Cornell Cooperative Extension

Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

Vegetable News

2020 CSA Outlook in Eastern NY—Prices are Up and the Number of Farms has Increased

Elizabeth Higgins, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

This has been a banner year for CSA farms in Eastern New York (ENY). Based on price data I have collected on CSA farms in the ENY region since 2017¹, the average CSA share price, for a weekly, large/ full-sized, vegetable share, increased by 10.3 percent since last year.

Large gains in delivery prices were most likely caused by a drastic increase in the number of CSA farms offering home delivery in 2020. Many CSAs in our region added home delivery as an option to customers as the COVID-19 situation worsened in New York this spring. In 2019 there were only 6 vegetable CSA farms that offered home delivery as an option at sign-up. This year there are 22 farms,

and several others noted that they were open to home delivery for at-risk customers in their service area. New York City average share prices, which had been trending lower than upstate average weekly prices, were higher for the first time this year. Upstate CSA share prices in 2020 averaged \$31 per week, but NYC CSA shares averaged \$34 per



¹ Price data and drop-off location data come directly from CSA farm websites. The farm locations are within the 17 counties in the 17 county ENYCH regions as well as Westchester, Rockland, and Sullivan. Data has been collected annually since 2017. The share price data in this analysis does not include farms that offer meat or dairy in the share as the share prices are much higher, but they are included in the dataset. (Continued on page 2)

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week. In addition to higher prices, consumer demand was high too. In July I went back through all the farm's websites. Of the 117 farms offering a vegetable CSA, 69 farms (59%), indicated on their website that they had sold out their shares for 2020.

The total number of farms offering fruit and vegetable CSAs also increased this year. In 2019 there were 102 farms offering vegetable CSA shares in the ENY region, but we identified 117 farms in 2020. Some of these farms were new, but at least 5 were farms that had stopped offering CSAs in the past few years who re-entered this market channel after COVID-19 affected other markets. The average number of sites, per farm, stayed about constant at 3.5 in 2020.

COVID-19 has had an impact on how CSA farms are doing business. When we went back over the websites in July, 53 CSAs, or 45% of the farms, had added COVID information to their websites and had updated their site locations, methods of distributing shares, and volunteer practices. 13 farms had sites that closed after initial signups in the winter, specifically due to COVID. These were generally sites affiliated with schools and offices. Office/workplace CSA sites seemed to be especially vulnerable. It will be interesting to see how many come back in 2021 as this had been a growth area for many farms.

Going into the 2021 season, farms will want to make sure they are accounting for their costs in doing home delivery. If they have new customers, they should also be working to make sure they are satisfied and feel connected to the farm. Finally, many CSA farms drastically improved their websites and their marketing materials for customers this year. If you haven't yet, improving your on-line presence is likely to become more important in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

Field Observations: Stink Bugs, Gold Fleck Teresa Rusinek, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

For the past two weeks, stink bugs and damage has been observed on tomato fruits. Check your fields; you don't want to be surprised when you go to pick. Around this time in the growing season, we start seeing an increase in stink bug activity on tomato fruits, beans, peppers (especially Jalapeno), tomatillo and sweet corn. Stink bug populations and damage is often higher in weedy fields and field edges. As conditions become drier they tend to move into cultivated crops that are irrigated.

On tomato, feeding damage may appear on ripe and green fruit. The damage appears as a pin prick surrounded by a cloudy irregularly shaped spot. These spots may coalesce when feeding is heavy. Spots tend to be yellowish to green on ripe fruit and whitish on green fruit. Below the surface, the flesh of the tomato will turn whitish and have a spongy texture. The stink bug damages the fruit when it inserts its needlelike proboscis to feed on sap. Feeding may also introduce pathogens into the fruit that cause decay. We see several types of stink bugs in New York. The invasive Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, originally from Asia, is now established in the mid- Atlantic states and the Hudson Valley. There are other species of stink bugs in North America that are native such as the green and brown stink bugs, they too can cause damage to crops but others such as the spined soldier bug are only predatory.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Nymphs (immatures) feeding on Jalapeno (left). Stink bug feeding damage on tomatillo (right). Photo: T. Rusinek

