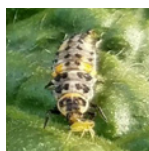




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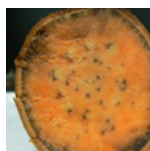
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Volume 15 • Issue 25 • December 3, 2019



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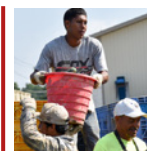
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What Works for Organic Insect Control in Winter Tunnels?

Judson Reid, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Many Northeast vegetable growers find winter high tunnels an excellent way to produce 'off-season' greens with little-to-no fossil fuel based heat. These production systems contribute to economic and social sustainability by creating year-round income and maintaining customer relations during the traditional off-season.

However, pest infestations, such as aphids, mites and cabbage worms restrict the economic potential of these systems. As an experienced grower put it, "Pest management is so much more important in the winter because your losses are so much more."

This quote illustrates an important concept in 'winter' pest management. Crops are growing slowly and somewhat unpredictably. As fall weather varies, temperature and light intensity play a greater role in total crop biomass than in warmer seasons. A cool, cloudy fall can severely delay crop growth.

As plants slowly respond to decreasing light however, residual insect pest levels are still at high levels from the warm season. With less outdoor crops for these pests, high tunnels can soon develop an imbalance in crop canopy and pest levels. A young planting of Asian greens can quickly be overtaken by cabbage worms who've run out of cabbage in the field.



Figure 1. Winter crop canopy is often at a severe disadvantage to hold-over full blown pest populations. Photo by Judson Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

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About VegEdge

VegEdge newsletter is exclusively for enrollees in the Cornell Vegetable Program, a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in 14 counties.



The newsletter is a service to our enrollees and is intended for educational purposes, strengthening the relationship between our enrollees, the Cornell Vegetable Program team, and Cornell University.

We're interested in your comments. Contact us at:
CCE Cornell Vegetable Program
480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14224
Email: cce-cvp@cornell.edu
Web address: cvp.cce.cornell.edu

Contributing Writers

Elizabeth Buck
Robert Hadad
Christy Hoepting
Margie Lund
Julie Kikkert
Judson Reid

Publishing Specialist/Distribution/Sponsors

Angela Ochterski

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Information provided is general and educational in nature. Employees and staff of the Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Cornell University do not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.

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Help us serve you better by telling us what you think. Email us at cce-cvp@cornell.edu or write to us at Cornell Vegetable Program, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14224.



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This next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on January 6, 2020.



2020 Finger Lakes Produce Auction Education Meeting

January 2, 2020 (Thurs) | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Finger Lakes Produce Auction, 3691 NY-14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527

This meeting is our annual winter educational event for Finger Lakes Produce Auction growers. This year we will focus on farm food safety clarifications, soil health, pepper pests, strawberries, and control of tomato and vine crop diseases through use of biopesticides. 2.5 DEC recertification credits will be available in category 23, and 0.5 credits in category 22. FREE. [Full agenda](#) available on the Cornell Vegetable Program website. For information, contact Judson Reid, 585-313-8912.

2020 Ontario Produce Auction Winter Growers Meeting

January 8, 2020 (Wednesday) | 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Ontario Produce Auction, 4860 Yautzy Rd, Stanley, NY 14561

This course will educate growers on disease and pest management, varieties and marketing issues in vegetables and small fruit. Topics such as disease resistant varieties, pest/disease, cultural management and appropriate spray options. An anticipated 1.0 hours of content is eligible for re-certification credits. FREE. [Full agenda](#) available on the Cornell Vegetable Program website. For information, contact Judson Reid, 585-313-8912.



Figure 2. A healthy winter crop of high tunnel greens requires fall pest management. Photo by Judson Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

The decreasing day length and temperature also effect ‘what works’ for organic insect control. For worm pests, Bt products such as Dipel have a green-house-approved label and are OMRI listed. These Bt’s can work quite well, but as a stomach poison, are dependent on temperature driving the feeding and metabolism of the target pests. They must be used early in the production cycle to work well.

