



The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



Electronic Crop Update for June 27, 2013

Just a reminder that the offices of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2013 for the 4th of July Holiday. Offices will reopen on Friday July 5, 2013 with normal hours. The Electronic Crop Update will be delivered and available on Wednesday July 3 due to the Holiday.

The members of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program at CLEREL would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for safe travels and a joyous time with your family and friends during all your activities this 4th of July!

IN THIS UPDATE:

Weather Data

Update From North East, Pa.

Grape IPM

Business Management

Upcoming Events

LERGP Summer Growers'

Conference Website:

<http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=32>

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)

FROM NORTH EAST, PA: Bryan Hed

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Weather: Here at the North East PA lab, we have accumulated 386 growing degree days during the first 26 days of June. Our 14 year average gdd accumulation for June is about 510, so we are a bit behind for June. However, our gdd total since April 1 equals 825 which places us a few days ahead of average for the season. Our rainfall total for June is 4.2 inches, which is above average, and the weather forecast through the end of the month indicates that we are about to become even more above average in precipitation. Rainfall predicted over the next 3-4 days will break a two week dry spell that could result in additional infection from all diseases at a critical time for fruit protection.

Phenology: Here by the lake, Concord fruit fall in the 4-7 mm range in size and are sizing up rapidly.

Diseases: We are *nearing* the end of the powdery and downy mildew fruit susceptibility period for juice grapes, which is another way of saying, we are 'not out of the woods' yet. The discovery of a few sporulating downy mildew lesions on old leaves of unsprayed Niagara vines tells me this disease got started about two weeks ago but was kept at bay by the dry spell. Well that dry spell has ended and the forecast indicates that we may be caught in another wet cycle for the next few days. A second post bloom spray may be particularly important for varieties that are susceptible to downy mildew, like Niagara and all wine grape varieties. At current temperatures, it takes less than a handful of hours of wetness for downy mildew infection to take place on unprotected plant surfaces.

Powdery mildew is active too and every day is an infection period. Though in small quantity at this point, we are observing powdery mildew on clusters and leaves of perennially unsprayed Concord vines here at the lab, but the incidence is still low. Cloudy, warm, humid weather over the next several days could increase this disease quickly. If you are applying additional sprays, keep in mind that canopies have bulked up dramatically since your last spray and will be harder to penetrate to protect fruit; use your best materials and shoot for best coverage (bump up your gallons per acre) to make the next spray count.

Scouting is very important now, particularly for diseases like black rot. Wet weather 2-3 weeks ago established this disease on leaves 1-3 and 5-7 (right in the cluster zone) where overwintering inoculum was present in the trellis and on the ground. Those leaf lesions are now capable of producing spores for fruit infections during rainfall over the next several weeks. Hone in on those nodes to scout for this disease. For downy mildew, focus on scouting leaves on suckers and other shoots near the ground, as well as shoots, clusters, and leaves (even older ones) in the trellis, checking suspicious yellow 'oil' spots that appear on the tops of leaves, for the bright, white, downy sporulation on the underside of leaves.

GRAPE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: Tim Weigle

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Table 1. Results of Grape Berry Moth Model displayed on NEWA for June 27 and forecasted out to July 2

	DD Total on June 27		Forecast for July 2	
	May 22*	May 26*	May 22*	May 26*
<i>Versailles</i>	638	591	750	703
<i>Sheridan</i>	677	627	798	748
<i>Silver Creek</i>	649	602	760	713
<i>Portland Escarp.</i>	629	584	742	696
<i>Portland</i>	638	593	751	706
<i>Ripley</i>	671	623	736	784
<i>North East Escarp</i>	652	606	764	718
<i>Harborcreek</i>	674	627	792	745
<i>North East Lab</i>	655	608	774	726
<i>Ransomville</i>	614	573	729	687
<i>North Appleton</i>	580	544	685	650
<i>South Appleton</i>	619	576	725	681

* Date of Wild Grape Bloom used to start Grape Berry Moth model

According to the Grape Berry Moth Model found on NEWA we are getting to the point where you should be going online to the NEWA website on a daily basis to check the results of the GBM model for the station nearest you. Wild grape bloom is the bio indicator that is used to start the collection of degree days for use in the model. This is why it is important for you to have at least a general idea of when wild grape bloom occurred near your vineyards. The GBM model on NEWA will give you a default date for wild grape bloom that can be used if you do not know when it occurred. However, going through the model this morning showed that there was a huge range in the default dates, and some did not coincide well with the dates determined through visually seeing the wild grapes in bloom. Take home message: find out when wild grape bloom occurred in your area.

