vineyard with cereal rye and hairy vetch.

Current vineyard floor management practices in the Lake Erie AVA, relying heavily on synthetic fertilizers and herbicides, are unsustainable, contributing to herbicide resistance, degrading soil health, and increasing vulnerability to climate change impacts. One goal of this work is to develop strategies to transition to sustainable viticulture practices that improve soil health, enhance

resilience to climate change, and maintain economic viability.

Grapes are adaptable to a wide range of soil types, but soil characteristics such as internal drainage, soil texture, depth, water holding capacity and soil chemical characteristics such as soil pH will strongly influence growth, productivity, and quality.
Superior sites will have well-drained, sandy to gravelly or silty loam texture, moderate water-holding capacity and soil pH ranging between 5.5 and 7.0. Most sites will have some soil limitations that may need correction.

The increasing reliance on herbicides, especially with the emergence of resistance, adds another layer of concern. There can be detrimental effects of the “weed-free” practice on soil health and should be investigate. The lower pH caused by conventional management strategies reduce organic matter and contributes to poor soil structure creating a vicious cycle that necessitates even more fertilizer and herbicide use, exacerbating the problem.

Common limitations in poor soil health can include poor drainage, which greatly reduces growth and favors winter injury. Vine roots cannot grow, take up nutrients, or respire in water-logged soils. Seasonal water tables are often highest in the spring, which can delay growth and development during rapid shoot growth.

Low pH soils can restrict the availability of soil nutrients, leading to deficiencies and aluminum toxicity to roots, and low water in drought-like conditions can lead to stress. Heavy clay soils or impermeable soil layers can restrict root growth, limiting vine growth, which can be alleviated through irrigation, which is not economically feasible to Concord grape growers.

The downward spiral in soil health, root competition, and climate change impacts are serious threats to Concord production sustainability. The lack of relevant research specifically for non-irrigated Concord grapes further complicates the issue, forcing growers to look outside the grape commodity for guidance.

Developing new cover cropping strategies tailored to Concord grapes is crucial. This research will not only benefit Concord growers directly but also has the potential to inform sustainable practices across other agricultural commodities. The translation of these findings to other crops highlights the broader impact and importance of this work. This is a critical area of research, and its success could have far-reaching positive consequences. By systematically comparing different floor management strategies and measuring their effects on key parameters, this experiment can provide valuable insights into how to improve soil health, vine capacity, and economic sustainability in non-irrigated juice grape production.

Disease

I have been around the belt this week in many different Concord and vinifera vineyards. I know that the weather has been variable this past month and that rain and windy conditions have stretched out spray intervals for some. I have noticed downy and powdery mildew on some leaves. At our Winter Grower Conference, Dave Combs, Research Support Specialist II in the Gold Lab, presented on disease identification and I pasted his slide of Powdery Mildew vs. Downy Mildew below (Figure 1.) as a reference of a side-by-side comparison of both. Dave is responsible for anything and everything related to Dr. Katie Gold’s four acres of pathology vineyards, including our annual fungicide efficacy studies for grapevine powdery mildew, downy mildew, black rot, and

Botrytis bunch rot. Dave has vast field experience gained over his >30 years working for Cornell managing applied field programs ranging from tree fruit insecticide trials to vineyard fungicide trials. He is responsible for all applications, scouting, data collection, analysis and reports in the annual efficacy testing experiments. Dave has robust background in viticulture and previously taught Integrated Pest Management at Finger Lakes Community College.

