



Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

2018 Program Highlights

Modernizing Communication- This year ENYCHP has taken several steps to make our information easily accessible to growers. Our recorded webinars and podcasts (soon to be released) allow growers to learn at a time and place that is convenient to them. 16 videos are also now available to growers on our YouTube station and team social media accounts.

In addition we piloted a text messaging system that notifies growers in an instant of the most important alerts in our region. This season 8 pest alerts or business management reminders were sent from our specialists.



In February 2018, ENYCHP hosted the first Eastern NY Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Albany NY. This two day event averaged 300 attendees per day and offered programming on Tree Fruit, Vegetable, and Berry production, as well as Business Management topics. 93% of people surveyed said that they would attend again, and 99% said the conference was well worth the trip!

In it's second year, ENYCHP is expanding the conference to three days to include a general session, more in-depth programming, as well as grape production. This year's conference will return to the Desmond Conference Center on February 19th—21st, 2019.

ENYCHP Research continues in 2018. With 23 grant funded projects across all commodities, our specialists continue to work on the concerns that are most important to our region's growers. Research results and insights were presented during 250 hours of programming and trainings with 3750 growers in attendance.

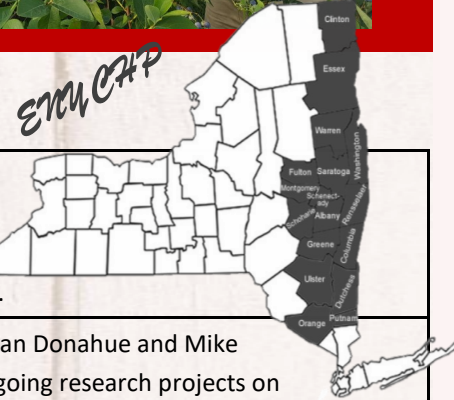
Our applied research is conducted on local private farms, as well as collaborating organizations such as the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, Cornell Willsboro Research Farm, and the Cornell Hudson Valley Lab.





2018 Grower Concerns

ENYCHP Team Response



<p>Labor Issues</p>	<p>Liz Higgins, ENYCHP Business Management Specialist, hosted in person Ag Labor Management classes throughout our region and created 9 recorded webinars. Her soon to be released podcast series on business topics will provide a full complement of resources to local farms.</p>
<p>Tree Fruit Production</p>	<p>Tree fruit production is a huge part of the Eastern NY economy keeping Dan Donahue and Mike Basedow busy with an impressive series of educational meetings and ongoing research projects on topics that include Bitter Pit, Precision Management and Tree Decline.</p>
<p>Reduced Tillage and Cover Crops</p>	<p>700 acres of Asian Kabocha squash is being grown in the lower Hudson Valley and sustainable soil management practices especially for muck soils are needed. Ethan Grundberg and Chuck Bornt are looking for solutions.</p>
<p>BioControls</p>	<p>Crystal Stewart has been comparing the efficacy of biological fungicides at a number of farms in the region. Another type of biocontrol uses native nematodes that help control all kinds of difficult to manage soil insect pests. Teresa Rusinek & Chuck Bornt are using them to control wireworms in sweet and Irish potatoes.</p>
<p>Innovations in Farming Systems</p>	<p>Farmers are using high tunnels, low tunnels, hail netting, insect exclusion systems etc. to help reduce the variability of unpredictable weather, open up markets and provide employment consistency for good help. Amy Ivy has helped growers understand crop nutritional requirements, pruning and cultivar selection in these systems and Laura McDermott has worked with tunnels and exclusion netting systems to improve berry quality.</p>
<p>New & Emerging Pests</p>	<p>Spotted Lanternfly, Allium Leafminer, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, Swede Midge, Leek Moth, Black Stem Borer.....each year the list of new and emerging pests grows. ENYCHP specialists remain on the front lines, monitoring for pests and providing information on ID and management.</p>
<p>Integrating Information Technology</p>	<p>Jim Meyers has been leading the charge in utilizing data and integrating it into usable formats for grape growers in the region. His first project has focused on weather data, but the possibility of using drones to gather information to help growers diagnose specific problems and take immediate action is part of the plan.</p>
<p>Food Safety</p>	<p>The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) has put Food Safety concerns in the spotlight. This year the team hosted two meetings addressing Listeria in apple pack houses and several Farmer Food Safety Trainings.</p>