

## Concord Berry Weight and Juice Soluble Solids Still Busting the Trend

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Average Concord berry weight and juice soluble solids on 120 node vines at the Fredonia Vineyard Lab were again measured on 9/27/05. Thanks to the one-two hurricane punch, average berry weight increased to 2.78 grams (Figure 1) and juice soluble solids increased to 18.3 °brix (Figure 2).

These numbers are both interesting (from a biology standpoint) and aggravating (from a predictive standpoint). Typically by this time of year, berry weight has slowed down or has stopped increasing altogether. The rate of juice soluble solids accumulation should also be slowing down with the decrease in day length and average temperatures. Biologically, the data indicates that the cells in Concord berries have a tremendous ability to expand under the right conditions despite low berry weight and lack of water earlier in the season.

Predictively, I think I am just going to give up on the 2005 season. With the low berry weight earlier in the season, I would have looked for a final berry weight of 2.5 grams. Therefore, if you predicted a final berry weight of 2.5 when doing crop estimation earlier in the season, vineyards will be looking at a 10 to 15 % increase in yield at the scale house. Luckily, the early veraison, good ripening weather, and adequate soil moisture has also brought the brix up with the berry weight.



