FINGER LAKES VINEYARD NOTES
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Written by David V. Peterson, Area Extension Grape Specialist, Finger Lakes Grape Program (315) 536-5134, and Tim Weigle, Area Extension Grape Pest Management Specialist for the Finger Lakes and Lake Erie Grape Programs (716) 672-6830.
Edited by David V. Peterson.

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PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD MEETING

The first field meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, May 21 from 2:45 to 6:00 pm at Lance Fullagar Vineyard Supplies on Yates County Road 17 in Penn Yan (approximately 3.5 miles south of the Penn Yan Airport). Pesticide applicator recertification credits will be given to those attending (approximately 3 are expected).

Topics will include:
• Personal Protective Equipment and the Worker Protection Standard
• Sprayer Calibration
• Updates on New Chemicals and Label Changes
• Current Insect and Disease Situation
• Spray Water pH Effects on Pesticides

At the end of the meeting there will be a cookout sponsored by several of the participating chemical companies (The list includes: Rhone Poulenc, Rohm & Haas, DowElanco, Elf Atochem, Zeneca, AgChem Service). Wine will also be served at the cookout. Wineries are encouraged to bring a few bottles of their wines to the meeting.

There is no fee to those who are enrolled in the Finger Lakes Grape Program (if a farm is enrolled, all employees of that farm may attend at no charge), but you must preregister. Use the preregistration form at the end of this newsletter or call Katie at (315) 536-5134 on Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. If you are NOT enrolled in the Finger Lakes Grape Program, there is a $10 per person registration fee.
THE NORTHEAST WEATHER ASSOCIATION

Tim Weigle

What is the Northeast Weather Association?

The Northeast Weather Association (NEWA) is a new organization offering farmers, consultants, food processors, agricultural industry representatives, and others access to the information provided by a network of electronic weather instruments. This information can be tailored to fit the specific needs of individual growers. NEWA will be a non-profit membership organization managed by its board of directors. The board of directors will be elected from among the NEWA membership.

Where did NEWA come from?

Over the past five years a network of more than 50 electronic weather monitoring instruments has been developed in New York and Pennsylvania because of interest in pest forecasting among growers of grapes, onions, potatoes, and apples. These instruments have been purchased by many individuals and groups, some of whom have contributed the use of their instruments to a computer/telephone-connected network. Daily readings from 26 of the instruments have been available in Cornell’s e-mail system (CENET) through the efforts of the IPM Program staff and staff at the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC). Funding constraints at NRCC and the IPM Program and changes in CENET will not allow this network to continue in the future.

NEWA is being formed to take over the functions of the previous network and to provide additional weather and pest-related services to its members. Startup funds for the formation of NEWA are being provided through a one-year grant from the USDA Agricultural Telecommunications Grants Program to the New York State IPM Program. Continuation of NEWA after startup will depend entirely on membership fees, other granting sources, or a combination of both.

What will NEWA do?

NEWA will help fill the need for agricultural weather information created by government funding cutbacks. In addition NEWA will provide information by means of FAX and computer that will help agriculturists manage pests and crops more precisely than ever before.

Specifically NEWA will set up 6 regional computer sites in New York that will:

- Download weather data from electronic weather instruments in farmers' fields daily.
- Summarize and display the information.
- Use the weather information to run pest forecast models.
- Display the results of the pest forecast models.
- Display other pertinent pest and crop information.
- Provide members access to the information via computer or FAX.

NEWA is also exploring the possibility of contracting with private-sector weather providers for localized weather forecasts. As of April 1, 1996, the National Weather Service (NOAA) is no longer providing agricultural forecasts. ONLY NEWA MEMBERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION on the computers.

Who is NEWA?

NEWA has identified a founding board of directors with representatives of the following agricultural groups:

- Growers (3)
- Private Consultant (1)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension (4)
- Processor (1)
- Cornell Faculty (2)

New York State IPM Program staff are providing the technical and administrative support to initiate NEWA.
Where do I find out more about NEWA, and how do I become a member?

To find out more about NEWA, including services offered, membership fees, and other membership benefits, fill out the attached form, and drop it in the mail. For further information, call Curt Petzoldt at (315) 787-2206 or send a FAX to (315) 787-2360.

**NITROGEN FERTILIZATION**

David Peterson

This topic has been discussed in detail in newsletters and over the past several years. The following is my quick and dirty summary of what you need to think about now!

