

Cooperative Extension Service

August 7, 2026

Week 5 of Harvest Sampling

When I was a winery intern harvest chaos took the form of forklifts impaling tanks. In the vineyard, flat tractor tires and grape juice baths from following the harvester too closely. Now in my cushy university job it takes the form of lost packages.

Our first sample being harvested in the first week of August wasn't a surprise, but the varietal, cabernet sauvignon, was. Picking early can mean needing to add sugar to meet alcohol goals, but you'll preserve acidity and limit potassium and calcium uptake. I've also heard of the first whites for still production being harvested in the south. In the north, many varietals are still going through veraison. It's like having three different states in one.

	All	Southern NM	Central NM
Avg. brix change	1.8	1.00	5.6
Avg. pH change	0.3	0.2	0.4
Avg. TA change	-2.7	-2.04	-4.34
	Last Week	This Week	
Avg. brix change	2.2	1.8	
Avg. pH change	0.2	0.3	
Avg. TA change	-3.6	-2.7	

NMSU Viticulture and Enology Team

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Beverage Production and Management

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CNM Beverage Production and Management Program Description

Earn a certificate or degree in Beverage Production and Management and prepare for a promising career in beverage management, brewing, distilling, or wine making.

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This week we processed the Los Lunas samples in the beautiful RPM building on the CNM campus. Amazing facility. If you have any early career employees who want to sharpen their skills, that's the place to do it.



Classifieds
Buy. Sell. Trade.

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8/3/26 New Mexico Grape Harvest Sampling Data

Cabernet Sauvignon									
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	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-	-Harvested-
Corrales	0.54	0.02	16.3	3.30	3.06	0.18	10.48	-3.47	136
Deming	0.70	-0.11	17.2	1.50	3.13	0.29	7.67	-1.93	180
Las Cruces N.	0.95	0.04	17.3	1.30	3.2	0.07	8.71	-2.17	188
Las Cruces S.	0.59	-0.11	17	1.50	3.69	0.31	4.64	-1.25	243
Mesilla Valley	1.00	0.06	14.1	1.00	3.37	0.25	7.16	-4.7	222
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.	1.1	0.03	15.2	7.7	2.8	0.07	13.88	-1.66	--
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	0.62	0.03	19.2	4.5	3.84	0.57	5.81	-3.10	309
Corrales	0.68	0.05	9.4	2.9	2.97	0.18	>22.5	--	322
Deming	0.88	-0.01	18.2	1.4	3.74	0.30	5	-0.45	313
Mesilla Valley	1	0.08	17.8	0.8	3.66	0.21	5.19	-2.27	253
Gewurztraminer									
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)
San Fidel	1.09	0.16	14.5	5.3	3.14	0.35	10.58	-8.30	169
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	1.57	-0.12	15.3	1.0	3.58	0.12	5.81	-1.28	208
Lordsburg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Los Lunas N.	0.82	0.02	19	9.50	2.9	0.19	11.7	?	--
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	1.66	-0.20	16.5	1.4	3.48	0.05	4.42	-1.90	109
Lordsburg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



New Mexico Viticulture and Enology Newsletter

Viticulture and Enology | <https://viticulture.nmsu.edu/>

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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	1.23	-0.05	16.7	1.1	3.47	0.24	5.43	-2.16	190
Lordsburg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mesilla Valley	1.63	0.10	12	-0.1	3.48	0.20	6.56	-2.29	163
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	0.6	-0.06	19.5	4.6	3.98	0.57	6.03	-3.16	562
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	0.67	0.02	18.1	6.7	3.54	0.69	7.95	-11.08	236
Riesling									
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)
San Fidel	0.91	0.13	11.50	5.4	2.86	0.15	18.84	-3.66	109
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	1.27	0.17	16.8	0.7	3.53	0.34	4.68	-1.43	123
Las Cruces	1.64	0.09	16.8	0.4	3.57	0.06	3.81	-0.92	126
Los Lunas N.	1.26	-0.26	16.4	2.40	3	-0.09	10.95	0.92	--
Los Lunas S.	1.65	0.31	17.2	3.9	3.45	0.32	6.64	-3.39	70
Mesilla Valley	1.43	0.13	12.3	0.4	3.59	0.28	6.87	-2.20	244
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	-0.13	13.9	2.2	3.28	0.24	8.25	-3.65	177
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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Las Cruces	1.78	-0.06	15.1	1.6	3.43	0.25	6.30	-3.62	126

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.

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New Mexico Regional Grape Meeting @ Vivac Winery

August 11, 430-6pm

Please join us for another regional meeting of grape growers and winemakers. These are informal meetings to discuss challenges we're facing during the growing season and as we head into harvest. It gives us researchers a chance to shape our science to your needs, and to learn from each other. Bring your questions and possibly your lawn chairs. No registration required.



Upcoming Events

- **8/11. 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.