Appropriate planting density can also help with insect (and disease) control. High density planting interferes with insect management by making it hard for OMRI materials to reach the target. This illustrates a key difference between stomach poisons and contact sprays. For example, aphid materials such as Mycotrol, require contact with the insect for the microbial agent (*Beauveria bassiana*) to infect the insect body. When the greens canopy is closed our sprays cannot effectively reach the target.

Once we move into the colder months where days are shorter and freezes common, spraying no longer makes sense as we can damage the foliage. Can we use biocontrols?

For pest control in warm season tunnels, biocontrols such as predators and parasitoids are an excellent option. However, as temperatures drop we refrain from the release of biocontrols, with one exception: lady beetles. Under row covers lady beetles have provided excellent control of aphids at some of our cooperating sites (Figure 3). The row cover keeps these predators where we want them, and also provide some temperature protection which likely increases their activity. Note that our experience shows aphids overwinter very well in unheated high tunnels. So if you have a history of aphids, it would be wise to have lady beetles on hand prior to a rapid population spike.

Winter growing in the Northeast is more accurately described as Fall growing and winter harvesting. Pest management follows the same pattern. Controlling pests such as aphids and cabbage worms in the fall will lead to a healthy crop for winter harvests. In the fall we have multiple OMRI spray options, and pest metabolism and canopy temperature facilitate the use of these products. Due to our short day lengths and low temperatures our biocontrol options are very limited, making the Fall pest control that much more important. ●

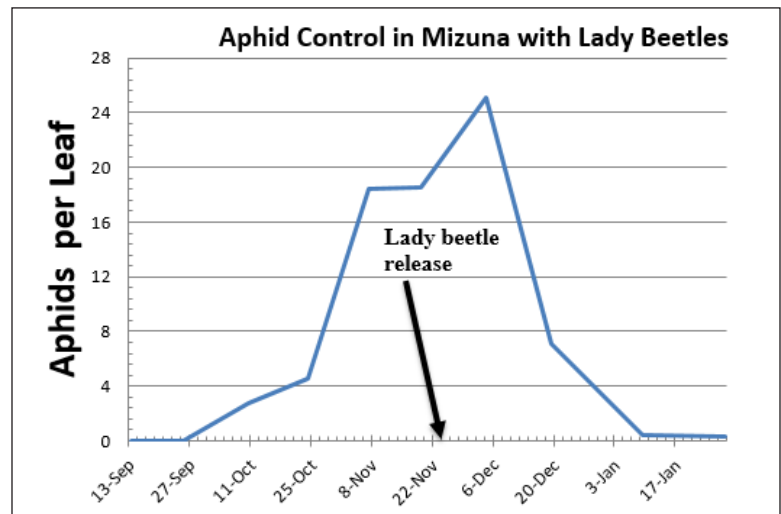


Figure 3. Lady beetles can be effective for aphid control in winter tunnels, particularly if row cover is used to restrict them to the crop canopy.



Figure 4. Lady beetle larvae foraging in a high tunnel crop. Photo by Judson Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Optimal Conditions for Storage Crops

Written October 2011 by A. Brown, A. Cavanagh, R. Hazzard, University of Massachusetts, and B. Sideman, University of New Hampshire. Funded by Northeast SARE Winter Vegetable Project UMass – UNH – CISA – SEL. Updated January 2018 by G. Higgins, University of Massachusetts

[Nearly 20% of storage crops are lost to poor cooler conditions and management. Here is a great article from the archives of the UMass Vegetable Notes. Remember to only store crops that are good condition. Be careful when handling to avoid any abrasions that can cause rot while in storage. Air circulation in the storage room or cooler is critical in reducing CO₂ and ethylene build up which will injure produce. ed. R. Hadad, CCE CVP]



Ethylene-induced Yellowing
Cabbage ethylene-induced yellowing.
Photo by Don Edwards, UC Davis