As I have urged growers in recent years, don’t be in a rush to put nitrogen (N) on too early. Active root growth is required for uptake. This does not occur until a few weeks after bud break. Since nitrogen fertilizers are quickly available and prone to leaching, do not apply them prior to bud break, if possible. Early to mid-May applications generally result in more efficient uptake. Try to time the application when rain is expected in the day or two following the application. This is especially important with urea, as it volatilizes into the air (especially at warm temperatures). Ammonium nitrate is usually preferred for this reason. Avoid applications close to bloom, as fruit set may be reduced. Split applications are generally better than applying it all at once. Applying half to two thirds of the expected total in early to mid-May followed by the remainder after fruit set allows you to better assess the needs after you see the crop potential (as well as adjusting for other factors). Uptake is usually more efficient and the vines are less likely to be deficient late in the season. In some years, you may even decide that you do not need the late application. Nitrogen may be band applied or broadcast on mature vines. In most cases, it has not made much of a difference under Finger Lakes conditions. Rates of up to 100 pounds per acre are commonly used, and there seems to be little justification for exceeding this rate. Growers should use their experience and other factors (such as expected crop size, etc.) in deciding how much to apply.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your program in detail with me, please call our office.

**EARLY SEASON INSECT PESTS**

Tim Weigle

Mother Nature’s resistance to bringing us a nice warm spring should be a reminder that two insects can become a problem if we have slow growth during bud swell and bud break. Grape Flea Beetle and Climbing Cutworm are generally not a problem after 1/2-inch shoot growth. However, in cool springs with an extended bud break these two insect pests can bore into the bud, essentially killing it. A quick look in the vineyard for buds with holes bored into them will give you an idea if you have a problem. A 'best guess' threshold of 5% damaged buds has been developed to help in determining whether an insecticide application should be made.

Grape cane borer, while a sporadic pest, is frequently mentioned as a grower concern. Up to this point, we were at a loss as to what to do about this pest as no insecticides were labeled in New York State for this pest. However, the new IMIDAN label lists grape cane borer as a target pest. This means that growers who need to manage grape cane borer can legally apply IMIDAN in their vineyards. A laboratory screening of insecticides conducted by G. A. Shaefers in 1984 found that IMIDAN had a kill rate of 100% for grape cane borer. Timing of IMIDAN applications should be made to manage adult populations prior to egg laying. Adult grape cane borers become active in late April or early May with egg laying taking place in mid-May. The best time to manage this pest would be during the bud swell through 3 inch shoot growth stage (prior to mating and egg laying). This probably translates into the first 2 weeks of May in the Finger Lakes. Early evening applications may be more effective since the adults become more active around dusk.

Consult the New York and Pennsylvania Pest Recommendations for Grapes for specific pesticide recommendations. As always, read the label before applying a pesticide in the vineyard to ensure proper rates and timings.
1996 CONCORD MARKET PROSPECTS

Barry Shaffer

All indications are that Concord juice grape prices are going up! National Grape is looking for additional tons (one year contracts) and Cliffstar is going back to their original tonnage contracts scrapping their 17% reduction for the 1995 crop. This is on the heels of a record size crop.

What is driving the market is increased sales of Concord based products, decreased supply of white grape juice concentrate (WGJC) worldwide, and concerns about the 1996 Washington State Concord crop. My estimate for the 1996 US Concord crop will be around 385,000 tons, roughly equal to the 1989 totals. If we’re close to that estimate, we’ll be in short supply!

What does this mean to growers? Prices will be up this fall! Growers still will have tight cash flow until harvest at least. Don’t gamble and over crop this year. I don’t think processors will be relaxing their sugar standards.

David V. Peterson
Area Extension Specialist
Finger Lakes Grape Program

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21. PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY. Lance Fullagar Vineyards, Yates County Road 17, Penn Yan, NY. From Penn Yan take Route 54 south to the edge of town, then left on County Road 17. Farm is approximately 3.5 miles past the Penn Yan Airport just south of the G. Fullagar Road. Credits will be given for Pesticide Applicator Recertification. Preregistration Required. To register, call Katie at (315) 536-5134 on Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, or send in the form enclosed in this newsletter.

July 16 - 20. 4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COOL CLIMATE VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY. Rochester, NY. Contact: Cool Climate Symposium, Dept. of Food Science & Technology, NYSAES, Geneva, NY 14456-0462. Fax: (315) 787-2284 or e-mail at: wdel@cornell.edu.