In Table 1, I provided results of the GBM model using two different wild grape bloom dates to get results for today, and forecasted out for July 2 just to show the differences that we are finding between bloom dates and station location. Again, the best way to use the model would be to plug in the wild grape bloom date that you know for your region.

Looking at the model results it appears that we will be hitting 810 DD sometime towards the end of next week or beginning of the following week. You should go out and scout when between 750 and 810 DD, using the GBM Risk Assessment scouting protocol, to determine if you have reached the threshold of 6% cluster damage, to determine the need to spray for GBM.

We have had some great discussions at Coffee Pot meetings about what insecticides to use and when to apply them. According to yesterday's guest speaker, Jody Timer, PSU Entomology Dept at the North East Lab, this upcoming spray is the best time to use materials like Intrepid (not yet registered in NY), Altachlor and Leverage as we can still get coverage of the clusters. These materials should be applied at 810 DD. If you are using materials that are kill by contact, and have shorter residual, such as the bifenthrins, you should apply them approximately 100 DD later at 910 DD to ensure you target a larger population.

To get the latest in model information for both grape berry moth and the grape diseases, powdery mildew,

downy mildew, black rot and Phomopsis, get on the NEWA website at <http://newa.cornell.edu> and access the station, or stations, nearest you.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin

Farm Cost Survey

Looking back at the results of the last Farm Cost Survey, which was presented at the 2010 winter growers' conference, inflation had increased the cost per ton to nearly \$280 or \$1792 per acre. Since that time macroeconomic inflation has been relatively stagnant. Key expenses for grape growers have remained volatile, but most have not shown an upward trend.

Fertilizer continues to trend upward overall. Nitrogen prices have declined moderately, while potash prices are higher. Volatility in macronutrients dwarfs the trends. While Potash prices are significantly higher swings of \$200 per ton have been a result of timing. It is tempting to skip multiple years because of errors in guessing the future price. I would avoid that temptation and continue to think of maintenance applications, based on yields, as non-negotiable.

Since 2008 fuel prices have been trending downward. While the bottom was in January of 2009, prices have still not fully recovered. For the last two and a half years volatility for this input cost has been dramatically lower. While the fuel market continues to remain more sensitive to economic news than it was twenty years ago, the cost appears to be more manageable than it was in 2004 – 2008.

Pesticide prices seem to move in every direction. There is certainly an overall inflationary trend. Individual practices, however, are much more mixed. Berry moth sprays, for example, have few moderately priced chemicals. The choices are now very expensive (compared to historical prices) and inexpensive. Leverage 360 is one of the few materials that seem to be both reasonably priced and fairly reliable. For growers that rotate chemistries and need reliable long-lasting control prices have increased considerably. Because of this trend looking at prices of chemicals alone does not paint an accurate picture of what growers are actually spending.

Strong long-term yields, despite last year, likely continue to keep break-even prices close to \$300 per ton.

Since the last update in 2010, prices have held in an area just under \$300 per ton. Growers have continued to innovate to increase efficiency, production and profitability. Average farm size continues to grow. Mechanized pruning and thinning continue to adapt. Soil testing and vine size management have also swung back toward higher levels of management, despite the trend toward mechanization.

The LERGP research and extension team measures its success based on the adoption of research based production practices. As inflation and indirect competition continue to pressure the industry, returning to profitability will require efficiency and hard work.