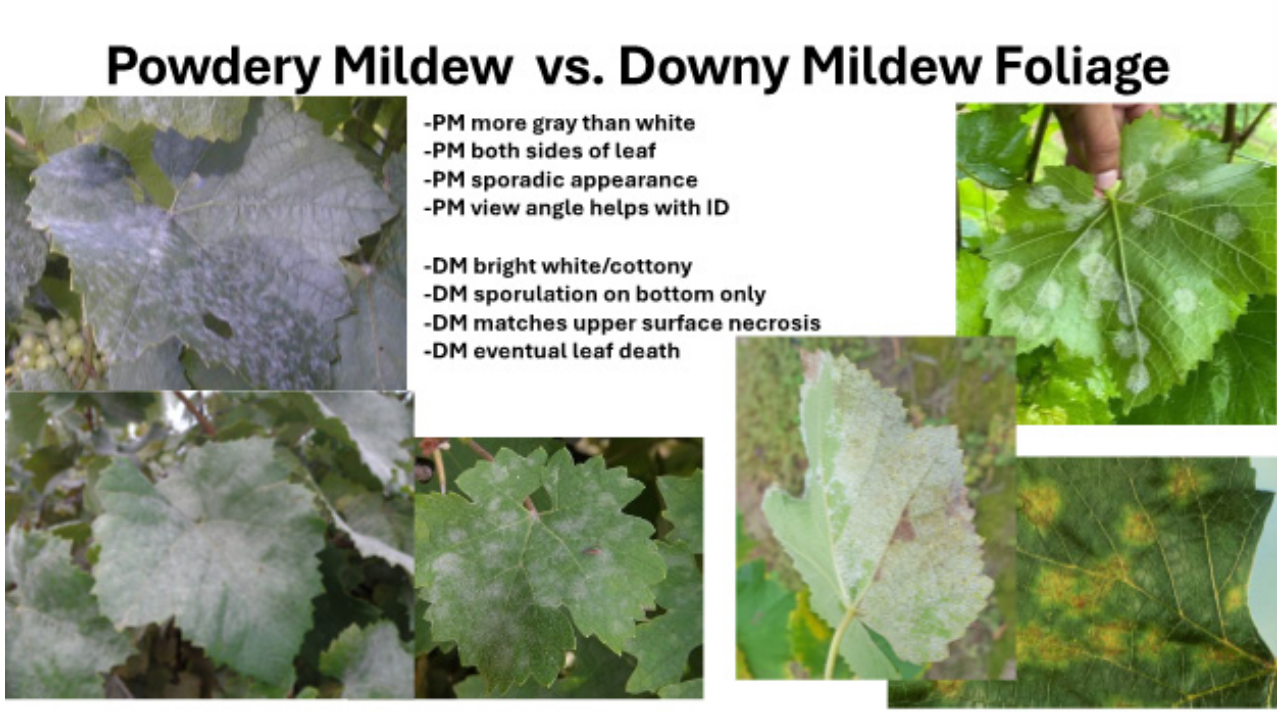

Figure 1. Powdery Mildew vs. Downy Mildew Foliage slide from Dave Combs presentation at the LERGP Winter Grower Conference 2025.

Below is the Post bloom information found on the Cornell NEWA Grape Disease Model page (Table 1.) Which is a resource that helps manage grape diseases with infection risk tools that also provide management guidelines for black rot (*Guignardia bidwellii*), Phomopsis cane and leaf spot (*Phomopsis viticola*), and powdery mildew (*Erysiphe necator*). Reference your 2025 NY & PA Guidelines for Grapes to guide your spray decisions or reach out to myself or Megan and we can walk you through some options.

Table 1. Phenological Stage disease and disease management information for Post Bloom on NEWA

Disease	Disease Management
Phomopsis	Fruit infections can occur from early bloom through the postbloom period, then remain dormant until severe fruit rot develops at harvest. Rachises also remain susceptible during this period. Monitor infection events and maintain fungicide protection, especially on **susceptible** varieties, in hedged vineyards, or locations with a history of Phomopsis.
Powdery Mildew	The explosive secondary infection season has begun. Infections are favored when prolonged cloud cover, humid (>60% RH), **warm (63-86F)** days and nights prevail. **This is the most critical time of the year for control of cluster infections on all varieties.** Management programs should be at their peak, emphasizing the use of effective fungicides, full rates, appropriate spray intervals, and superior spray coverage.
Black Rot	Do not delay black rot sprays beyond this stage. The immediate prebloom through early postbloom periods are critical for management of black rot. Keep track of infections events and maintain fungicide protection accordingly. Concords can become infected up to 6 weeks after the last cap has fallen, and *V. vinifera* varieties up through 7 weeks postbloom.