A number of pyrethriod insecticides such as Mustang Maxx, Hero, Baythriod XL are labeled for control of certain stink bugs, but be aware of toxicity to bees and read the label to make sure the crop you are spraying is on the label. Organic controls for stink bugs are limited. Pyrethrum has not shown to be very effective for most growers. Venerate GC is an OMRI approved bio-pesticide that has an anti-feeding mode of action on stinkbugs as well as other labeled pests. Bote-GHA ES is an OMRI approved contact bio-insecticide that contains the spores of the entomopathogenic fungus Beauveria (Continued on page 3)

2019 2020 429 389 2 NUMBER OF FARMS NUMBER OF SITES

NUMBER OF VEGETABLE CSA FARMS



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Bassiana strain GHA. With this product, you are putting out live spores that control insects by entering their bodies and growing inside them and eventually killing them. You have to take extra care storing this product so you don't kill the spores in the container. Make sure to read the label carefully for application directions, as well as storage and compatibility information. Lastly, keeping weeds around fields mowed will help discourage stink bugs. Scout along field edges and wooded edges for first signs of damage.

Another problem we are seeing is **gold flecking** on mature tomato fruit. This disorder may look somewhat similar to stink bug damage but is likely an abiotic issue.

The visible flecks are a deposit of calcium oxalate under the skin of mature tomato fruit. Though this disorder has been reported for some time, southern production areas have noticed a sharp increase of gold fleck since the late 90's and growers in our region have noticed more of it as well.

It appears that there are several situations that may result in gold fleck. Often the cause is a combination of environmental conditions where day temperatures are over 88° F and night temps over 68° F with high humidity. Studies conducted in University of Florida in the early 1970's found that cultivar genetics play a role in the expression of gold fleck. Nutrient balance may also play a role as excessive



Gold fleck on skin of mature tomato fruit (left). Yellow cloudy spots on tomato caused by stink bug feeding (right). Photos: T. Rusinek

levels of calcium and phosphorous have induced symptoms. Thrips and/ or mite feeding damage, which is common in high tunnel production, can also result in a gold flecking as well as a rough skin.

Because gold fleck weakens the fruit peel, the quality and shelf life of fruit may be affected, especially if there is a lot of flecking. To minimize the occurrence of this disorder, provide a balanced nutritional program, especially between potassium and calcium, keep high tunnels well vented, avoid direct sunlight on fruit which will encourage flecking and watch for cultivars that are less susceptible to flecking.

Field Observations: Spider Mites, Cucurbit Powdery and Downy Mildew Charles Bornt, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

I know that many of you are concerned and maybe even a bit excited about the hurricane that will be making its way up the coast early this week – to many of us I think it might bring some much needed rain and fill some of those irrigation ponds that have been severely lowered, but I hope that's it! We certainly don't need the winds or an overabundance of hard rain that only runs off and swells our creeks and causes localized flooding!

I know that my teammate Elisabeth Hodgdon discussed two-spotted spider mites in the July 22nd issue of this newsletter but I have to add my two cents in here - In my 20 plus years I have never seen two -spotted spider mites this bad out in the field - maybe high tunnels, but never in the field! I guess however, it is not surprising with the hot, dry weather throughout June and most of July that many of us received. It seemed that populations grew earlier this year compared to other years and thrived in the dry environment we had. Eggplant, cucurbits, tomatoes, potatoes and peppers seem to be the preferred crops, but I have been easily finding them in sweet corn this season as well. In addition, I know that in talking with our small fruit specialists Laura McDermott, they have been awful in berries this year, especially strawberries! For conventional miticides, Portal XLO tends to be the most popular one due to the shorter pre-harvest interval (check the label as it varies on certain crops) and wide list of crops it can be used on (most cucurbits, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers etc.). Agri-Mek is another popular choice and would be one of the few that could be used on sweet corn, but has a 7-day PHI on most

crops. Acramite is also labeled on a variety of crops with a 3 day PHI. Organically, insecticidal soaps, neem, and spray oils are options, but repeated applications and excellent canopy coverage, especially on the bottom sides of the leaves where they are, nicely protected, is essential for any of these products to work.

