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FINGER LAKES VINEYARD UPDATE

July 2025 - Issue, [009]

Photo Credit: Chris Kitchen (UREL)

'TIS THE SEASON...FOR DOWNY MILDEW

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The stretch of wet and/or humid weather that we have been having for the past couple of weeks has led to the development of downy mildew lesions on both leaves and clusters in many of the vineyards I've been in over the past week or so. While not terribly surprising given the conditions, it's concerning because of the high amount of pressure during the period when clusters and berries are the most vulnerable to infection, and I've been seeing more cluster infections this year than in recent seasons. In most cases, these cluster



infections do not display the usual fluffy white sporulation we generally associate with downy (although you can see some evidence of sporulation on the stems if you look closely). The most obvious symptom is the death of the entire flower or early berry, along with the peduncle that connects it to the rachis (left photo). If you took these clusters and put them in a sealed plastic bag overnight, you would probably start to see evidence of new spores being produced from these infections. Because all grapevine tissues are highly susceptible during this time, you will likely also find symptoms of infections on leaves near these clusters (right photo).

Under high-pressure conditions like we have had this year, it's critical to be sure that intervals between fungicide applications are appropriate given the conditions. At times when we have consecutive nights with relative humidity >95% overnight, and your boots get wet early in the morning when you go outside, our intervals should probably be less than 14 days for something as aggressive and potentially devastating as downy mildew.

'TIS THE SEASON...FOR DOWNY MILDEW

Also, make sure that the materials being used in each application are appropriate for the current situation for the disease. Protectant sprays need to be applied before infection events happen, and have no effect on infections that have already started. This includes broad spectrum materials like mancozeb and captan, and also many of the biological fungicides like LifeGuard and Howler. Most of the “conventional” materials that are labeled for DM provide varying levels of both pre-infection protection and post-infection and/or anti-sporulant activity. There are no true eradicants for DM, which are materials that kill most or all of the fungal colony after symptoms appear. “Post-infection” activity means that the material is effective after an infection starts but symptoms have not developed (i.e., you can’t see lesions or sporulation), while “anti-sporulant” activity means the material reduces the fungal colony’s ability to produce new spores, but it does not kill the fungal colony.

So where does this all get us moving forward? The take home message is that, because of the high-pressure conditions that we have had the past couple of weeks, downy mildew has been able to get a stronger foothold early in the season, meaning there are more sources of new infections already out there if/when those kinds of conditions return. It will be especially critical to control cluster infections over the next few weeks until the berries develop resistance to new infections, which takes about four weeks after bloom – this year, that would be mid to late July depending on the cultivar and location.

Grape Berry Moth (GBM)


With the late arrival of wild grape bloom this year (~1 week later than normal), the GBM model is predicting the window for scouting and potential spray applications has arrived. The model uses growing degree days (different calculation from our traditional one which is based on a 50°F threshold) to predict when females will be laying eggs and therefore the best timing for applications to control feeding by newly hatched larvae. The recommended action threshold is 6% of clusters showing any feeding damage or signs of GBM activity (e.g., webbing). Materials should be applied as close to 810 GDDs as possible for best effect.

At the Teaching Vineyard near Dresden, the GBM predicts that we will reach 810 GDDs on Saturday, July 5, based on our wild grape bloom date of June 2. Our vineyard location tends to be on the warm side of sites, so cooler locations like Branchport or Dundee should be scouting now for potential control measures to be taken next week.

Location	Wild grape bloom date*	Predicted date for 810 GDD
Branchport	June 4	July 7
Dundee	June 2	July 6
Hammondsport	June 4	July 8
Ovid	June 1	July 6
Hector	May 30	July 4
Williamson	June 7	July 10?

* Predicted date from NEWA

'TIS THE SEASON...FOR DOWNY MILDEW



WATCH TUTORIAL

Favorite Stations

Dresden (FLX TDV2), NY

Date of Interest

July 2025

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

29

30

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

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11

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31

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8

9

Show/Hide

Station Selection Map

Results Table

Management Guide

DATE (2025)	Degree Days			
	Base 50°F BE		Base 47.14°F HI	
	DAILY	FROM JAN 1	DAILY	FROM JUN 2
July 1	30	1110	31	723
July 2	25	1135	28	751
July 3 Forecast	22	1157	25	776
July 4 Forecast	19	1176	22	797
July 5 Forecast	24	1199	27	825
July 6 Forecast	31	1230	33	858
July 7 Forecast	26	1256	29	887
July 8 Forecast	22	1279	25	912

Management Guide

PEST STATUS

Females are active and egg-laying is at its peak.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Control measures should be timed to coincide with 810 DD in high risk vineyards. For materials that must be ingested, e.g. Intrepid, Altacor, it is important to get materials on as close to 810 DD as possible. For low and intermediate risk vineyards, scout between 750-800 DD for damage and apply control measures, timed to coincide with 810 DD, if more than 6% damaged clusters are found.



Grape berry moth larva



Berry damage by GBM larva

SLF TRAPS AVAILABLE FROM CORNELL IPM

The Cornell IPM Program has a number of spotted lanternfly (SLF) traps that they are willing to install at vineyards in the Finger Lakes region. They would particularly like to install some in the Ovid/Romulus area where the SLF population was discovered last summer, but would also be interested in locating traps near other vineyards that have Tree of Heaven on the property. Staff from the IPM Program will come to each site to help install the traps properly and provide some basic training on how to monitor and maintain them.

If you are interested in having one of these traps installed at your vineyard, please contact me (hcw5@cornell.edu) and I will put you in touch with the IPM staff.



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10-11
2025

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NEW YORK

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- NOVEMBER 11:** Attend a half-day, interactive networking session with fellow attendees.



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Questions? Contact:
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Presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agritourism Program Work Team

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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, July 8, 2025 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Boom Point Vineyards
7483 Salmon Creek Rd., Williamson NY 14589

Our next Tailgate Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 8th at Boom Point Vineyards, 7483 Salmon Creek Rd., Williamson NY 14589. 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:

- 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)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS


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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



Hosted by
GALLO
Canandaigua Winery



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
6/26/25	71.8	65.1	0.02	18.5	882.1
6/27/25	73.9	63.3	0.00	18.6	900.7
6/28/25	91.6	67.8	0.00	29.7	930.4
6/29/25	79.2	57.0	0.00	18.1	948.5
6/30/25	87.1	63.1	0.41	25.1	973.6
7/1/25	87.8	72.0	0.00	29.9	1003.5
7/2/25	84.0	65.3	0.00	24.7	1028.1
Weekly Total			0.43"	164.5	
Season Total			14.31"	1028.1	

GDDs as of July 2, 2024: 1140.5

Rainfall as of July 2, 2024: 12.29"



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	216.9	257.2	-2
June	585.7	486.3	+5
July	51.0	648.5	+5
August		596.7	
September		362.5	
October		114.3	
TOTAL	939.9	2529.4	

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	5.23"	3.04"	2.19"
June	1.75"	3.58"	-1.83"
July	0.00"	3.48"	
August		3.19"	
September		3.43"	
October		3.39"	
TOTAL	9.93"	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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