Below is the Portland, NY, weather station Overview and 5-Day Weather Forecast, be sure to locate your closest weather station to check for infections periods and weather conditions for spray applications.

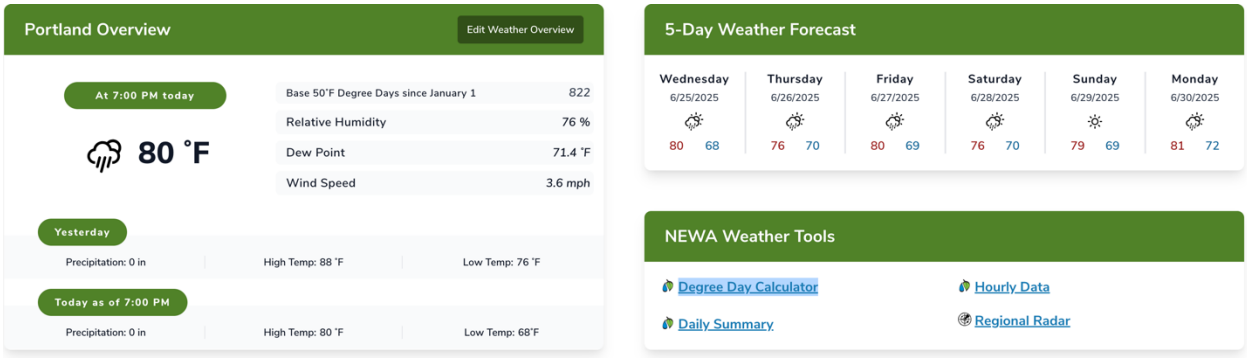

Figure 2. Screenshot of the NEWA Portland Overview forecast from 6/25/25.

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PA Update

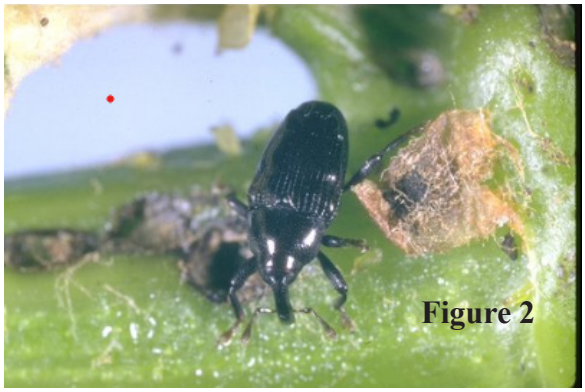
Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

Insect and scouting update

Continue to keep watch for rose chafer in areas with sandy soils. Grape cane gall maker (*Ampeloglypter* sp.) is active at this time; if it has become problematic in the past, this is the time when control should be applied. While the weevil rarely causes crop damage, the galls can weaken canes and cause damage in newly planted vines, and cause breakage on newly trained canes. If you are training up new vines, this pest can be particularly damaging.

Grape cane gall maker and grape cane girdler (*Ampeloglypter* sp.) Gall maker weevils (*Ampeloglypter sesostris*) are reddish-brown adults: small 3 mm long insects with a distinctive curved snout (Figure 1). Except for their color, they look similar to the shiny-black adults of the grape cane girdler, (*Ampeloglypter ater)* (Figure 2). Both species overwinter in the adult stage in debris on the ground.

Photo Credit: Joe Ogrodnick, Cornell University; courtesy Greg Loeb



Photos courtesy of Cornell IPM, Joe Ogrodnick and Greg Loeb

Rose Chafer – (*Macrodactylus subspinosus* Fabricius) Adult beetles are about ½ inch long, have a light brown body coloration and long, spiny legs (Figure 3). Sandy soils between the Lake Erie shore and Route 5 are particularly prone to hosting this pest. Scouting for this pest should be conducted daily, if possible, but at a minimum of 3 times/week and should continue for about 2 weeks after bloom. Infested areas can lose extensive numbers of flower clusters if beetles are not detected early and treated. If a threshold of 2 beetles per vine is reached an insecticide application is recommended.

