Regional Updates:

**North Country—Clinton, Essex, northern Warren and Washington counties**

Cool temperatures prevailed last week except for a 2-day warm spell in the low 80’s early in the week. Tomatoes are still slow to ripen and melons are maturing but are not as sweet and flavorful as usual. We still have no late blight, cucurbit downy mildew or brown marmorated stink bug up here, nor have we seen any spotted wing drosophila yet this year. There is some powdery mildew in cucurbits, but less than usual thanks in part to the lack of humidity which it prefers.

**Capital District—Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, southern Warren and Washington counties**

Severe rain and some hail in the western part of the capital region led to localized flooding and some hail damage to crops earlier this week. Damage was fairly minor because crops had good leaf cover. Pumpkins are turning and most growers have a pretty good handle on powdery mildew control, which will help to ensure the handles stay firm. In general cucurbits are looking good in the home stretch, and we are glad to see temperatures coming out of the 50’s as low temperatures can slowly damage some of our winter squash crops.

Insects are hitting some of the late crops pretty hard, and it can be easy to overlook issues until they are unmanageable this time of year. Be on the lookout for aphids and spider mites in tomatoes, eggplant and peppers, and be on the lookout for flea beetles in late cole crops. Growers who have been controlling generations of flea beetles to this point might not have an issue, though they can still come in from neighboring fields with brassica weeds.

**Mid-Hudson Valley—Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange and Ulster counties**

Downy Mildew (DM) has found its way to the Hudson Valley and Late Blight (LB) continues to spread. Late last week DM was found on two farms in Ulster County. A third outbreak was found early this week in Columbia County. All three outbreaks were in cucumber plantings and looked like the disease had been in the field for some time. It is likely that with the cool temperatures and dewy mornings of last week, we will see more outbreaks in cucurbits in our area. LB was found on yet another farm in Columbia County in both potatoes and tomatoes, the infection was throughout the field.

Images: CLS

Not all the bugs are eating your plants, some are eating each other. The top orange insect is a predator feeding on the aphid and the bottom insect is a parasitic wasp which lays an egg inside the aphid.
White mold (**Sclerotinia sclerotiorum**) also called timber rot or Sclerotinia rot, is a disease of beans and tomatoes in the field, and it is becoming more common in tunnels where tomatoes are grown year after year. The fungus forms hard dormant structures called sclerotia that can survive for 10 years in the soil. Usually only individual tomato plants, scattered in a tunnel will be affected. In the field, patches of beans can become infested as well as field grown tomatoes. But since this disease is favored by cool, moist conditions it can thrive in tunnels in early and late season. The fungal spores enter the plant after landing on dying petals or other dead tissue. Once inside the plant they form a lesion in the stem, killing the plant from that point upward. The disease is only infective during cool, moist conditions.

There are no really effective fungicides (although work is underway with a biological fungicide, Contans WG) and no resistant varieties so this disease is best managed by removing affected plants as soon as possible, being careful to keep the plant intact so as to not let the sclerotia spill into the soil during the removal process. Do not compost or toss affected plants into a cull pile since the sclerotia can persist for so long. White mold has a wide host range but the most susceptible crops are tomato, snap beans, potatoes and peppers so avoid rotating among these crops. -ADI


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Photo 1 (above right). In tunnels, white mold will affect single plants. Look for dead plants next to healthy plants. On the dead or dying plants, look for the characteristic zone of dead, dry stem (see Photo 2). Split that section open and look for the large black sclerotia (see Photo 3) to confirm white mold.

Photo 2. With white mold, the zone between healthy and dead tissue is usually very distinct, as seen in this picture. Later, white fuzzy mold may be visible on the surface, as it is here under the black support clip.

Photo 3. Large black sclerotia, the dormant structure of this disease, can survive for over 20 years in the soil. Split open dry sections of stems to find them. *Photo credit: [www.ipm.iastate.edu](http://www.ipm.iastate.edu)*
Vine Crops
Too much rain, moderate temperatures, and cool damp nights aren’t letting up and the disease pressure is still high. Fruit rots are the issue of concern with black rot (the infected fruit version of gummy stem blight), anthracnose, and Choanephora wet rot. Wet field conditions and fruit touching the ground makes infection more likely. Keeping up with the preventative spray schedule is critical.