I have a bit of good news when it comes to **Cucurbit Powdery Mildew** – we received word from our vegetable pathologist Margaret McGrath that we have a new material labeled called Gatten (flutianil) which has a FRAC group of U13 (unclassified mode of action). Gatten at 8 fluid ounces per acre (plus a protectant like chlorothalonil) used in rotation with our other CPM materials like Quintec, Vivando and the DMI's (Procure, Ryhme, Proline etc.) could be another option for cucurbit growers, especially those growing edible peel cucurbits like cucumbers and summer squash. Gatten has been as effective in Dr. McGrath's trials on Long Island as Vivando. Use Gatten with a minimum of 30 gallons of water per acre and a non-ionic surfactant; it has a 0 day PHI and a 12 hour re-entry interval. Remember, if mixing with other materials, you must be sure to adhere to the longest PHI and REI period. *Gatten can only be applied twice in NYS with a maximum seasonal use rate of 16 fluid ounces.*

Cucurbit Downy Mildew: The last couple of weeks I have been scouting hard and still have not found any Cucurbit Downy Mildew. Now does that mean it's not here? Absolutely Not – I have a feeling

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it has to be around and maybe I'm just not looking in the right place! Two things that I forgot to mention in some of the other articles lately about CDM are:

1) PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE destroy old cucumber, summer squash and melon plantings that you are finished harvesting! Any green tissue that is left can be a place for CDM to establish and reproduce on. Destroying can be accomplished by mowing and disking in the residues, flaming the tissues until they are dead or chemically with a non-selective herbicide like paraquat or Aim. This would also be a good opportunity for some selective weed control too!

2) Fungicides need to be applied before rain events! You need the fungicides protection when the foliage is going to be wet which is when the pathogen is able to establish itself – protect the crop. I know many of you think that applying after a rain is the way to go, but the spores that are brought in with the weather fronts associated with the rain events are deposited and get started during this timeframe. Most of the fungicides we have work best when applied "before the disease is established".

3) If you suspect CDM, please contact your regional CCE vegetable specialist so that we can confirm the pathogen, alert growers in the region and report it to the CDM Forecasting Program. The more we report to the Forecasting program, the more we can improve the accuracy of that system!

With the forecasted weather this week, namely the hurricane, I can't imagine we will escape CDM getting started somewhere in the region, especially when you look at the



Figure 1: Downy Mildew Risk Map for Tuesday, August 4, 2020. (Source: IPM PIPE CDM Forecasting System, <u>https://cdm.ipmpipe.org/forecasting/</u>

CDM Forecasting Programs outlook for Tuesday: "HIGH Risk for cucurbits in NY, nearby southern ON, southern QC, western and southern VT, southern NH, MA / CT / RI, Long Island, NJ, PA except the far west, DE, central and eastern MD, eastern VA, and the eastern 1/2 of NC. Moderate Risk in eastern and northern GA, northern AL, central and eastern TN, south-central and southeast KY, far southern WV, southwest and extreme southwest VA, far western PA, northeast OH, southeast MI, southern ON." All of NY State is in the "High Risk" category (Figure 1) so make sure your cucurbits (especially cukes and melons at any stage) are protected with appropriate fungicides. If you need help determining what to use, please feel free to give me a call at 518-859-6213.

Tobacco Mosaic Virus

Elisabeth Hodgdon, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) is a serious disease of tomatoes and other crops that we don't often see, but is one of the most contagious plant pathogens. Expression of TMV and other viruses can be highly variable. Mottling, chlorosis, stunting, deformed and curled leaves (Fig. 1), and brown spots on fruits (Fig. 2, next page)



Figure 1: Stunted tomato plant with TMV. Photo: T. Zitter, Cornell University

are symptoms of TMV in tomatoes. Not all symptoms may be present at once, and fruit symptoms can be present without any foliar symptoms. Infected plants, especially those that are infected early, often produce no marketable fruit.