Adult rose chafer. Photo by Lorraine Berkett, University of Vermont

Continue scouting for noxious or problematic weeds, as many species are easier to deal with in their early stages before producing extensive root systems or reseeding. Be sure to mow or apply herbicide to problem areas **before** the weeds enter their flowering period in order to reduce the number of seeds produced for next season! Take time to familiarize yourself with invasive weed species and their management strategies, as best practices vary significantly by species. Field bindweed and Japanese knotweed populations can be increased through cultivation, but herbicide burndown is ineffective for deep-rooted perennial weeds like Canada thistle. Identifying pests correctly will impact the best management techniques.

Contact information:

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Press Release: The Erie County, Pennsylvania, Conservation District, in collaboration with Penn State Extension and the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, will host two workshops for Extension Educators, Master Gardener Volunteers, Master Watershed Steward Volunteers, Park Service, Municipalities, vineyard stakeholders, local landscape professionals, and other public entities. The goal of these workshops is to provide resources and materials for monitoring spotted lanternfly in Erie and Crawford Counties and to provide participants with the tools and information needed to expand monitoring efforts critical to preventing the establishment of spotted lanternfly in these areas.

Title: Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring and Trapping Workshops

Date and Time:

- Tuesday, July 8, 2025, from 2 PM- 4 PM @ Erie County Conservation District (1927 Wager Rd, Erie, PA 16509)

- Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 9 AM-11 AM @ Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County (798 Bessemer St, Meadville, PA 16335)

Speakers: Brian Walsh, Penn State Extension Educator (Green Industry); Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Educator (Viticulture); Zach Hetrick, PDA; Conservation District Staff

Background: Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect with established populations in much of Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. While not dangerous to humans or pets, this pest can cause severe economic damage to grapevines and is a messy nuisance in the landscape, impacting businesses such as golf courses, restaurants, and parks. Expanding the public awareness of spotted lanternfly and the methods for reporting and managing its presence is crucial at this time to prevent serious economic losses for local farmers and businesses.

Impact: Attendees will be provided with materials for monitoring traps and instructions for setting up the trap in a location likely to be infested by spotted lanternfly, based on location and plant species present. Researchers and Extension will present current science and best practices for monitoring, and will be available to answer questions regarding reporting practices and insect lifecycle.

To RSVP: Call ECCD offices at 814-825-6403. The Crawford County workshop will have a maximum capacity of 30 people.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Nageotte (rnageotte@erieconservation.com) or the ECCD office (814-825-6403).

ECCD Erie County Conservation District

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

PennState Extension

Erie Horticultural Society Chicken BBQ Meeting Agenda- 2024

Location: Gravel Pit Park, 10300 W Main Rd, North East, PA 16428
Date: Wednesday, July 30th 2025
Time: 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

A three-hour chicken BBQ and meeting with two core credits and one category credit in the afternoon, providing growers with updated information and research in juice and wine grape production, as well as best practices for pesticide application. Registration is free, and dinner will be provided.

- **4: 00 PM Start:** Equipment show and vendor tables
- 4:30 PM (30 minutes) 1 core recertification credit
  - **Title:** "Worker Protection Standard- What does compliance look like?"
  - **Speaker:** Joni Davis
  - **Description:** Inform-Protect-Mitigate. The whole reason for the regulation is to make sure those who work for you know what they are being exposed to, how to protect themselves from that exposure, and what to do if they are exposed to pesticides while working on the farm. During this talk, you will learn what it takes to gain compliance and how to maintain it year after year.
- 5:00 PM (30 minutes) 1 category recertification credits
  - **Title:** "Update on vineyard weather stations and insect pest research"
  - **Speaker:** Kim Knappenberger and Flor Acevedo
  - **Description:** Discussion of the benefits of hosting weather stations within the vineyard, including degree day models and infection period estimation, and updates on management strategies for grape berry moth and spotted lanternfly.
- 5:30 PM (30 minutes) 1 core recertification credit
  - **Title:** "Pesticide best practices and legal changes to labels for the coming growing season"
  - **Speaker:** Megan Luke
  - **Description:** Brief update regarding label changes to pesticides commonly used in grapes (ziram, captan, mancozeb), and overview of upcoming changes, including use of the EPA's Mitigation Menu and the Bulletins Live! 2 website.
- 6:00 PM (Dinner)

