



# The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



## Electronic Crop Update for June 20, 2013

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**Weather Data**

**Update From North East, Pa.**

**Business Management**

**Upcoming Events**

Please visit our LERGP Website at: <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar. Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one! UPCOMING EVENTS are also listed toward the bottom of this Update.

Please remember to let us know if you have changed or are in the process of changing your email address so we can keep the Electronic Crop Update coming to your inbox!

Please email Edith at: [emb35@cornell.edu](mailto:emb35@cornell.edu).

### WEATHER DATA: Edith Byrne

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DATE/YEAR	HIGH	LOW	DAILY PRECIP.	GDDs	TOTAL APRIL GDDs	TOTAL JAN GDDs
Week 6/5/13	69	47	0.00	8	491.5	568.5
Week 6/12/13	74	59	0.38	16.5	572	649
Week 6/19/13	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>666.5</b>	<b>743.5</b>
<i>Week 6/19/12</i>	<i><b>85</b></i>	<i><b>71</b></i>	<i><b>0.00</b></i>	<i><b>28</b></i>	<i><b>750</b></i>	<i><b>880.5</b></i>
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>18.66</b>	<b>653.45</b>	<b>679.40</b>
<b>GDDs accumulated June 2013 = 228.00</b>				<b>GDDs accumulated June 2012 = 300</b>		
<b>GDDs accumulated May 2013 = 260.5</b>				<b>GDDs accumulated May 2012 = 393</b>		
<b>Average GDDs accumulated through June19 = 282.07</b>				<b>Average GDDs accumulated June = 513.30</b>		
	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>			
<u>Average High June</u> (so far)	68.53 (last week 67.67)		73.89 (last week 71.08)			
<u>Average Low June</u> (so far)	55.47 (last week 54.58)		57.68 (last week 56.00)			
This year compared to AVERAGE: JAN. GDD: AHEAD 3.44 / APR. GDD: AHEAD 0.70						
This year compared to 2012: JAN. GDD: <b>BEHIND 7.34</b> / APR. GDD: <b>BEHIND 4.47</b>						
JUNE Rainfall accumulation = 4.31"				APRIL Rainfall accumulation = 3.44"		
MAY Rainfall accumulation = 4.14"						
Rainfall accumulation 1/1/13 through 6/19/13 = 17.60"						

## FROM NORTH EAST, PA: Bryan Hed

**Weather:** Here at the North East PA lab, we have accumulated 227 growing degree days during the first 19 days of June (on the cool side). Rainfall for June so far totals about 4.2 inches, which is above average. However, we have not had any serious rainfall for a week (since about mid bloom). Our gdd total since April 1 equals 666. According to Skybit and Accuweather, there is no rain in the forecast over the next three days, but we may get some precipitation around mid-next-week.

**Phenology:** 50% bloom occurred in Concord grape on June 14 here by the lake.

**Diseases:** In June, we have recorded about 6-7 infection periods for all the major diseases, all of which took place within the first 13 days of the month. Since then the weather has quieted down and moved into a sunny and clear pattern that looks to continue over the next several days. Nevertheless, an immediate post bloom spray that covers you for all major diseases is still in order, to protect fruit through the midst of the susceptibility period. [Powdery mildew](#) is active, though in small quantity at this point: we are observing powdery mildew on clusters of perennially unsprayed Concord vines here at the lab, but the incidence is very, very low. Still, use your best materials and shoot for best coverage (bump up your gallons per acre) as canopies bulk up.

Scouting now can help you decide about a second post bloom spray on juice grapes, particularly for diseases like [black rot](#). Weather in late May-early June was favorable for this disease to become established on leaves. Those lesions came from overwintering sources of the pathogen, and are now capable of producing spores for fruit infections during the next several weeks. For example, where we have 'planted' black rot mummies in the trellis of unprotected Concord vines, leaf lesions are now present on leaves at nodes 1-3 and 5 and 6. These infections occurred as a result of rainfall on May 9-10 (nodes 1-3) and the first couple of days in June (nodes 5 and 6) and will go on to release spores during the next rainfall period, right in the cluster zone. So, hone in on those nodes to scout for this disease. For powdery mildew, focus on scouting cluster stems (rachises). For [downy mildew](#), focus on scouting leaves on suckers and other shoots near the ground, as well as shoots, clusters, and leaves in the trellis.

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

### Health Care Reform

#### *Compliance With the Mandate*

The individual and large employer (50 FTE) mandate begins in 2014. Since 2010 health insurance regulations and programs have been slowly evolving to prepare individuals and business to access health insurance and enable the mandate. In addition, incentives and regulations are evolving through 2018 in an attempt to reduce the cost of health care.

#### *2010*

Tax credit for small employers providing health care insurance for workers with modest salaries. Many additional benefits for health care insurance became required, thereby increasing the cost of insurance but theoretically lowering overall health insurance costs. An example is the requirement of dependent care coverage for children age 26 and younger.