The most common modes of TMV transmission are from handling tobacco products and infected ornamental plant hosts, such as petunias and nicotiana, and occasionally from infected seed. Workers who smoke and work with tomatoes (such as transplanting, pruning, and staking) can pass the virus from their hands to plants. Tobacco mosaic virus readily survives the tobacco curing process, and TMV can be present in or on cigarettes and other tobacco products. Thrips, aphids, and other plant pests do not spread TMV.

Prevention of TMV infection is critical, since there are no curative measures that can be taken once plants are infected. Farm workers who smoke should wash their hands after every smoke break (for phytosanitary as well as food safety reasons) and may wear gloves. Some farm managers opt to assign workers who smoke to other tasks that do not involve high tunnel tomatoes or other high value Solanaceous crops. Sanitation is critical to avoiding TMV infection:

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pruners, stakes, reusable clips, and other materials should be disinfected between uses as a general practice. If TMV is known to be present, extra precautions should be taken to avoid spread, as TMV can linger on surfaces and in soil debris.

Many TMV resistant tomato varieties are available, such as Arbason, Big Beef, Bigdena, Maxifort (rootstock), Geronimo, and Rebelski, which are commonly grown in high tunnels. If your farm is at risk for TMV, or you have a known TMV infection this year, opt to grow primarily TMVresistant varieties next year in addition to prioritizing sanitation. If contaminated seed is a concern seed treatment is an ont



If you believe you have a TMV infection on your farm, reach out to an ENYCHP specialist so that we can assist you with diagnosis and next steps.



Figure 2: Streaking and spotting on fruits from a tomato plant infected with TMV without foliar symptoms. Photos: E. Hodgdon

Additional Resources:

Lists of tomatoes and other crops with resistance to diseases and physiological disorders, by Meg McGrath: <u>http://</u><u>vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/Tables/TableList.htm</u>

2020 Leek Trial Evaluations Have Begun with Summer Varieties

Crystal Stewart Courtens, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture

This year we are evaluating over 30 varieties of summer, fall, and winter (storage) leeks to determine how newer entries to the market stack up against old favorites. Our summer trials included 11 varieties, including a few that are unlikely to make it to the marketplace. Here we include 7 varieties, including King Richard as the standard summer leek and Alto as a somewhat newer but relatively well known variety.

Our initial assessment simply looks at 5 leeks from each variety for a snapshot of general characteristics. As the plantings fully mature, each will be batch harvested to determine average yield per bed foot, disease resistance, and eating quality.

The leeks were seeded on March 15th and grown in open flats in the greenhouse until May 22nd, when they were transplanted onto bare ground. They were lightly hilled twice before harvest to improve blanching and weed control. Harvest for the initial assessment was conducted on August 3rd, and full harvest will begin next week and continue until all varieties have reached full maturity. We are fortunate not to have ALM or leek moth pressure in this trial!

	Variety	Source	Days to Maturity	
5	King Richard	Various	85	
	Alto	Various	85	
	Verdonnet (OP)	Adaptive	Not Listed	
	Pancho (OP)	Adaptive	Not Listed	
	Lancia (OP)	Bejo	98	
	Batter (not on market yet)	Bejo	Not Listed	
	Biker (not on market yet)	Bejo	Not Listed	



PPP Loan Forgiveness—The Early Bird Doesn't Catch the Worm on this One But for CFAP, Apply ASAP!

Elizabeth Higgins, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

SBA is just starting to put out guidance on PPP loan forgiveness. I will be developing a more detailed guidance in the future. The purpose of this article is to let you know you don't need to rush to submit your paperwork. You have the money and several months before you need to start making any loan payments. Just keep good records. More later.

CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) on the other hand is a grant that you should get off your butt and apply for. In July USDA made many more crops eligible for payments. If any of these three things are true:

- ✓ you sold an eligible crop that you grew between January 15, 2020 and April 15, 2020
- ✓ you sold an eligible crop and delivered it between January 15 and April 15 but you never got paid
- ✓ you had an eligible crop in storage that you grew on April 15 (or had to destroy a mature crop or a crop that would have

matured by April 15 because there was no market) or you donated a crop you grew because you had no market.

You might be eligible for a CFAP payment. Greens are eligible, apples are eligible, blueberries are eligible, garlic is eligible, tomatoes are eligible, carrots are eligible, potatoes are eligible, onions are eligible. I could go on and on all day. **THERE ARE A LOT OF ELIGIBLE CROPS**. If you raise beef or pork there is a payment for that. If you have dairy, they will give you lots of money. If you grow malting barley or other field crops - \$\$\$.

This is a grant and it is, by USDA standards, an easy application. Fill in the application and if you are eligible USDA will give you money and you won't have to pay it back. I don't think I can make it any clearer.

You only have until August 28th or until the money runs out. If you have more questions email me <u>emh56@cornell.edu</u> or call me at 518-949-3722.

Preparing for Onboarding Harvest Employees in the Context of COVID-19 Mark Wiltberger, Lake Ontario Fruit Team

Some of you may be planning to bring additional workers to your farm for harvest. Below are some of the most important practices for worker arrival to keep in mind and plan for.

Communication and Education

Good communication with your employees may be the single most important action you can take to lower the chance of an outbreak at your farm business. Coronavirus is unlike a food-borne illness. Because the virus is transmitted so easily through person-to-person contact, the practices of employees away from work are as important as practices at the workplace to contain the community spread of the virus. It is critical to emphasize the importance of social distancing when not at work. Frequent and repetitious communication about the basics of the virus - what it is, how it spreads, and how to prevent the spread – from the moment workers arrive will help them understand the seriousness of this illness. Posters from the CDC at key locations can serve as reminders. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/printresources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc). Communicating off-work expectations of behavior (in particular, the importance of social distancing with non-household members) should start when workers arrive. Useful videos at the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell (Training Videos for Food Processing Employees, https:// instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/foodindustry-resources/) can provide a start for training for off-work and at-work practices. The Cornell Farmworker Program also has resources in other languages that you can use with your employees

whose primary language is not English: <u>https://</u> www.trabajadores.cornell.edu/.

Quarantining upon Arrival

New York State is requiring quarantining of workers for 14 days upon arrival from 34 states, DC, and Puerto Rico, as of this writing. The list of states and the rules for guarantine are here: https:// coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory. In addition, the NYS guidance for farms requires international workers to guarantine as well. Essential employees can work but they must not go out into the public and they must remain separate from the rest of the workforce. Quarantine of arriving workers is an important practice, because it provides a mechanism to identify sick workers early, before they spread the virus to the rest of the workforce, farm management, and the community. Logistics for the employer with employees in quarantine is a challenge. The NYS guidance for farms (https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/agmdoh covid19 cleaningfarm.pdf) denotes the essential needs farms must deliver to quarantined workers. Take time to plan for how to carry out quarantine. If you are considering testing employees for COVID-19 upon arrival, make sure you have your plan in place for where to house one or more workers who test positive. Housing for positive workers is flexible - it could be a rented or borrowed camper, trailer, or house, or vacant housing on another farm. Talk to your neighbors to identify housing that one farm could use if needed.

With these practices in place you have a good chance of getting through the harvest season with everyone healthy.

