



*LERGP Crop Update
August 21, 2025*

*Photo credit-
Kim Knappenberger*

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



PennState Extension

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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

Grape Pricing

Cash prices were announced to contracted growers last week. From the cash market prices I have heard so far, the Concord prices have been roughly around \$315 per ton including trucking. This will be \$25 lower than last year's cash prices. The price for bulk juice has decreased over the last two years from all time highs in 2023. Juice grape prices and local wine grape prices are mirroring global and national trends that have been in oversupply.

As a consequence to current market conditions, I have heard that many contracts are not being renewed as processors struggle to find markets for juice. This is a continuation of what wine grape growers faced last year and what some juice grape growers feared in 2024 before the frost event. Reports for yield estimates show an above average yield for the NY side of the belt and an average yield for the PA side. There is the potential of making the market oversupply issue worse if this year's harvest comes in large and can't be sold off.

Prices are still in a range where farms can be profitable, but labor cost, inflation, and future oversupply all put that at risk. Growers should continue to monitor their inputs to try and protect their margins as we face the current market realities.

What I'm Reading:

- [America's #1 Premium Preserves Brand Bonne Maman® Unveils Concord Grape Fruit Spread](#) - CBS

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

We have officially called Concord veraison for August 20, 2025 (Photo 1 below)! This year we are three days later than 2024 Veraison and two earlier than the historical average. I will state it again in the following paragraph when writing about Dr. Terry Bates Concord Berry Curve. Veraison marks the start of the ripening process in grapes. Berries transition from hard, green, and acidic to sweet, aromatic, and soft.

There are three stages of berry growth: Stage I, Stage II, and Stage III. Stage I, or stage one, is after fruit set where there is rapid cell division with accumulation of tartaric and malic acids, and it continues until reaching half of final weight. Near the end of stage I is when we take crop estimation weights. Stage II, also known as the Lag Phase, is where berry growth pauses, and the grapevine focuses on seed growth. After the seeds harden off, then the grapes enter into Stage III. This stage is where there is rapid cell expansion and significant changes in sugar and acid composition. This is when we call veraison.



Concord Grapes in veraison

Dr. Terry Bates shared his Concord Berry Curve that he constructed on Monday, August 18, 2025, and we officially called veraison in Concord on August 20, 2025. Terry reported that “the fresh berry

weight took that characteristic jump into stage 3 with today's recording and BRIX in the Route 20 block averaged 8.68. Veraison in Concord is usually around 8-9 BRIX. So, we are just about there. Let the games begin." Terry's prediction was spot on. In Figure 1 below, the 2025 Concord berry curve is in dark blue, 2024 in red, and the black line is the historical average. As you can see, the blue line was on track with last year, but the weather was hot and dry, and the weight gain flattened out. That is not to say that the cell expansion will not catch up with rain, weather and time will tell. We will continue to update you all of Terry's work through harvest. In Figure 2, the Concord Brix Accumulation, the blue dot near the bottom left-hand side of the graph is the single point for 2025. It is above the historical average, the black line, and we did not collect last year, the red line, until later in the season last year.

