Cornell University Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

Hans Walter-Peterson

We have pretty much wrapped up fruit set in most vineyards by now, and based on what we have observed in our stops over the past few days, set seems to have gone better than I anticipated given the conditions that we were experiencing – especially in varieties that set early like Concord, Catawba and Chardonnay when we were experiencing pretty cool and damp conditions.

Even though we are ahead of average with growing degree days by several days (you can see the latest tally at the end of this week's Update), our bloom date this year was not significantly earlier than usual, so at this point I would not be counting on having a lot of extra time at the end of the growing season to ripen larger than average crops. The tricky part, of course, is getting a good crop estimate relatively early in the season so thinning decisions can be made when they will have an impact on fruit quality parameters. Dropping fruit a few weeks before harvest can certainly help to improve the uniformity of the final crop by remove clusters that are lagging, but it is unlikely that the remaining clusters will improve significantly at that point.



Terry Bates has developed an easy method of estimating crops in Concord vineyards, based on measuring the total yield from 0.01 acres (about 4 vines in most cases), starting around 30 days after bloom here in the Finger Lakes, that will be sometime around the middle of next week. With that information, you can use <u>Terry's crop estimation</u> <u>"cheat sheet"</u> to figure out your crop estimate. You can also watch a <u>short video from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program</u> that summarizes the estimation process and why it's becoming a more important practice for Concord growers.

With all of the moisture in the ground and the return of warm temperatures, shoot growth has accelerated rapidly. Plenty of blocks

trained to top-wire systems are "shaking hands" across the rows, which can lead to snapping off shoots when tractors come through to spray or mow. Vines that require shoot positioning need to have catch wires moved to the top position by now to keep them from starting to droop down and shade the fruit zone and the developing buds for next season.

We've seen a few hedgers out already too. While you always need to fit in vineyard work when you can, try to wait to hedge vines as long as possible, and when you do, try to remove as little of the shoot as possible. This can help (but not always) to reduce the number of laterals that push out in the fruit zone.

Upcoming Events: more details in Upcoming Events on page 4

- Vineyard Tailgate Meeting
- Field Meeting on Soils & Compaction

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July 9, 2013 July 30, 2013

IPM

Hans Walter-Peterson



Powdery mildew on cluster (July 2, 2013 - Keuka Lake)

Disease

Given the conditions that we've been under for the past few weeks, we've been happy to see that vineyards still look pretty clean. This was the overall sentiment at our Tailgate Meeting yesterday afternoon as well (see Mike's summary of the meeting for more on what we discussed). Still, we did find both powdery and downy infections on some leaves and clusters yesterday.

Using materials with post-infection activity to prevent from further spread can be considered under these kinds of situations. For downy mildew, this would include the phosphorous acid products, Pristine and Revus. For powdery mildew there are a few more options, including potassium salts like Nutrol and Armicarb, sulfur, Flint, Luna Experience, Vivando, Stylet Oil and some others (a more complete list of materials with post-infection activity can be found in the 2013 Grape IPM Guidelines).

Berries are also developing resistance to the mildews and black rot during this post-set period. Resistance to new powdery mildew infections is achieved anywhere from 2-4 weeks after set, depending on variety (Concord and other native varieties will be closer to 2 weeks, while vinifera

will develop resistance by about 4 weeks). Berries develop resistance to downy mildew infections by about four weeks after *bloom*, while resistance to black rot takes longer to develop – generally about 5-7 weeks after set, again depending on variety. So at this point in the season, berries are pretty close to being resistant to new powdery and downy mildew infections, but are still susceptible to black rot for another few weeks. This doesn't mean that you may not still see new symptoms of mildew infection over the next couple of weeks, but they should not spread to other healthy berries.

Insects

We continue to see grape leafhoppers in many of the vineyards that we have stopped in lately, along with evidence of their feeding on leaves. Potato leafhoppers are still around as well – one grower at our tailgate meeting yesterday said that they sprayed for them last week. With the potential for larger than normal crops this year, keeping the foliage on canopies healthy will be even more important as we move into the ripening stage of the season. If a few leaves on a vine looked like the one here, I probably wouldn't be too worried at this point. But if many of them had this kind of damage, it might be worth considering putting something in the tank for leafhoppers in the next spray.



We are also getting closer to the action threshold for grape berry moth. At our teaching vineyard in Dresden, we are forecast to hit 810 GDDs (since the biofix date of May 29)

sometime in the middle of next week. Be sure to check the GBM model on the NEWA site to see when your nearest weather station says that you're approaching 810 GDD, and begin scouting for early indications of egg laying and larvae feeding on berries prior to reaching the degree day threshold.

I also read this bit of information from Tim Weigle in the Lake Erie Grape Program's Update last week, and thought it would be good to pass along to our growers as well:

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 (e.g., Brigade, Sniper, Brigadier), you should apply them approximately 100 DD later at 910 DD to ensure you target a larger population.