Black Rot on butternut
“Black rot is the most important disease contracted during storage of squash (butternut, Hubbard, and others), pumpkin, and even gourds in the Northeast. Affected fruit may show black rot lesions in the field before harvest, collapse soon after harvest, or exhibit lesions some time later in storage.” – from Veg MD Online http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/factsheets/Cucurbit_FrtRots.htm

N Shortage
The later planted crops of summer squash, zucchini, and cucumbers have been suffering from insufficient N mostly from the heavy rains. Especially in organic operations, adding a blast of fertilizer would help keep production going for those hopeful of having a warm and dry late season.

By Darcy Telenko, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Gummy stem blight continues to be found in melons. Symptoms on leaves range from water-soaked margins to individual, circular tan to dark spots; while on stems brown cankers will form and may produce a red to black exudate (gummy), fruit infection causes a black rot phase.

A number of fungicides are available and should be used in a preventative manner and applied on a 7-14 day interval, these include: Quadris, Bravo WS or other labelled product (OLP), Champ, Switch, Inspire Super, Sovran, Dithane DF or OLP, Cabrio, Pristine, and Topsin. Resistance to Quadris and Topsin has occurred in the United States, but not yet in New York. Make sure products are alternated with different modes of action (look for FRAC codes), combined with other protective fungicides such as Bravo, and limited to one use per season when necessary.

Cucurbit Update continues on next page
**Cucurbit Update, continued**

**Downy Mildew**

Now that Downy Mildew (DM) is in the lower Hudson Valley region, growers in Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Columbia and Greene counties growing cucurbit crops should include fungicides specific for controlling DM, along with protective sprays of copper, chlorothalonil and mancozeb. Growers north of this area may be able to get away with just the protective sprays, but keep a close eye on your crops and the development and spread of this disease outside of the lower Hudson Valley. The systemic fungicides Forum, Aliette, Curzate, Gavel, *Presidio, Previcur Flex, Revus, Tanos, and Ranman, are valuable for controlling downy mildew on the underside of leaves but are at risk for resistance development. Phosphorous acid fungicides are not as effective for this DM as the other systemics. To minimize risk of resistance, alternate among chemical classes and apply these products with protectant fungicides; note that this is a label requirement for some products. Ridomil Gold, and the QoI fungicides (Quadris F, Quadris Opti, Flint, Cabrio, Pristine, and *†Reason (Not for use or sale in Nassau or Suffolk Cos) are no longer recommended because of resistance. *Presidio is no longer recommended when the original source of the pathogen for the season is southeastern US; *Presidio remains effective against mid-west strains.

This disease has the potential for rapid spread with short incubation periods. Windblown sporangia from infected cucurbits in other areas are the primary inoculum source, followed by secondary spore production within the field. Growers should be aware of disease occurrence within the area and report outbreaks on their farm to their local Extension agent. Refer to the cucurbit downy mildew forecast website (http://cdm.ipmPIPE.org/) for the current status of the disease.

Key characteristics: Upper surfaces of leaves show angular, pale green areas bounded by leaf veins that give the impression of mosaic. These areas turn into yellow, and later necrotic angular or circular spots. Under wet and humid conditions, a dark grey sporulation occurs on the lower leaf surface (Powdery mildew sporulation is white).