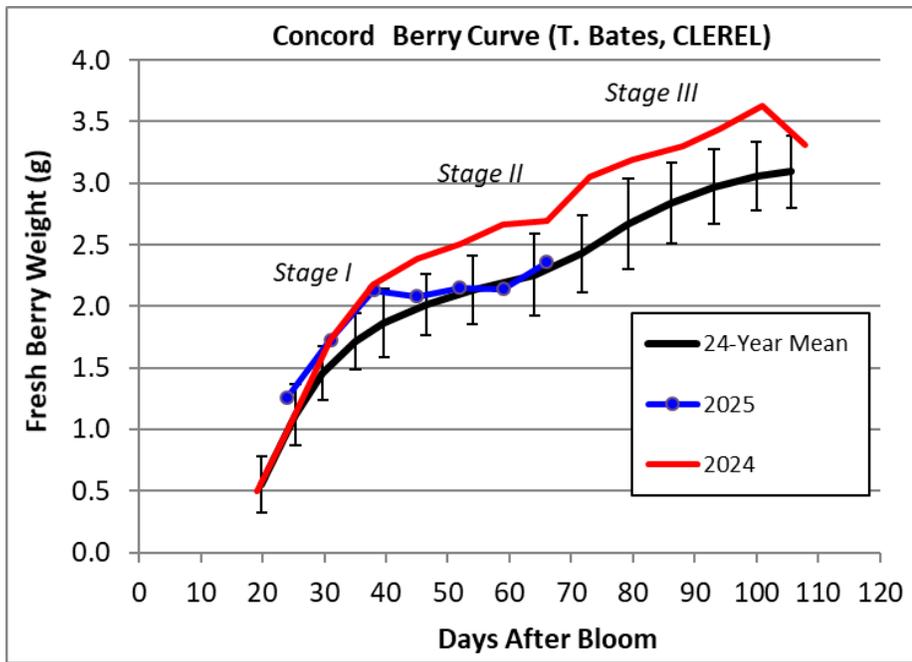


Figure 1. Dr. Terry Bate's Concord Berry Curve as of August 18, 2025

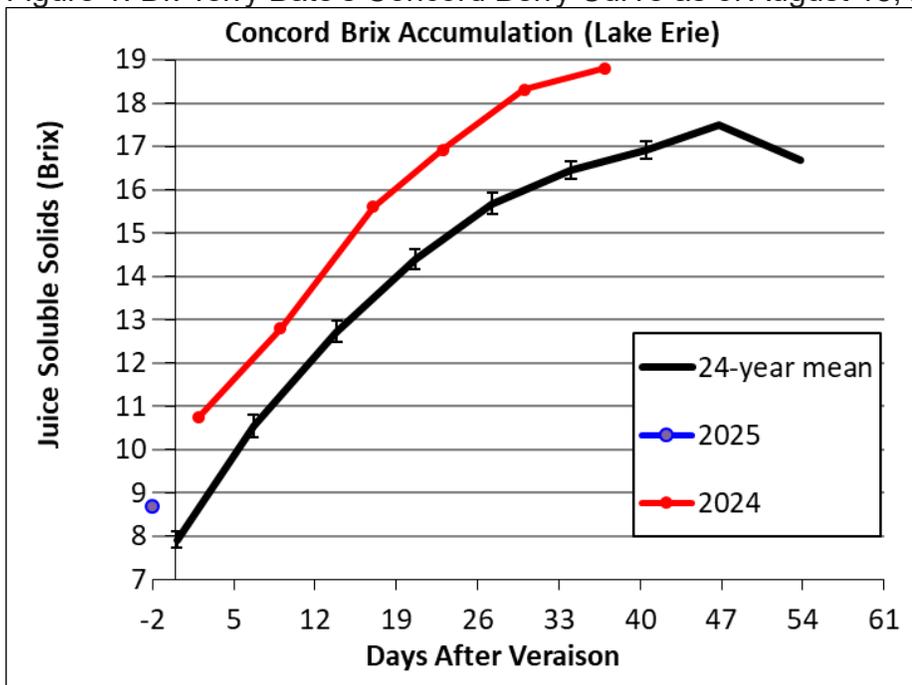


Figure 2. Dr. Terry Bates Concord Brix Accumulation Grape as of August 18, 2025.



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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture & IPM Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

NEWA Location	Wild grape bloom date*	DD total on 8/20/25	Forecasted DD for 8/25/25
Burt (NYS Mesonet)	6/9/25	1797	1909
Newfane (Chateau Niagara)	6/5/25	1964	2074
Ransomville	6/3/25	2088	2198
Lockport	6/3/25	2067	2171
Brant	5/29/25	2078	2175
Versailles	5/30/25	1972	2070
Hanover	6/4/25	1970	2070
Silver Creek (Route 5)	6/4/25	1985	2088
Silver Creek (Double A)	5/30/25	2085	2186
Dunkirk (Route 5)	6/4/25	1963	2066
Sheridan	5/29/25	2095	2197
Sheridan (Liberty)	5/31/25	2086	2189
Forestville	6/3/25	1991	2094
East Fredonia	6/4/25	1952	2055
Fredonia (NYS Mesonet)	6/4/25	1926	2030
Brocton Escarpment	6/3/25	1967	2068
Portland/Portland LERGP West	6/3/2025	1999/2046	2104/2154
East Westfield	6/4/25	1940	2045
Westfield	6/3/25	2003	2107
Westfield (South)	6/3/25	2000	2105
East Ripley	6/2/25	2068	2177
Ripley	6/3/25	2041	2147
Ripley Escarpment	6/3/25	1986	2093
Ripley State Line	6/3/25	2028	2135
North East State Line	6/4/25	1949	2049
North East Escarpment	6/3/25	1993	2092
North East Sidehill	6/3/25	1981	2081
North East Lab	6/4/25	1981	2090
Harborcreek	6/2/25	2070	2180
Harborcreek Escarpment	6/4/25	1903	2007
Lake City	6/2/25	2037	2144
Lake City (Mason Farms)	6/3/25	2037	2144

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

Pest Status	Pest Management
Reduced egg-laying after this time, most pupae enter diapause (overwintering stage) after 1700 DD.	With the exception of extremely warm years no further action is required.

A quick check of the Base 50° F GDD at the time of veraison shows that there have only been 5 other years in the past 55 years that have been warmer at this point in grape phenology. You can take a look at historical phenology for CLEREL at <https://lergp.com/> to confirm. The last year to have a higher GDD at this point was last year and then before that it was in 2011. The grape berry moth model on NEWA is based on the fact that it takes 810 DD (Base temp 47.14°F) for the GBM to complete a single life cycle from egg to egg-laying female. So for a fourth generation to occur according to the model a station would need to record 2430 GBM GDD. At the Portland lab we can use the Rainwise station as the example, so currently we are at 1999 GBM GDD. During the warm stretch of weather we were accumulating 25 to 33 degrees daily, but now that it is a bit cooler we are ranging closer to 20 daily. At that rate it will take 21.5 days to hit that next marker for the fourth generation putting us at a new generation around September 10-11 depending on the actual temperatures that we get.

The pest status for the model states that there is reduced egg laying after this time and most pupae enter diapause (overwintering stage) after 1700 DD. Most, but not all. Your best bet is to continue to scout your vineyards to see what is going on in your blocks. With the canopies at maximum density making application of insecticides more difficult and harvest coming just around the corner, harvest decisions can be made based on your observations and historical high pressure areas.



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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>