Chilling Injury
Chilling injury on sweet potato.
Photo from UC Davis

Crop	Storage	Notes	Ethylene Sensitivity*
Beet, Radish, Turnip & Rutabaga	Store at 32°F and 95% RH with greens removed. Radishes can be stored for 2-4 months, turnips and rutabaga for 4-5 months, and beets for 4-6 months.	Low humidity causes shriveling and weight loss, and shortens storage life.	LOW
Cabbage	Store cabbage at 32°F and 98- 100% RH. Can last 4-6 months in optimum conditions.	Cabbage and other Brassicas freeze at 30°F, and storability starts to decrease at >34°F. Presence of light in storage can decrease leaf yellowing during storage.	HIGH (promotes leaf yellowing, wilting, and abscission)
Carrot	Store carrots at 32°F and 98- 100% RH. Can be stored 5-9 months. Potential storage time increases with higher RH.	May be stored washed or unwashed. Washing immediately after harvest may reduce disease incidence in storage. Storing with ethylene- producers (like apples), and wounding and bruising during washing, can cause bitterness.	HIGH (causes bitterness)
Garlic	Store at 32°F and 65-70% RH. Seed garlic should be stored at 50°F. Garlic should keep for 6 to 7 months at 32°F.	High temperatures (>65°F) cause dehydration, intermediate temperatures (40-65°F) promote sprouting, and high RH promotes root growth and molding.	LOW
Onion	Store at 32°F and 65-70% RH. Avoid condensation by cooling gradually and maintaining steady temperature. Storage potential depends on variety.	As onions mature, their dry matter content and pungency increase. Onions produced from seeds store longer than those from sets. High temperature increases sprouting, high RH stimulates root growth, and the combination increases likelihood of rotting.	LOW
Parsnip	Store at 32°F and 90-95% RH with greens removed. Parsnips will keep for 2-6 months at optimum conditions.	Starches in parsnip roots convert to sugars at cold temperatures. Early fall dug parsnips can be induced to sweeten with a short (2-3 weeks) cold storage treatment.	HIGH (causes bitterness)
Potato	Lower temperature gradually to 40-45°F for tablestock or seed. Store at 50°F for chip stock varieties. Maintain RH at 90%. Store 5-8 months.	Curing and storage environments must be dark to prevent greening. At colder temperatures, starches convert to sugar.	LOW
Sweet Potato	Store at 55-60°F at 90% RH. Well-cured roots can store for up to a year in optimal conditions.	Starches in roots convert to sugars for the first 30 days postharvest; wait until 3 weeks after harvest for best flavor. Avoid chilling injury by keeping roots above 50°F. Chilling injury promotes root decay and decreases storage potential.	MODERATE (causes discoloration)
Winter Squash	Store at 55-60°F and 50-75% RH. Storage potential varies with variety, from 2-6 months.	Avoid chilling injury in field or storage, which occurs when temperatures are below 50°F. Injury increases as temperature decreases and/or length of chilling time increases. Decay accelerates after chilling. High temperatures decrease flesh quality, and high RH promotes decay.	MODERATE (causes discoloration)

*Crops that produce significant amounts of ethylene during storage include: apple, pear, peach, plum, cantaloupe, tomato, plus several tropical fruits. ●

EXPO



January 14-16, 2020 | The Oncenter, 800 South State St, Syracuse, NY
www.nysvga.org/expo

Empire State Producers Expo Returns to The Oncenter

The Empire State Producers Expo is back at the OnCenter in downtown Syracuse for 2020, with the Becker Forum kicking things off on Monday, January 13. The Forum will once again focus on the biggest issue facing growers today – labor. The event takes place at the Expo headquarters hotel, the refurbished Hotel Syracuse (now the Marriott Syracuse Downtown). Located one block from the OnCenter, attendees will be able to park their cars on Monday and not have to worry about driving the rest of the week. Labor issues including farm worker housing will also be covered at several sessions at the Expo on Tuesday, January 14.