There are cucurbit varieties with resistance to DM however the occurrence of new pathotypes of downy mildew greatly reduce the effectiveness of previously resistant cucumber varieties. The Vegetable MD website http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/ lists disease resistance of various cucurbits as well as other vegetables. -TR

Source: 2014 Cornell IPM Guidelines

**Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Update**

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) trap catches have increased significantly over the past two weeks, damage has been seen at low levels in Jalapenos (Jalapenos = BMSB candy). Right now in the lower Hudson Valley, we are seeing many nymphs in peaches and on one farm in beans. These crops along with tomatoes and corn are favorites of BMSB, and their feeding can cause significant damage. The BMSB go into a feeding frenzy as nymphs turn into overwintering adults. Keep an eye out for these and let one of the educators know if you see significant populations in your crops. Check crops along tree lines where BMSB are migrating from their favorite trees like Ailanthus and Walnut and into your crops. -TR

**Mummified Aphids**

It’s never good to find this many aphids on a young tomato leaf in your greenhouse or tunnel; in this case every aphid has been parasitized by a parasitoid wasp, probably *Aphidius colemani*. The tiny wasp lays an egg in each aphid. As its larva hatches and develops inside into an adult, the aphid (now called a mummy) swells up like a little balloon and turns tan and papery. You might even see a round hole in the side of the mummy where the adult wasp exited.

Leave mummified aphids alone so the wasps can continue to develop. When an organism kills the host it feeds on as this wasp does, it is called a parasitoid. When an organism feeds on the host but doesn’t kill it, like fleas on your dog, it is called a parasite. -ADI
Late Summer, Fall Cover Crops: Preparing Soils for Hibernation

By Justin O’Dea, CCE Ulster County

The sight of green tomatoes and juvenile fall cole crops seem to say that summer is long from over, but recent chilly nights are a reminder of the approaching fall. Planting a good cover crop can help assure that soils are protected from weathering, nutrients are economized, weeds are suppressed, and that soil health and quality is fostered. Cover crops utilize excess water and nutrients in winter and spring to produce organic matter and can fix nitrogen (legumes), help with good drainage, and make use of water otherwise lost to soil surface evaporation. Cover crops can provide numerous services to remedy soil health and quality issues that affect yields, and can pay off when tailored to meet your needs. There are numerous cover crop options for late summer through fall seeding, even though getting cover crops established in vegetable rotations is often challenging.

Many growers report a lack of time and/or space for cover cropping, leading to no cover crops, poorly established cover crops or heavy reliance on rye alone. But, don’t shy away from doing some informed experimenting on a small scale to figure out what might work for you though- there are lot of crop options and logistical permutations that may work for your specific circumstances and not for another’s. Michigan state provides some ideas/options for working cover crops into vegetable rotations, including overseeding covers into standing crops at: http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/Bulletin/PDF/E2896.pdf

Legumes: Legume seed is often more expensive, but the price can be offset by the amounts of nitrogen that they contribute to soils (~50-150 lbs/ac), with organic matter additions and soil and water conservation benefits to boot. Legumes can scavenge residual soil N, and then fix atmospheric N to meet their needs after available soil N gets lower. Nitrogen is the only nutrient that you can “grow”, and legumes are the only way to take advantage of this phenomenon. Because legume N is biologically released, it becomes available more slowly than fertilizer N, and 1) works as an investment in long-term fertility and 2) can increase N use efficiency when managed correctly. Inoculating with the correct strain of rhizobia as a cheap insurance to maximize N contributions from legumes.

