

Cooperative Extension Service

July 24, 2026

Week 3 of Harvest Sampling

We're now up to 27 samples, including two sites in the Los Lunas area. I may have jumped the gun on the grapes from the Los Lunas research center as I've never tested grapes with just five brix. At that level you're actually capturing things like acids and cations (potassium, calcium, etc.). Truly, brix is only an accurate measurement of sugar from around 12 to 22 brix. Below 12 and your refractometer will overestimate sugars, and over 22 it will underestimate.

Speaking of brix, the average increase this week was 1.4. For pH, the average increase was 0.2. And for titratable acidity, the average decrease was 4 g/L. It's hard to draw conclusions from these averages as the grapes were at very different stages of development (ranging from 5 brix to 15.5 brix), but it does seem acids are dropping a bit faster than sugars are accumulating. If you're targeting a fresh style of wine, like sparkling, you may have to decide which you prefer adjusting, sugar or acids.

Again please take note of the upcoming regional meeting in Dixon, and the IPM workshop in Los Lunas on August 20.

Description

Best Quality Mesilla Valley AVA Grapes- Hand Picked

Est Tons Available:

Aglianico	1.6
Albarino	3.1
Cabernet Sauvignon	8.3
Dolcetto	1.9
Malvasia Bianca	4.7
Moscato	4.6
Mourvèdre	1.1
Petit Verdot	4.6
Refosco	3.7
Sangiovese	8.7
Semillion	1.0
Tempranillo	5.0

The first grapes for sale ad has been posted on the viva vino classifieds site (see left). Please use this site to fill your grape, employee, and equipment needs.

NMSU Viticulture and Enology Team

Viticulturist: Geraldine Diverres.
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Wine Guy: Don Caldwell.
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Intern Extraordinaire: Alena Carson.



Classifieds
Buy. Sell. Trade.

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7/20/26 New Mexico Grape Harvest Sampling Data

Cab Sauv.									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Alamogordo	0.92	0.07	15.5	1.0	3.16	-0.02	9.63	-1.25	169
Deming	0.73	0.06	11.8	-0.5	2.82	0.36	13.51	-2.93	243
Las Cruces N.	0.89	0.15	13.8	2.7	2.86	0.22	14.98	?	205
Las Cruces S.	0.70	0.09	13.5	1.4	3.13	0.28	8.3	-3.59	205
Mesilla Valley	0.81	0.00	11.4	1.6	2.84	-0.03	16.87	?	143
Chambourcin									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Los Lunas N.	0.88	--	5.4	--	2.42	--	>22.5	--	27
Chardonnay									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Bernalillo	0.57	0.07	8.6	2.1	2.92	0.03	18.92	?	310
Deming	0.92	0.15	13.4	1.5	3.36	0.3	7.98	-4.02	282
Mesilla Valley	1.01	0.00	14.6	0.7	3.25	-0.06	8.76	-2.46	290
Malbec									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Las Cruces	1.44	0.14	12.4	2.2	3.09	0.34	12.3	-7.62	243
Lordsburg	0.89	0.01	9.2	1.2	3.22	0.17	15.09	?	241
Los Lunas N.	0.79	--	5.4	--	2.29	--	>22.5	--	127
Malvasia									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Las Cruces	1.76	0.40	14.6	1.9	3.14	0.38	6.78	-3.38	87
Lordsburg	1.27	-0.15	12.5	1.0	3.26	0.08	11.58	-4.20	113
Mourvedre									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Las Cruces	1.07	0.04	13.4	-0.6	3.01	0.23	10.19	-2.86	215
Lordsburg	1.63	0.62	11.7	1.2	2.99	-0.15	11.63	-7.68	139
Mesilla Valley	1.3	0.03	11.7	1.3	3.12	0.62	13.64	-4.33	237