“Our Expo organizers really stepped up this year in terms of sessions and topics”, explained Expo organizer Steve Reiners, Professor and Chair in the Horticulture section at Cornell. In addition to traditional sessions focused on commodities like tree fruit, berries, sweet corn, vine crops, onions, cabbage and potatoes, there are lots of new topics. We have sessions focused on the newest techniques in stand establishment, soil fertility, grafting, biocontrol, sprayer technology and weed management for both large scale (Tuesday) and small scale/organic (Thursday). “This will be a great time to meet our newest faculty hire, Lynn Sosnoskie, weed management specialist located at Cornell AgriTech”, says Reiners. Lynn came on board in September and is anxious to meet all vegetable and fruit growers.

Interested in conserving energy or how to take advantage of the growing solar and wind energy markets? Our Energy sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday will cover all these topics along with a discussion on NYSEERDA’s farm energy audit. How about new crops? Thursday focuses on the dynamic hemp industry with production and marketing experts. Also that day, is a look at specialty root crops like yacon, scorzonera, salsify and root parsley which makes garlic (also covered that day) seem mainstream. Love beets? We’ll have a beet workshop featuring renowned beet expert Dr. Irwin Goldman from the University of Wisconsin also on Thursday.

Food safety continues to be a major issue for growers, and we’ll have an all-day Produce Safety Alliance training on Tuesday (preregistration required). In addition, we have sessions on the best ways to set up your packing facility with food safety in mind and bilingual food safety session in Spanish and English on Wednesday afternoon.

Look for research posters in the expanded trade show this year, staffed by the best and brightest grad students from Cornell. They will be happy to talk about their latest research at afternoon breaks on Tuesday and Wednesday. And make sure you get to the expanded Trade Show with more vendors than ever before. Also new this year is an attempt to reach out to the next generation of growers as students from the Future Farmers of America join us on Thursday.

With the Marriott Syracuse Downtown hotel serving as our conference headquarters, looks for evening social. Plans include a meet and greet social on Tuesday and a large apple cider tasting on Wednesday. Immediately following the Expo, NOFA-NY will have their conference starting that Friday, January 17. Thursday will be a crossover day with sessions that appeal to both audiences – soil health, organic weed management, and high value specialty crops.

The 2020 Empire State Producers Expo – you can’t miss it!

EXPO SESSION

Biocontrol I and Biocontrol II

Tuesday, January 14

Session organized by Amara Dunn, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program, Cornell AgriTech

At this year’s Expo, there will be two sessions to help you use biocontrol more effectively on your farms and in your growing operations. The morning session will feature information about how to make sure you’re getting the most out of the beneficial insects (and maybe a few non-insects) you release. We will also talk about how to make sure that pesticides you use aren’t killing off natural enemies that could be helping you with pest control (whether you are releasing them, or attracting them in the field). This year, we’ll also start a new feature called “How does it work?” explaining the mode of action of one type of biopesticides.

The afternoon session will be a workshop. Have you been thinking of trying a biopesticide on your farm, but the details of when and how to apply it feel daunting, especially once the season starts? Get your questions answered by experts and make a plan to try a new biopesticide in 2020!

