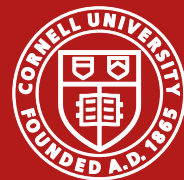


Contact us for More
Information

Field Cultivation Equipment Day



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2015 marked the first annual Field Cultivation Equipment Day at the Farm Hub in Kingston, New York. A variety of specialized cultivation equipment from HAK Cultivating Tools, K.U.L.T Kress LLC and other manufacturers was displayed and operated for the ultimate on-farm learning experience. Enthusiastic attendees were not only able to see the equipment in action, but also talk directly with the manufacturers to get a full understanding of equipment capabilities and offerings. Over 70 people attended this event, making it a promising model for future programs.

GAPS Education

Food safety is becoming more important as the institutional buying of local produce increases. Wholesale producers are facing stricter buyer requirements and often have difficulty finding the time and resources to prepare their food safety plans and prepare for audits. Our program is helping with these very issues. With assistance from Cornell University employees as well as a number of other CCE educators, ENYCHP has been involved in four two-day GAPS training workshops in Geneva, Canajoharie, Kingston, and Millbrook. Out of the 44 farms attending these workshops, there are 7-10 who are seriously considering being audited for GAPS by the USDA this growing season.

Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



For more information, visit our website: <http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/>

17 Counties ▪ 12 Specialists ▪ 1,375 Phone Consults ▪ 1,424 Farm Visits ▪ 1,878 Client Emails

Hudson Valley Orchard Systems

In early March, demonstrations of modern apple tree pruning techniques were held at Crist Brothers Orchard in Ulster County and at Yonder Orchards in Columbia County. The demonstrations featured Cornell University's internationally renowned professor of pomology, Dr. Terrence Robinson. Professor Robinson and his staff demonstrated the latest pruning techniques on state of the art "tall spindle" apple plantings. Concurrent educational sessions were conducted in both English and Spanish, with 140 attendees between the two sites. Local growers and an orchard equipment fabricator from Western New York also showed off the advantages of self-propelled pruning/harvest platforms.



Berry Workshops

In the spring and summer nine berry workshops were held in different counties of eastern New York. Over 100 berry growers attended these events, which focused on horticultural tasks such as pruning, fertilizing, variety selection, and pest management. Growers were taught about detecting and identifying strawberry root damage inflicted by strawberry root weevil or black vine weevil. The elusive weevil pests are difficult to detect and control, but use of nematodes has improved the potential for long-term, sustainable control. After the workshops, time was spent at each host site and other farms digging up potentially infested berries. Several sites were identified as possible trial locations for the nematode project in future years.



Grape Pest Management

Local educators and technicians cooperated with IPM specialist and Lake Erie Regional Grape Program leader, Tim Weigle to conduct an annual monitoring program for potential invasive grape pests. This year, traps for the ENYCHP region were set out in late July. In the Hudson Valley, there were five grower cooperators who participated in this program within Columbia, Dutchess, and Ulster Counties. Over the season traps were checked for the presence of invasive pest and the results were recorded and reported to all grape growers in the Region.



Vegetable Field Research

This year, a 3-year project for new high tunnel growers was concluded. ENYCHP and the Cornell Vegetable Program has now developed a set of six fact sheets and other resources focusing on some Best Management Practices (BMPs). The six BMPs are: Site Selection; Tomatoes for High Tunnels; Spacing; Training and Pruning; Leaf Mold on Tomatoes; and Cucumbers for High Tunnels. These are posted online at: <http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/> and will soon be included on Cornell's high tunnel website. During this project we saw significant improvements in how growers trained and managed their tomatoes. Our new high tunnel growers found that this project made it easier to work in the tunnels, improved production, and fruit quality.



Every year ENYCHP sets out an assortment of variety trials designed to provide growers with information on variety performance in our unique climate and assess marketability. This year, we had an amazing variety of crops in every corner of the region! Many of these trials also hosted grower meetings as they matured. Here is a snapshot of the crops we worked with in 2015.

Organic Variety Trials

Cucumbers - downy mildew resistance
Cantaloupes - powdery mildew resistance
Summer Squash - powdery mildew & cucumber beetle resistance

Fresh Market Variety Trials

Beet
Carrot
Parsnip
Edamame (fresh market & processing)
Tomatoes - disease resistance
Potato
Pumpkins

Minor Fruit

Hascaps (growth, hardiness, & taste)



This spring we planted carrot, beet, and parsnip trials at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub. In this trial, 31 varieties of carrots, 18 varieties of beets, and 8 parsnips were evaluated for yield potential, marketable weight, and foliar disease resistance. Growers were the first to access trial results at a field meeting at the Farm Hub. 45 growers attended to see the crops in the field and even got to taste all thirty-one carrot varieties! Results

and further details will be presented in our seasonal newsletter the New England Fruit & Vegetable Conference and the NYS EXPO.