Farm Credit East—Blueprint Grant: Strengthening Farm and Food Business Viability

As a result of a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, funded by the Northern Border Regional Commission, called "the Blueprint", low-cost, high quality consulting will be available to farm and food businesses in eligible counties in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. (See the list of counties at the end of this document)

We are seeking Farm and food businesses with a minimum of two years of experience and \$15,000 in annual gross income, for business assistance. An enterprise that grows crops or raises animals qualifies as a farm. An enterprise that makes food or beverage products or provides certain services to farmers (such as a food manufacturer, a slaughter facility, or a food processing co-packer) is regarded as a food business. Farm and food businesses may or may not be land-based (i.e. aquacultural enterprises are eligible). A limited number of start-up enterprises (i.e. less than 2 years of experience or <\$15,000 in revenue) will be accepted as well.

Consulting topics can include:

- Business Planning and Access to Credit
- Ownership Transfer / Succession Planning / Farmland Access
- Cash Flow or Enterprise Analysis
- Targeted Technical Assistance
- Management Coaching

We are particularly interested in "underserved" farm and food enterprises for these engagements. These include, but are not limited to:

- Limited income / limited resource enterprises
- Women-owned or women-led businesses
- LGBTQ owned or led businesses
- Veteran owned or led businesses
- Persons of Color owned or led businesses
- Immigrant entrepreneurs
- Businesses in geographic areas where access to traditional services is limited

Costs:

The costs of these engagements will be shared three ways:

- ✓ 45% will be paid for by the VHCB as part of the Blueprint Grant
- ✓ 45% will be paid for by Farm Credit East Young, Beginning, and Small Farm Incentives
- ✓ 10% will be a cost-share paid by the client. Note that this cost-share may be reduced in cases of economic hardship and should not be a barrier to participation.

The maximum cost of each engagement under this program is \$5,000 (gross) per client.

Please refer inquiries to Bill Zweigbaum – <u>Bill.Zweigbaum@farmcrediteast.com</u> / 518-692-0269 in NY, and Ethan Robertson – <u>Ethan.Robertson@farmcrediteast.com</u> / 207-330-4322 in ME and NH

FCE – "Blueprint Grant" – Eligible Counties:

- ♦ Greene
- Rensselaer
- Saratoga
- ♦ Sullivan
- Washington

- Maine
- Androscoggin
- Aroostook
- Franklin
- Hancock
- ♦ Kennebec
- ♦ Knox
- WaldoWashington

Oxford

Penobscot

Piscataquis

Somerset

New Hampshire

- Belknap
- Carroll

Events & Updates

2020 Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower Webinars

Wednesdays from 12:00 to 1:00pm http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Webinars2020.html

July 29. Spotted Wing Drosophila Management. Vern Grubinger. (recording and slides are posted)
August 5. Update on Insects and Diseases. Ann Hazelrigg and Margaret Skinner.
August 12. High Tunnel Tomato Management. Becky Maden and Cheryl Frank Sullivan.
August 19. Tour of Wash/Pack Facility Projects. Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlain.
August 26. Fall Cover Crop Options. Becky Maden and Laura Johnson.
Coming in September...Growing Saffron. Leafy Greens in Winter Tunnels. Irrigation Tips.

NYCAMH/NEC Farmworker Needs Assessment Survey

Please support NYCAMH's farmworker needs assessment by encouraging your farm employees to complete the survey below. NYCAMH provides farm safety training and equipment, respirator fit testing and other resources to help keep you and your workers safe and healthy!

The purpose of the survey is to understand the unique challenges your workers are facing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. This information will help NYCAMH create materials and programs that are more appropriate and helpful to you and your workers. To gather this data, we are asking if you would share the following survey link with your workers:

Please click here to take the survey in English: <u>https://redcap.bassett.org/redcap/surveys/?</u> <u>s=NH8CHXX499</u>

Please click here to take the survey in Spanish: <u>https://redcap.bassett.org/redcap/surveys/?</u> <u>s=LND3MR9TPD</u>

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www.enych.cce.cornell.edu



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Corn Trap Counts

County	ECB E	ECB Z	FAW	WBC	CEW
Albany	0	2	0	1	N/A
Columbia	2	0	5	10	8
Clinton 1	2	0	0	316	0
Clinton 2	1	0	4	172	0
Essex	1	0	0	104	0
Orange	1	0	71	3	36