EXPO SESSION

Weed Management – Conventional

Tuesday, January 14

Session organized by Bryan Brown, NYS IPM Program, and Lynn Sosnokie, Cornell

Weeds impact crop yields (both quantity and quality) through competition for light, water and nutrients. Weeds can also physically interfere with the movement of personnel and machinery through fields, inhibit the deposition of crop protection chemicals, and can act as alternate hosts for insects and pathogens. While any weed can be a concern to growers under the right conditions, some weedy species and traits have been, historically, more problematic than others. This includes herbicide resistant biotypes, perennial species, and species with extended germination windows or deep seed dormancy. Resistance to the triazine herbicides has been formally confirmed in the state in four species, although this number does not represent the current situation in NY. Palmer amaranth, horseweed/marestail, and waterhemp have all been reported in the state and preliminary results from NYSIPM suggest that herbicide resistance is present in some populations. Each of these three species can produce prodigious amounts of seed and have mechanisms to ensure widespread dispersal of deleterious traits. The first part of this talk will focus on (1) the biological characteristics that make Palmer amaranth, horseweed/marestail, and waterhemp tough to manage even in the absence of resistance and (2) how crop production practices may need to be adjusted to ensure acceptable suppression. Perennial weeds are also difficult to control. Because of their extensive underground root reserves, perennials have the capacity to withstand and respond to significant disturbance events like cultivation and chemical treatments. Despite this, perennial weeds are not immune to management measures. The type and timing of herbicide applications (including some pre-emergent products) can significantly impact the suppression of perennial vines. The second portion of this talk will describe active ingredients that can be used to manage plants as well as the importance of strategic soil disturbance. The third and final portion of this presentation will focus on concerns related to weed science research and extension. This includes the costs of labor and changes in labor availability, the consolidation of chemical company and impacts on herbicide discovery and release, Regulatory impacts on chemical availability, integrated weed management for the control of weeds in-crop, and the current use and future utility of vision-guided and autonomous weeders.

EXPO SESSION

Tunnels – More Than Just Tomatoes!

Wednesday, January 15

Session organized by Judson Reid, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Steve Reiners and Margaret Frank, Cornell

High tunnels and greenhouses are contributing to farm profitability across the state. New York is now ranked #2 in the U.S. for number of farms growing under protected settings with value of sales at \$28,590,555!!! The vast majority of this value comes from tomatoes. However, growing the same crop year after year can lead to heightened disease, insect and soil management challenges. Crop rotations, including cover crops, can help farmers reduce disease and insect threats to tomatoes. The high tunnel session at the Empire Producer's Expo this January will help growers explore rotations to help break up the continuous cycle of tomatoes. Invited researcher from Iowa State, Ajay Nare has examined the potential of new crops including colored bell peppers and specialty melons. The Cornell Vegetable Program will share research updates on winter cover crops in high tunnels. Join us Wednesday, January 15th 2020 9:00 am at the Syracuse Oncenter.

EXPO SESSION

Cabbage Session is “Back to the Future” Featuring Black Rot, Lorsban Ban and Weed Control

Wednesday, January 15

Session organized by C. Hoepting and E. Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

After taking a year off, the Cabbage session will return to the Empire State Producers Expo with a focus on the future. The session will kick off with a presentation by Zoe Dubrow about how a new molecular discovery could result in cabbage varieties that are totally resistant to black rot. Dubrow is a Ph. D. student at Cornell studying under Plant Pathologists Adam Bogdanove and Chris Smart. Bogdanove is an award-winning and internationally recognized expert in the molecular interactions of pathogenic bacteria and plants, with a particular focus on *Xanthomonas* species of bacteria including those that cause black rot in cabbage. His discoveries are paving the way for genome editing technology that will make breeding for plant resistance much more precise and predictable than traditional breeding.

Next, in light of the pending New York State ban of chlorpyrifos/Lorsban, the cornerstone for control of cabbage maggot in cabbage, Cornell Entomologist Brian Nault will review other control options. Finally, Cornell Cooperative Extension Vegetable Program Specialist Christy Hoepting will share her most recent cabbage herbicide trial results, which feature some exciting new approaches to improved weed control in cabbage with emphasis on Lamb's quarters.