- 7:00 PM **End**

This is a FREE Event but you **MUST REGISTER !**

REGISTER ONLINE HERE

or call Katie at
716-792-2800 ext 201

Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD total on June 25	Forecasted DD for June 30	June '25 Rain to date	June '24 Rainfall 1-25
Burt (NYS Mesonet)	6/9/25	394	516	Not available	Not available
Newfane (Chateau Niagara)	6/5/25	486	613	0.73	2.22
Ransomville	6/3/25	550	682	1.55	3.50
Lockport	6/3/25	543	675	0.59	2.56
Brant	5/29/25	603	742	1.78	0.74
Versailles	5/3025	566	708	1.85	2.50
Hanover	6/4/25	520	661	1.70	1.64
Silver Creek (Route 5)	6/4/25	505	642	1.94	2.30
Silver Creek (Double A)	5/30/25	592	733	1.82	1.87
Dunkirk (Route 5)	6/4/25	500	637	2.10	2.23
Sheridan	5/29/25	604	742	2.02	2.32
Sheridan (Liberty)	5/31/25	579	719	1.65	2.12
Forestville	6/3/25	539	680	1.17	1.76
East Fredonia	6/4/25	512	653	1.81	1.43
Fredonia (NYS Mesonet)	6/4/25	507	648	Not available on NEWA	Not available on NEWA
Brocton Escarpment	6/3/25	532	669	1.97	2.17
Portland/Portland LERGP West	6/4/25 6/2/25	512/558	648/698	2.37	1.71
East Westfield	6/4/25	504	643	2.10	1.24
Westfield	6/3/25	535	665	3.05	1.97
Westfield (South)	6/3/25	541	679	3.65	2.22
East Ripley	6/2/25	557	682	2.88	2.18
Ripley	6/3/25	544	683	3.93	2.44
Ripley Escarpment	6/3/25	531	672	3.83	2.04
Ripley State Line	6/3/25	538	679	(not recorded)	(not recorded)
North East State Line	6/4/25	499	636	4.71	2.62
North East Escarpment	6/3/25	532	669	4.66	2.09
North East Sidehill	6/3/25	528	665	3.94	2.29
North East Lab	6/4/25	499	627	2.98	2.47

NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD total on June 25	Forecasted DD for June 30	June '25 Rain to date	June '24 Rainfall 1-25
Harborcreek	6/2/25	554	696	2.87	2.31
Harborcreek Escarpment	6/4/25	491	631	2.90	2.51
Lake City	6/2/25	541	682	3.85	2.37
Lake City (Mason Farms)	6/3/25	529	670	3.44	3.07

Table 1. Phenology-based Degree Day model results for Grape Berry Moth by NEWA station location in the Lake Erie Region on June 25, 2025. *Estimated date provided by NEWA website
NEWA

As you can see from the GBM GDD chart none of the stations have accumulated enough grape berry moth growing degree days yet to hit the 810 that we historically have called the peak time of egg laying by the adult females. With these warm days that we have been experiencing lately we are accumulating them pretty quickly and we are probably looking at early July to hit that benchmark, so you will want to keep that in mind over the next couple weeks.
I thought it would also be interesting to see how we are measuring up for rainfall this June as compared to last year. The storms have been very localized as can be seen in the wide range of rainfall recorded this June. North East PA, Ripley NY and Lake City PA are coming in with the highest numbers according to our stations reporting to NEWA.

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