With all of that in mind, I would like to provide another update of the Survey at the next Winter Growers Conference. One way you can complete the survey is online. Our new website offers a form for you to fill out. Once we get results, reports will be made available immediately and update live. Please take a moment to check out this new website feature.

http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=39&crumb=business%20management|business_management

NDVI Sensor

I want to thank those of you that have taken the time to use the website to sign-up for NDVI sensor work in your commercial vineyard. Our ability to scan vineyards is somewhat limited in scope by time and weather. Please continue to contact us if you have not done so already. However, if sign-ups continue at their current pace, we may not be able to get to every grower. The sooner you sign up the more likely we will be able to give you this valuable information.

WEATHER DATA: Edith Byrne

Weather Data

DATE/YEAR	HIGH	LOW	DAILY PRECIP.	GDDs	TOTAL APRIL GDDs	TOTAL JAN GDDs
Week 6/5/13	69	47	0.00	8	491.5	517
Week 6/12/13	74	59	0.38	16.5	572	649
Week 6/19/13	67	49	0.00	8	666.5	743.5
Week 6/26/13	77	66	0.04	21.5	823	848.5
<i>Week 6/26/12</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>890.5</i>	<i>1021</i>
AVERAGE	79.9	60.2	0.13	20.05	785.77	810.68
<i>GDDs accumulated June 2013 = 384.50</i>				<i>GDDs accumulated June 2012 = 440.50</i>		
<i>GDDs accumulated May 2013 = 260.5</i>				<i>GDDs accumulated May 2012 = 393</i>		
<i>Average GDDs through June 26 = 433.34</i>				<i>Average GDDs accumulated June = 513.78</i>		
	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>			
<u>Average High June</u> (so far)	71.69 (last week 68.53)		74.58 (last week 73.89)			
<u>Average Low June</u> (so far)	57.88 (last week 55.47)		59.31 (last week 57.68)			
This year compared to AVERAGE: JAN. GDD: AHEAD 1.89 / APR. GDD: AHEAD 1.86						
This year compared to 2012: JAN. GDD: BEHIND 8.6 / APR. GDD: BEHIND 3.37						
<i>JUNE Rainfall accumulation = 4.35"</i>				<i>APRIL Rainfall accumulation = 3.44"</i>		
<i>MAY Rainfall accumulation = 4.14"</i>						
<i>Rainfall accumulation 1/1/13 through 6/26/13 = 17.64"</i>						



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

Upcoming Events

COFFEE POT MEETINGS: All Coffee Pot Meetings are held on Wednesdays
1 DEC credit available

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!



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
July 17, 2013	10 am - 12:00 noon	John Ziesenheim Farm/Vineyard, 8760 Old Lake Road, Lake City PA. 16423
July 24, 2013	10 am - 12:00 noon	Leo Hans Farm/Vineyard, 10929 W. Perrysburg Road, Perrysburg, NY 14129

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*

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 - **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.

LERGP SUMMER GROWERS' CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday July 26, 2013

TIME: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

LOCATION: LERGP @ CLEREL, 6592 W. Main Road, Portland, NY 14769

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday July 18, 2013

COST (includes Lunch): LERGP Member \$25.00 | Non-Member cost \$50.00 [*\$25.00 late Registration fee*]

NEW THIS YEAR: YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD AT

http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration.php?event=32

The LERGP Summer Grower's Conference is coming together. Please make plans to join us on Thursday July 25. Some talks include: *NEWA Resources, Invasive Insects, Phomopsis Control, Grape Berry Moth, Vineyard Mapping, Sprayer Technology and a tour of the CLEREL vineyards.*

There is also a Trade Show with more details being finalized and to follow.

Information can be found at: <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=32>

Please phone or email any questions to either:

[Kate Robinson](mailto:kjr45@cornell.edu) 716-792-2800 ext. 201 | kjr45@cornell.edu or

[Kevin Martin](mailto:kmm52@psu.edu) 716-792-2800 ext. 205 | kmm52@psu.edu

PLEASE NOTE: Next Electronic Crop Update will be WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 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.

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THE LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM at CLEREL

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