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Pinot Meunier									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Bernalillo	0.69	0.17	9.6	3.5	2.93	0.27	18.17	?	254
Pinot Noir									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Bernalillo	0.59	0.15	9.5	1.0	2.94	0.26	18.3	?	239
Tempranillo									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Deming	1.16	0.23	13	0.8	3.12	0.17	8	-3.46	127
Las Cruces	1.44	0.20	14.9	0.7	3.24	0.18	6.7	-0.16	130
Los Lunas N.	1.18	--	11	--	3.05	--	14.95	--	306
Los Lunas S.	1.02	--	5	--	2.24	--	>22.5	--	16
Mesilla Valley	1.44	0.24	12.8	3.8	3.05	0.05	11.74	-9.73	71
Viognier									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Los Lunas S.	1.07	--	9	--	2.91	--	16.31	--	152
Zinfandel									
Location	Berry Weights (grams)	Change from Last Week	Brix	Change from Last Week	pH	Change from Last Week	TA (g/L)	Change from Last Week	YAN (ppm)
Alamogordo	1.65	0.38	14.3	0.3	3.29	-0.01	8.10	-1.77	168
Las Cruces	1.73	0.12	11.4	0.9	2.96	0.21	13.27	-4.88	109

Analysis Methods and Notes

Each sample represents a minimum of 100 berries. Berry samples are non-destructive, and are slightly optimistic compared to cluster samples but are within 1 brix of true levels.

Brix: via Refractometer. Ripeness and predictor of alcohol. The "ideal" is determined by the style desired.

pH: pH meter. Microbial stability. Under 3.65 pH is ideal but not always achievable.

TA: Autotitrator. Perceived sourness (taste). Match with wine style (especially sugar level).

YAN: UV-VIS. Predictor of fermentation health. Most research says 250-350 ppm is ideal.



Insect traps like above, are used for essential monitoring for invasive pests. The European Grapevine Moth (EVGM) or *lobesia botrana* is part of the tortricidae family of moths.

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Veraison is the second best time to do tissue sampling (bloom being the best time as it gives you time to make in season adjustments). If you're interested in having your vines sampled close to veraison, contact Geraldine or Don.



To learn more about veraison tissue sampling, peruse this excellent publication from Washington State University ([click anywhere on this sentence](#)). Veraison in reds is obvious but with whites you're often better off doing the squeeze test. Exposure, or lack of, can also create large color differences in white as shown bottom left. Too much exposure, in fact, can lead to sunburn shown bottom right.

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Split berries, as seen to the left, can result from birds, hail, sunburn, fluctuating levels of water to the vine, and even powdery mildew. Figuring out which is the culprit comes from experience and regularly scouting your vineyard. Triangle shaped holes usually mean bird pecks, a gray film on the grapes prior to splitting could mean a powdery mildew infection. Sunburn can present as a pinkening or a scorching depending on severity prior to splits. Splitting from rain often, but not always, starts at the berry's connection to the rachis.



Virtual Office Hours

Unless otherwise noted,
every Monday, 2-3pm.

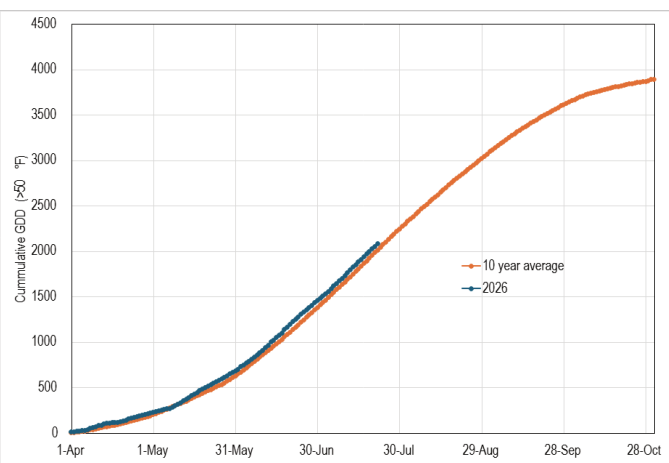
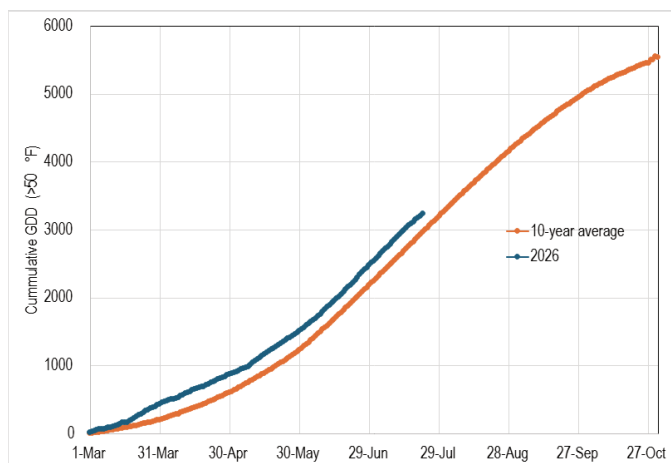
<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/82042824719>
Or dial in, 253-215-8782.