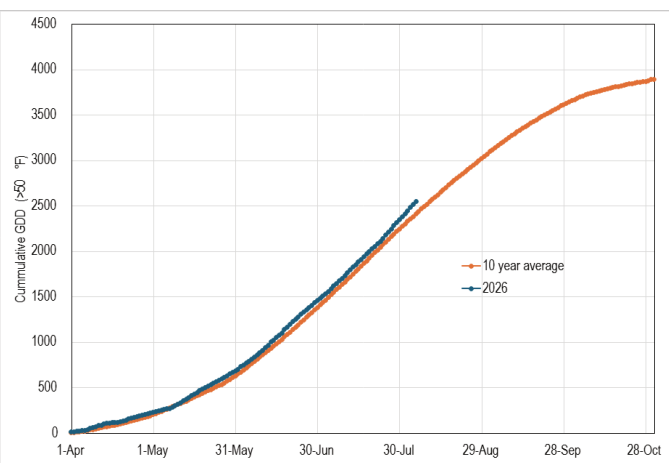
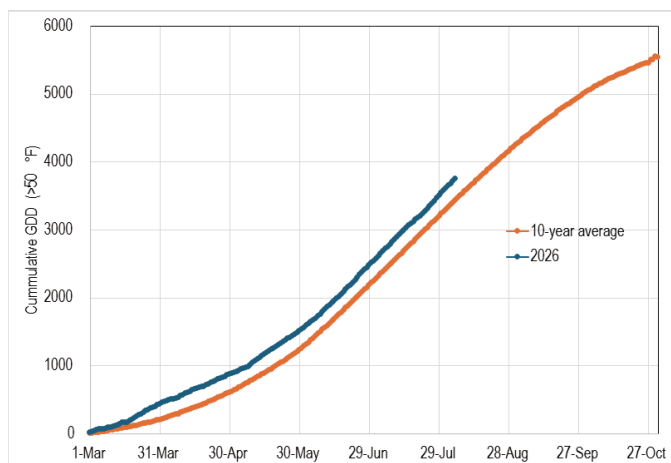
Virtual Office Hours

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.

Growing Degree Day Comparison

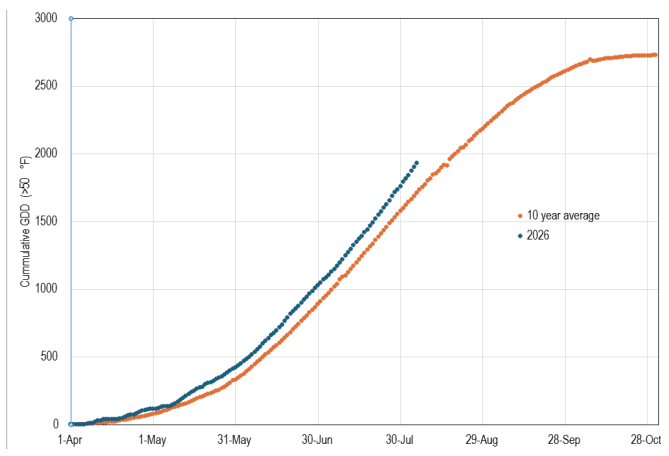
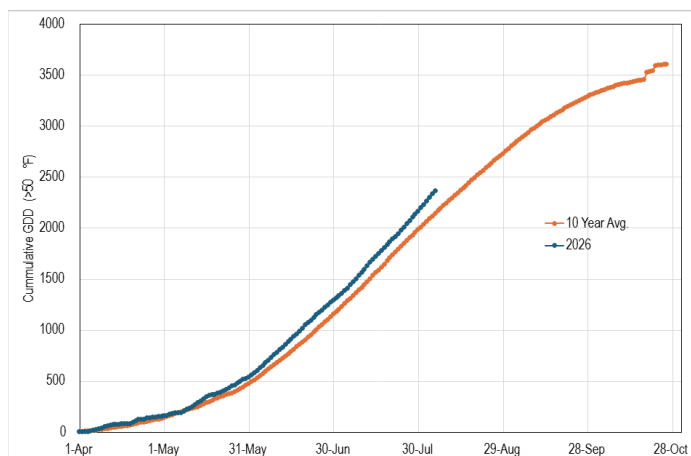


Las Cruces, 3/1-8/5 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 3757
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 3435
 Rainfall 3/1-8/5/26: 4.53"
 Rainfall 3/1-8/5/25: 3.4"

Los Lunas: 4/1-8/5 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 2543
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 2409
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/26: 1.39"
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/25: 2.23"



Farmington: 4/1-8/5 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 2363
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 2143
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/26: 1.16"
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/25: 2.03"

Alcalde: 4/1-8/5 Growing Degree Days

GDDs, 2026: 1931
 GDDs, 10 year avg.: 1712
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/26: 4.27"
 Rainfall 4/1-8/5/25: 4.43"

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/