- Hairy vetch (overwinters): This winter annual legume is a popular favorite with vegetable growers because it is one of the best winter-hardy nitrogen-fixers and produces a lot of weed-suppressive biomass by late spring. Be aware that it can also volunteer in later years when you don’t want it- vetch seed is hard-coated and can remain dormant for a number of years before germinating. Vetch should be seeded in late summer with a nurse crop (an annual grass), and be terminated in late May. Avoid vetch if you produce a small grain in your crop rotation, as seed from weedy volunteer vetch is nearly impossible to clean out of harvested small grain seed.
- Red clover (overwinters): This short-lived perennial legume is also a good choice for a good winter-hardy nitrogen-fixer, even in soils where nitrogen levels are already high. It can be less expensive and more widely adapted than vetch, produces substantial ground cover/biomass, and does not have as high a potential to become a weed. Like vetch, red clover is also slow growing at first, and for an overwinter cover should be seeded from mid-summer to early-fall with an annual nurse crop. Red clover is shade tolerant and works well when undersown; by the time cash crops are harvested or nurse crops are mowed, harvested, or winterkilled, red clover had time to establish and is ready to take over. Red clover should be terminated in May at flowering to produce maximum benefits.
- Austrian winter pea (overwinters): Austrian winter pea is a winter annual that is less commonly used in the northeast since other legumes that can be grown here sometimes fix more nitrogen, and have more reliable winter-hardiness. It can be more economical to seed than hairy vetch (price is variable), and another key advantage is its relatively quick growth for 1) earlier weed suppression and cover, and 2) when cash crops need to be planted earlier in spring. Austrian winter peas should ideally be planted in late summer and be terminated at the late flowering stage before pods begin to fill. Mixing peas and annual cereal crops will help support pea vines, boost overwinter survival, and enhance the soil-protective capacity of the cover. Winter pea vines can get frost-burned overwinter, but can re-sprout from growing points below the soil surface in spring even if the crop looks winter-killed. Cornell has limited information on winter pea, but it is currently used by some growers in NY. Michigan State has more formal recommendations for winter pea here: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/consider_austrian_winter_peas_following_early_vegetables
- Spring field pea (winterkills): Spring field peas can be planted as a fall cover, but generally, when planted after the latter half of August the potential benefit of field peas

Continued on next page
Preparing Soils for Hibernation, continued from previous page

becomes more unpredictable. Earlier planting increases the time they have to fix nitrogen before winterkilling; at full bloom, peas are generally at their peak for N fixation, and by the time pods begin to form are done fixing N. Spring peas will usually begin to flower with ~40-50 days and continue flowering for another ~14-28 days. Fall growing conditions will determine how much biomass is produced and whether they reach their full potential. Peas are also commonly planted with spring oats (see below) in a complimentary mixture.

Annual grasses/cereals: Annual grasses are usually of the more affordable cover crops; they provide a quick growing crop canopy with a soil-protective fibrous root system (compared to legumes’ taproot system). Annual grass cover crops are commonly grown alone or in grass-legume mixtures; annual grasses provide additional complimentary soil protection and nutrient scavenging ability when grown alongside legumes. As a general rule, plant winter grain cover crops after September 15th and terminate in spring with time for cover crop green matter to break down to avoid potential disease, pest, and nutrient tie-up issues.

- **Rye** (overwinters): A popular favorite, cereal rye is a very hardy cool season crop that germinates in cooler temperatures, and should be sown between ~Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. Late fall plantings of rye will still germinate, but winter cover is negligible. It provides good soil cover and weed suppression, and nutrient scavenging. Fertilizer is usually not needed following vegetables. Growers often favor rye because it can be seeded very late, and should be terminated fairly early (hence it stays out of the way of the main vegetable growing season), and has weed-suppressive, allopathic properties.

- **Winter wheat, triticale, spelt** (overwinters): These related winter-hardy cereal crops perform similarly as cover crops with some distinctions. Triticale can be planted earliest (Aug. to Oct.), followed by Wheat (mid-Sept. to Oct.), and Spelt can be planted latest (mid-Sept. to mid-Oct). Triticale (a wheat/rye cross) can be more adaptable and vigorous than wheat and will put on more fall growth when planted early. Spelt (an ancestral species of wheat) can perform better than wheat on low-nutrient soils, and can successfully establish later than wheat, into colder, wetter conditions.

- **Barley** (overwinters): Winter barley can provide similar cover/services as other cereals, but is the least winter-hardy and most sensitive to soil drainage issues compared to other cereals that can overwinter in NY. Use feed-grade type barley varieties, as malting varieties will likely be more expensive and in short supply.

- **Annual ryegrass** (overwinters, generally): Annual ryegrass can be seeded into late summer and can quickly form a weed suppressive, soil protective dense sod if nutrients are still adequate after vegetables. Northern/midwestern varieties of annual ryegrass will overwinter whereas southern varieties will winterkill. Overwintered ryegrass will set seed in spring, and growers should take care to prevent seed production. Ryegrass is also shade tolerant and can perform well when undersown.