**2011**

Employers will be reporting the cost of health insurance on employees' W2 to prepare for the so-called "luxury tax". Small businesses were also eligible for grant funded wellness programs in an effort to improve health and reduce health care costs.

**2012**

Insurance companies must report a uniform coverage summary. If you provide health insurance to your employees you should have received this report. This report must be given to employees, to allow them to compare it with other health insurance plans.

**2013**

While not important to your agricultural business, Medicare Part D will begin closing the "donut hole". Personally growers over the age of 65 will see an increase in their Part D benefit.

**2014**

This is where the meat of the law starts. Large employer mandate for employees with more than 50 employees begins on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The small employer tax credit for providing insurance increases as well. Plans that employers offer are required to meet a number of minimum benefits. These plans can be offered in the private insurance market. They can also be purchased through a state organized health care exchange. Both PA and NY are continuing to work through their exchange offerings and make that information publically available.

Individuals must report the status of health insurance coverage on income tax in 2014 for both themselves and dependents. Verification of employer provided coverage would be included on the W2. Individuals without insurance pay \$95 in 2014, phasing upward to \$750 in 2017. If the cost of coverage exceeds 9.5% of household income, the penalty would be waived.

Low-income individuals, those below 400% of the federal poverty level, are eligible for subsidized insurance. This benefit will apply to most agricultural employees in addition to many small-farm owners. Individual income below \$40,000 (\$80,000 family of four) would be eligible for some subsidies. The amount of subsidies increases as income decreases.

The employer mandate only applies to large employees that do not offer adequate or affordable coverage and their employees receive the individual subsidy available to "low-income" individuals.

A large employer is 50+ full-time employees. Based on the 30-hour formula a business with less than 78,000 hours will not be subject to the mandate. The hours of some seasonal employees are not counted toward the total. Employees that work less than 120 days per year would be considered seasonal.



Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> for a detailed calendar of events. *Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one!*

**COFFEE POT MEETINGS: All Coffee Pot Meetings are held on Wednesdays**

**PLEASE NOTE - STARTING IN JULY: One Coffee Pot Meeting per week!**

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*Coffee Pot Meetings are free. Come find out what is happening in our local vineyards and talk with the Team. Look for notices in Electronic Crop Updates, Upcoming Events Notices, and on the Website and mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you at several of our Wednesday meetings this year!*



**June 26, 2013** 10 am - 12:00 noon Szklenski Farms Inc., 8601 Slade Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421

*SPEAKER: Jodi Timer*

**June 26, 2013** 2 pm - 4:00 pm North Collins Senior Center, 11065 Gowanda State Road, North Collins, NY 14111

*SPEAKER: Jodi Timer*

**The June 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm meeting is sponsored by:** *Crop Growers LLP is an independent agency that sells and services only crop insurance, enabling us to specialize on the 28 different crops we insure.*

**July 3, 2013** 10 am - 12:00 noon Earl Blakely Farm/Vineyard, 183 Versailles Road, Irving, NY 14081

**July 10, 2013** 10 am - 12:00 noon Paul S Bencal, 2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, N.Y. 14131-9738

**WINEMAKER'S ROUNDTABLE**

**DATE:** Monday July 15, 2013

**TIME:** 4:00 – 6:00

**LOCATION:** Presque Isle Yacht Club, 120 West Front Street, Erie, PA 16507 *Directions can be downloaded from: [www.piy.com](http://www.piy.com)*

**TOPIC:** *Bordeaux Reds*

Winemaker's Roundtable this month will have a different format - This month we are having our meeting at Presque Isle Yacht Club and Sam Best is our host.

**The format will be the same as last year:** Wine tasting from 4:00pm until 6:00pm - Pot Luck BBQ after (meat, condiments will be provided) - If time permits tours of Presque Isle Bay, by boat.

**Spouses are welcome to attend.** Any questions should be directed to Sam Best - [shbest1@verizon.net](mailto:shbest1@verizon.net) - **with your RSVP!** This meeting is still informal and designed to provide a venue for sharing information, getting to know each other and increasing our collective knowledge and winemaking skills to raise the quality and visibility of wines from our regions. Please bring wines that you wish to discuss, whether problem wines or wines with merit. All provide an opportunity for learning! This meeting is open to all commercial winemakers in the region and beyond, so encourage your colleagues to attend. Lake Erie and Niagara regions share commonalities that do not exist between our regions and other regions in NY, PA or OH; exploring these similarities will help us all understand the potential of our own region. Please make the effort to attend as many of the meetings as you can as each of us has something to contribute to the greater good.

There is no charge, **HOWEVER PLEASE RSVP** for this meeting to Sam Best at [shbest1@verizon.net](mailto:shbest1@verizon.net).

**PLEASE NOTE: *Next Electronic Crop Update will be Thursday June 27, 2013***

*Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Crop Update* is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and sent out by subscription only. For subscription information, please call us at 716.792.2800 ext. 201. For any questions or comments on the format of this update please contact Tim Weigle at: [thw4@cornell.edu](mailto:thw4@cornell.edu).

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