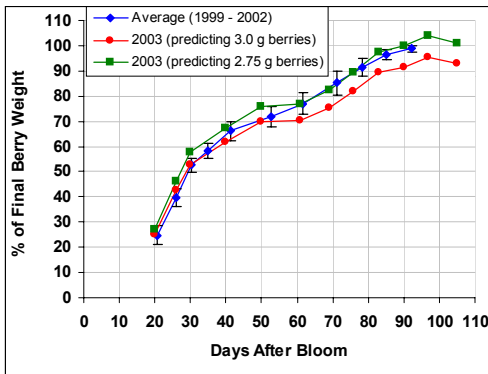
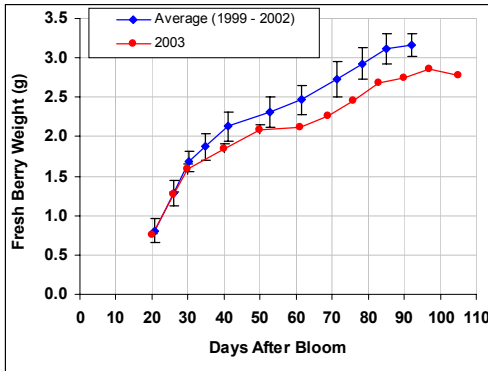
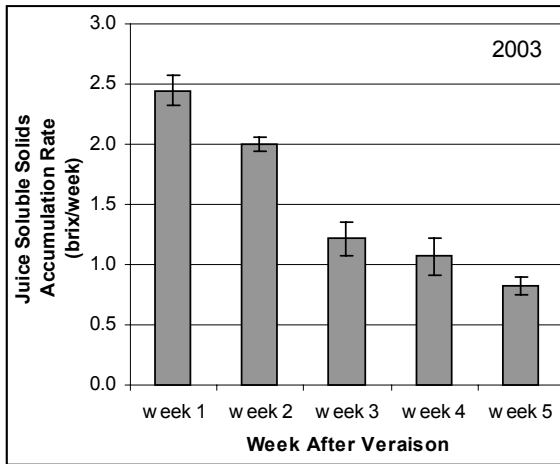
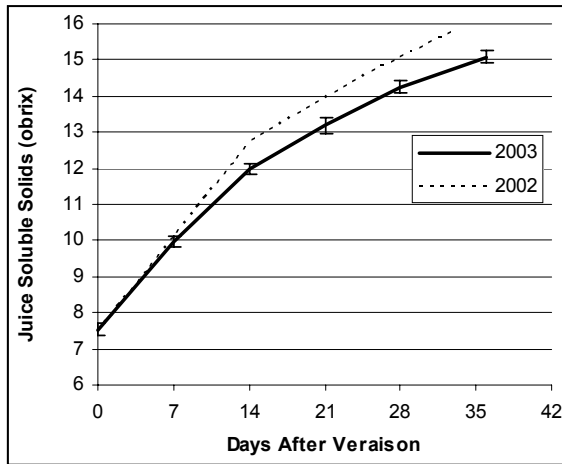


10/7/2003

**Concord Berry Weight and Brix Update**  
**Dr. Terry Bates**



Concord berries are no longer increasing in weight despite plenty of soil moisture. The berries have simply reached the end of physiological growth. If anything, the slight drop in berry weight over the past week may indicate that the fruit may be dehydrating. At some point, even with an abundance of water in the soil, the aged berry tissue will start to break down and lose water. The good side to berry dehydration is that it will help increase sugar concentration in the juice.



120 Node – unthinned vines (12 tons/acre in a good ripening block) at the Vineyard Lab have reached 15 brix. Other blocks on the farm and in other vineyards in the belt with similar yield levels tend to be lower than 15 brix. Sugar accumulation rate data shows that the fruit gained 0.8 brix last week. Sugar accumulation rate will probably continue to decrease next week; however, berry dehydration may help the situation.