- **Oat** (winterkills): Oats are useful fall cover crops if seeding can occur in late summer where they have a chance for vigorous fall growth. Oat winterkilling eliminates the need to terminate the crop. Oats can be a good choice if the following crop is planted in early spring, or as a nurse crop for vetch and clover since oat winterkilling will allow the legume to completely take over in spring.

**Brassicas**: Brassicas are becoming more popular cover crops mostly due to species with large taproots (certain radishes) and biofumigation properties (certain mustards and arugulas). A number of brassica species can be planted as a fall cover, but benefits may be limited and they need to be planted in in a timely manner. Brassicas are generally excellent nitrogen scavengers, with taproots that quickly grow to deeper soil layers. Fall planted, winterkilled, brassicas that have been bred for biofumigation purposes shouldn’t be counted on to have perceptible biofumigation effects on the following year’s crop; these effects are not well studied as of yet. Overwintering in brassicas can be tricky and generally are limited to arugulas and winter canola. Planting between late August and September 15th seems to be the range that gets overwintering brassicas to the right stage to survive winters (the rosette stage) depending on species and location in NY, but winter survival can still be unreliable.

**Buckwheat**: Buckwheat is a fast-growing weed suppressor, soil conditioner, and nutrient scavenger that can still be used to fill in a small gap in your rotation (such as before fall garlic planting), but expect reduced growth potential when planted after mid-August. If mowed for terminating, timely mowing between ~30-45 days after seeding will prevent regrowth and seed production. Buckwheat provides negligible winter soil protection, but can also be used as a nurse crop for overwintering shade tolerant legumes.

**For more info. on cover crops, other species not listed here, see:**
- [http://covercrops.cals.cornell.edu/](http://covercrops.cals.cornell.edu/)
- [http://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/3303/2/Cover%20Crops.pdf](http://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/3303/2/Cover%20Crops.pdf)
- [http://extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide/cm/tables/table-1-10-6](http://extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide/cm/tables/table-1-10-6)
- [http://www.covercrops.msu.edu/](http://www.covercrops.msu.edu/)
We haven’t said much about sweet potatoes this season, but I have seen and had some conversations with some growers in regards to how they look this year. In general, sweet potatoes look healthy, but in some cases certainly haven’t really filled the rows like we are used to seeing. Those of you that received your slips on time and were able to get them in the ground in early June are looking pretty good. Those of you that might have gotten them a little later then planned might be concerned about how much growth you are seeing. We still have another 3 weeks or more of good weather (hopefully) and there is still time to put some more root size on. One thing to consider, to add a few more heat units, is covering your sweet potatoes with floating rowcovers. Several years ago we evaluated using floating rowcovers on sweet potatoes but found that if we left the covers on from planting to harvest, we ended up with huge beautiful vines, but fewer and smaller roots.

After thinking about it and talking with colleagues and other sweet potato growers, we came to the conclusion that we might have increased our overall yield had we put the covers on early right after planting, left them on for 3 weeks or so, then removed them and replaced them again in late summer when it started to cool down again. This is just a theory and I have no evidence to prove otherwise, but if you have the covers in the barn that aren’t being used and a couple hours of labor, why not try it? I wouldn’t worry about needing hoops as the vines are pretty tough and can take the covers laying directly on top of them. Also, don’t forget to continue to check the moisture, especially if you decide to use rowcovers. -CDB

The “Ag Exchange” – Boosting Business for Local Agriculture

Now open, the “Ag Exchange” at http://agexchange.cce.cornell.edu/ by Cornell Cooperative Extension (http://ccecapitalregion.org) is a new and simple online agricultural classified service and ag business directory. Through this one exchange, farmers in the mid- and upper Hudson Valley will be able to buy, sell, or rent any agriculture-related product or service. Property owners will also benefit since it includes land and facilities rental. It is not for retail sales.