EXPO SESSION

Onion Day at Expo will Feature Stemphylium Leaf Blight Fungicide Resistance Workshop

Wednesday, January 15

Session organized by Christy Hoepting and Ethan Grundberg, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Yes, we just had a Stemphylium Leaf Blight Fungicide (SLB) Resistance Workshop at the Empire State Producers Expo two years ago! Since then, SLB has developed resistance to two more fungicide classes. It is alarming how quickly this pathogen is breaking through our fungicide programs! It is critical that New York onion growers understand fungicide resistance in order to effectively manage this potentially devastating disease. The workshop will have all hands on deck from all three Cornell programs working collaboratively on Stemphylium leaf blight. Cornell Cooperative Extension Onion Specialist Christy Hoepting will kick off the workshop by presenting relative field performance of fungicides from four 2019 trials: unfortunately, more products have slipped. Cornell Plant Pathologist Frank Hay will present the current status of SLB fungicide resistance by major onion growing region, which his lab determines via fungicide sensitivity testing. Then, Cornell Ph.D. candidate Katrin Ayer, who is studying under Plant Pathologist Kerick Cox, will describe the effects of fungicide rate and rotation on development of SLB fungicide resistance in her laboratory assays. After all the facts are laid out regarding the current status of SLB fungicide resistance in New York, all of us will be schooled in Fungicide Resistance 101. Teaching this class will be Craig Austin, who is an Agronomic Service Representative with Syngenta who has his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Cornell. Austin has also served as the Communication Officer for the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) steering committee. The workshop will close with new fungicide recommendations for 2020.

Following the fungicide workshop, the Cornell Onion Entomology team led by Brian Nault is returning to the Expo after a year off to share their latest research results and recommendations for managing onion maggot, onion thrips and Allium leafminer. Finally, since spring 2019 saw some of the best weed control and worst herbicide injury, Christy Hoepting will close Onion Day at the Expo by unravelling the intricacies of Outlook herbicide injury.

EXPO SESSION

Table Beet Enthusiasts Gather at the 2020 Empire State Producers Expo

Thursday, January 16

Session organized by Julie Kikkert, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Table beets have emerged as a popular and profitable crop for New York farms in recent years. There will be a heap of beet enthusiasm and production information at the Table Beet Workshop on January 16th at the 2020 Empire State Producers Expo in Syracuse, NY. Professor Irwin Goldman from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will lead off with a presentation on the reemergence of the table beet. A grower panel will then discuss how table beets fit into the farm operation, as well as provide tips and challenges on production and marketing. The afternoon portion gets down & dirty on production with Cornell speakers presentations on basic beet agronomy, insect pests, weeds, and leaf and root disease identification and management. The keynote presentation by Dr. Goldman will cover 70 years of table beet breeding and the development of hybrids, breeding for flavor, and screening for resistance to Cercospora leaf spot, bacterial leaf spot, and Rhizoctonia root rot. Industry representatives from Sakata Seed America, Inc. and Bejo Seeds, Inc. will highlight the attributes of commercially available table beet varieties. You won't find this many beet experts and so much enthusiasm in one place like this for a while. If you grow beets or are thinking of adding them to your farm, you won't want to miss this workshop!

EXPO SESSION

Weed Management – Organic

Thursday, January 16

Session organized by Bryan Brown, NYS IPM Program, and Lynn Sosnokie, Cornell

This session will explore two methods of thermal weed control that can actually deplete the number of weed seeds in soil! Dr. Sonja Birthisel will share her exciting results comparing clear plastic to tarps and their effect of soil microbiology. Then Andre Cantelmo will showcase his experience with soil steaming at Heron Pond Farm in New Hampshire.

For more information and to register for the Empire State Producers Expo, visit www.nysvga.org/expo



Upcoming Events

View all CCE Cornell Vegetable Program events at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Processing Vegetable Crops Advisory Meeting

December 17, 2019 (Tuesday)

First United Methodist Church, 8221 Lewiston Rd. (Route 63), Batavia, NY 14020

9:30 AM – 12:10 PM Beans and Sweet Corn (2.0 DEC credits in categories 1a, 23)

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM Complimentary Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Peas (1.0 DEC credit in categories 1a, 23)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Carrots and Beets (1.5 DEC credits in categories 1a, 23)

All are invited to attend and discuss the 2019 season for each crop, meet the new Cornell Weed Scientist and discuss weed management concerns, and receive updates on research conducted during 2019. Separate DEC and CCA credits will be available for each of the 3 crop meetings. The meeting is free of charge and there is no registration required. Questions? Contact Julie Kikkert, 585-313-8160.