You're welcome to bring any and all
questions, photos, epiphanies, etc.

Upcoming Events

- **8/11 or 8/12: Regional Meeting at Vivac Winery**
 - 430-6pm. Come discuss the growing season with your neighbors.
- **8/13. Los Lunas Field Day**
 - 9am-1pm. Come learn from NMSU experts in a variety of fields.
- **8/20. Los Lunas IPM Workshop**
 - 9am-1pm. Learn all about integrated pest management with Dr. Joanna Bloese.
- **9/5-9/7. Harvest Wine and Music Festival.**
 - The Fairgrounds in Las Cruces and the Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque.

Growing Degree Day Comparison

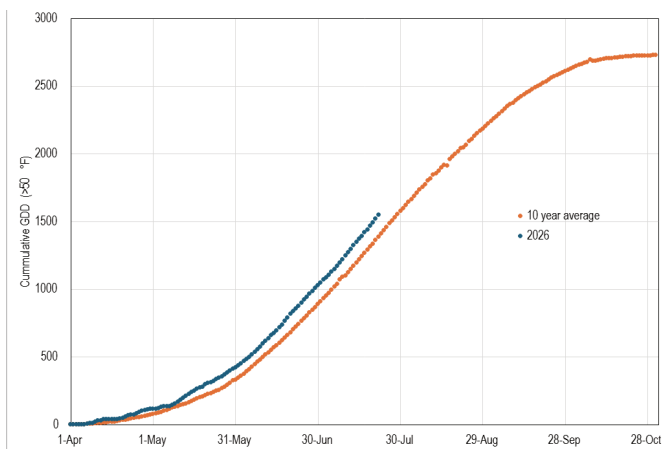
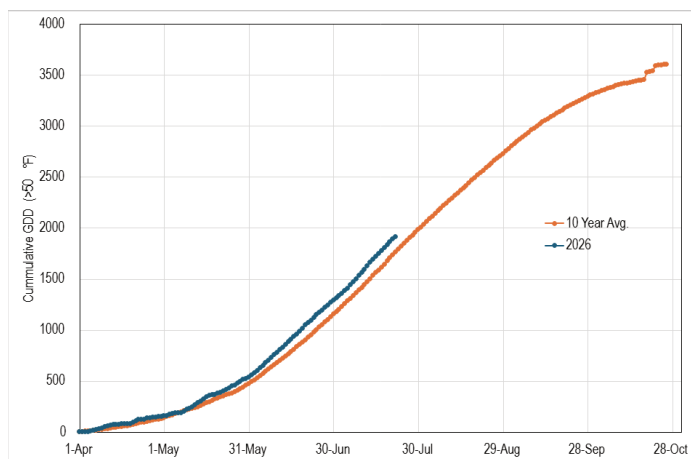


Las Cruces, 3/1-7/22 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 3237
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 2968
 Rainfall 3/1-7/22/26: 4.18"
 Rainfall 3/1-7/22/25: 2.06"

Los Lunas: 4/1-7/22 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 2079
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 2075
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/26: 1.10"
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/25: 2.21"



Farmington: 4/1-7/22 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 1915
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 1763
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/26: 1.15"
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/25: 1.87"

Alcalde: 4/1-7/22 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 1548
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 1388
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/26: 3.54"
 Rainfall 4/1-7/22/25: 4.37"

These numbers were taken from ZiaMet, a state wide collection of weather stations. Do you know which station is the closest to your growing site? Check it at: weather.nmsu.edu/ziamet/