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Tailgate Meeting Summary

Mike Colizzi

Last nights tailgate meeting was at Dr. Konstantin Frank's on Keuka Lake. We had a great meeting with an amazing view. With all of the rain we have gotten lately the obvious topics included molds, mildew, spraying techniques, & canopy management. We also talked about insects and cluster thinning. As always the tailgate meetings are free to attend and open to everyone interested in hearing what we are seeing in the vineyards. We offer .75 DEC pest credits to anyone who attends.

Given all of the rain we have been getting recently the question of when is everyone spray was asked. The general answer was in between the storms. That being said it is important to keep good coverage on everything but not to the extent that you burn out a particular product or family of products. For the most part vineyards we visited yesterday were fairly disease free. We did see some instances of <u>downy</u> and <u>powdery mildew</u> in a couple hybrid and native blocks. We were also seeing some localized leafhopper populations. As we know everyday is a powdery mildew infection period so diligent scouting and thorough spray coverage is important.



Figure 1: Downy mildew on a cluster



Figure 2: Powdery Mildew on a cluster

Numerous farms have started to hedge recently and we have also seen some early leaf pulling taking place. With the large amounts of rain we have received the canopies have almost doubled in this past week. Berry size ranges from marble in concord to BB in Riesling. Hopefully things will dry out over the next week and give everyone a chance to get back on schedule.

We would like to thank everyone at Dr. Frank's for hosting last nights meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the tailgate meeting **NEXT WEEK**, JULY 9TH at Atwater Vineyards.

Finger Lakes Grape Program

Upcoming Events

Vineyard Tailgate Meetings

Tuesday, July 9, 2013 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Atwater Vineyards

5055 Route 414, Hector NY 14841 (click here for map)

These are a series of informal meetings held with growers in different locations around the Finger Lakes during the growing season. Meetings are held every other Tuesday afternoon, starting at 5:00 PM and usually ending around 6:30 PM. During the day of each meeting, Mike and I visit a few growers and vineyards near the meeting location to get a sense of what has been happening in the area, and give us some ideas about some potential topics for the meeting later that day. There will also be ample time to discuss any questions or issues that others want to bring up as well. There is no need to register ahead of time – just show up when you can, and leave when you have to.

There will be 0.75 pesticide recertification credits available for each meeting. As with other events where credits are available, you need to be present at the beginning of the meeting to sign the meeting roster – make sure to have your card with you - and stay until the end to receive your certificate.

Here is the schedule for the rest of our Tailgate meetings this season:

Date	Address
July 23	Vine Country Farms (Roy & Gordon Taft), 8531 County Rd 74, Prattsburgh NY 14873
August 6	Hermann J. Wiemer Winery, 3962 State Route 14, Dundee NY 14837
August 20	Goose Watch Winery, 5480 Route 89, Romulus NY 14541

Field Meeting on Soils & Compaction

Tuesday, July 30 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Doyle Vineyard Management - Dresden Farm

1255 Ridge Road, Penn Yan NY (click here for a map)

This field meeting will be focused on soil management, including a demonstration of several different pieces of equipment that could be used to deal with compaction in vineyard soils. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ian Merwin from Cornell University, who will talk about how some different aspects of soil management can influence production in perennial crop systems like vineyards.

There is no cost for those who have subscribed to the FLGP in 2013, and a \$10 fee for those who are not enrolled. To register, please contact Karen in our office at kag255@cornell.edu or 315-536-5134.

2013 GDD Accumulation

We are tracking growing degree day (GDD) and precipitation accumulation again this year, but we will be reporting data from <u>our weather station located at the teaching & demonstration vineyard in Dresden</u>, at Anthony Road Wine Company, instead of using the station at Geneva. We will continue to monitor GDD accumulation at Geneva in order to see how our new location compares with it, and to provide context of where we are with regard to heat accumulation compared to our long-term average.

FL Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY							
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs		
6/26/13	85.0	69.0	0.00	27.0	885.0		
6/27/13	82.0	66.0	0.06	24.0	909.0		
6/28/13	72.0	63.0	0.63	17.5	926.5		
6/29/13	75.0	62.0	0.33	18.5	945.0		
6/30/13	80.0	63.0	0.00	21.5	966.5		
7/1/13	69.0	63.0	0.36	16.0	982.5		
7/2/13	84.0	62.0	0.22	23.0	1005.5		
June 2013 Total			4.96"	515.5			
Monthly Avg -			2 60"	470.2			
June			5.00	479.3			
Season Total			11.13″	1005.5			

Average GDD on July 2: 832.6 (currently 9 days ahead of average) Average Rain on July 2: 9.70"

Additional Information

Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the <u>NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website</u> today!

Become a fan of the Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter (@cceflgp). Also check out our website, "The Grape Lakes – Viticulture in the Finger Lakes" at <u>http://flg.cce.cornell.edu</u>.

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