The Ag Exchange classified is designed to facilitate wholesale business among our traditional dairy, beef, field crop, fruit or vegetable farms, bees and maple, as well as the new and developing farms involved in brewing, distilling, artisan products, organic production, and non-GMO animal feeds.

The Ag Business Directory portion is provided for commercial ag businesses to list their contact information and a link to their website. Along with our traditional machinery and feed dealers, smaller businesses, from hoof trimming to fencing, can also be listed to advertise their products and services. Businesses are asked to make an annual donation to support CCE and the Ag Exchange and to link the CCE regional website to their homepage.

The Ag Exchange is an easy to use, blog-based system. No password is required and you do not have to create any “accounts”. To look for a product or service, simply click on the category you want. To post an ad onto the Exchange, simply read the “terms of use for the Ag Exchange”, click on the button “Post Ad”; select the county you are from; select the category for your ad; and enter the appropriate information. You can also post images of your item. Before your classified or directory listing is posted to the web, you will receive an email to confirm you are the person making the post to the Ag Exchange. It is very simple.

Local agriculture is very active. Many farmers have been asking for a service like the Ag Exchange. It may include other regions of New York beyond the mid- and upper Hudson Valley once it gets established. It will be a great boost for all farms in the local agricultural community.

To use the Ag Exchange, go to http://agexchange.cce.cornell.edu/.

If you have questions or comments, please contact: Aaron Gabriel, (adg12@cornell.edu, 518-746-2560) or Amy Sabbatis, (als77@cornell.edu, 518-668-4881).
2nd Annual Hops Event
September 11, 2014 - 8am-4pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County
Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545

Topics include:
- Lab Analysis of Hops
- Harvesting and Drying of Hops
- Pest and Diseases of Hops
- Value Added Foods with Hops/The Culinary and the Craft Beer Industry
- The Need for Small Grains Production and How to Get Started
- Marketing Panel Discussion hosted at Dutchess Hops, 1167 Noxon Road, Lagrangeville, NY

Topics are subject to change. $60/person, includes lunch. Call 845-677-8223 ext. 115 for more information. Email nh26@cornell.edu to register.

Visit the ENYCHP Website
For online class registrations, announcements, previous issues of our newsletters, and more, visit the ENYCHP website at http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/. Email or call any of the educators with questions or comments on the website – we want to make it work for YOU!

The Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP)
RAPP can assist with recycling many of the plastics discarded after use in agriculture. The program has markets and guidelines for recycling maple tubing and irrigation drip tape, as well as dairy films, boat wrap, nursery pots, agricultural chemical containers, and more. Check out RAPP's new facebook page to learn just about anything you might want to know about agricultural plastics, recycling, and the New York State Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP). Simply search on facebook for Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Recycling-Agricultural-Plastics-Project-RAPP/439750762770779.

Agricultural Producers in NY Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest 2014 loans available through FSA’s direct farm ownership program. The deadline to submit applications is Sept. 30, 2014. Eligible producers can borrow up to $300,000 in direct farm ownership loans to buy or enlarge a farm, construct new farm buildings or improve structures, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation and protection. The interest rate on select loans can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay. FSA encourages all interested applicants to apply for direct farm ownership loans. For more information about the program and other loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov. For local FSA Service Center contact information, visit http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.
### Sweet Corn Trap Catches for the Week Ending August 24th

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### 2014 Weekly and Seasonal Weather Information

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<td>2255.4</td>
<td>0.16</td>
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<td>Hudson</td>
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<td>2224.1</td>
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<td>Marlboro</td>
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<td>0.30</td>
<td>12.78</td>
<td>26.94</td>
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<td>2078.4</td>
<td>2139.5</td>
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<td>Shoreham, VT</td>
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<td>1838.4</td>
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<td>22.35</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2014 Weather Table—This chart is compiled using the data collected by Northeast Weather Association (NEWA) weather stations. For more information on NEWA and a list of sites, visit [http://newa.cornell.edu](http://newa.cornell.edu). This site has information not only on weather, but insect and disease forecasting tools that are free to use.