Potato Advisory Meeting

December 18, 2019 (Wednesday) | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CCE Ontario County, 480 N. Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424

This meeting provides an opportunity for growers to advise Cornell about what problems you'd most like research to solve. Let's ensure we collectively work on, and solve, real problems! Growers will lead the discussions, talking about their operations and what issues they consider most important to their profitability.

This event is FREE to attend. Lunch will be provided. For more info, contact Walter De Jong at walter.dejong@cornell.edu.

WNY Soil Health Alliance 2019 Workshop and Annual Meeting

December 18, 2019 (Wednesday) | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (refreshments from 8:30 - 9:00 AM)

Quality Inn and Suites, 8250 Park Rd, Batavia, NY 14020

The 2019 Western New York Soil Health Alliance annual meeting will feature Steve Groff, farmer and founder of Cover Crop Solutions, and Maria Harrison, Professor from the Boyce Thompson Institute. Steve will bring new information on growing your own Nitrogen with Legumes and Planting Green. He will also share this year's experience with growing 70 acres of hemp, and what he will change for 2020. Maria will discuss how plants control the growth of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and if we can play a part in the process. Other topics will include using precision agriculture to facilitate soil health management and the potential to increase in your bottom line from soil health management. Lunch and refreshments provided. CCA and DEC pesticide credits will be available.

Cost: \$25 pre-registration, \$35 door registration. Pre-registration deadline is December 13th. Register online at bit.ly/WNY-SHA2019 Payment will be due in cash or check at the start of the workshop. Payments may also be sent in advance to: Western New York Soil Health Alliance, c/o Orleans County SWCD, 446 W. Ave, Albion, NY 14411. Please make checks payable to the Western New York Soil Health Alliance. For additional questions, contact Aaron Ristow, American Farmland Trust, Agricultural Stewardship Program Manager, 607-745-7165, aristow@farmland.org

Finger Lakes Produce Auction Education Meeting – see page 2

January 2, 2020 (Thurs) | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Finger Lakes Produce Auction, 3691 NY-14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527

Introduction to Winter Growing Webinar

January 2, 2020 (Thurs) | 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension vegetable specialists Elisabeth Hodgdon (Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program) and Judson Reid (Cornell Vegetable Program) for a webinar on winter vegetable production in high tunnels. Topics: soil fertility and high tunnel preparation; crops; planting dates; pest and disease management; marketing considerations.

An open question and answer session will follow the webinar. FREE but [online registration](#) is required. Registered participants will receive webinar log-in information via email to join the Zoom meeting.

Ontario Produce Auction Winter Growers Meeting – see page 2

January 8, 2020 (Wednesday) | 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Ontario Produce Auction, 4860 Yautzy Rd, Stanley, NY 14561

New Labor Regulations: Tools to Help Farmers and Info Sessions with the NYS Department of Labor

CCE, Agricultural Workforce Development

On January 1, 2020 New York farms will have to pay overtime wages (1.5 times the 'regular rate of pay') for nearly all employees that work over 60 hours a week. Researchers and extension educators from Cornell University Agricultural Workforce Development, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cooperative Extension and PRO-DAIRY, have developed several tools to help New York farms manage through these changes.

Our spreadsheet tool is designed to help farm managers estimate how much overtime they would have to pay under their current employee work schedules. The tool can also be used to estimate costs of new work schedules. To use the tool, you will need to know current compensation levels and work schedules. Worksheets are provided for collecting or calculating that info in advance, if it is not readily available.

A new extension bulletin on "Adapting Your Labor Strategies to New York's Revised Farm Labor Employment Laws" discusses the pro and cons of various management strategies that farm may consider in response to the new overtime rules. The guide does not make recommendations, but details the positive and negative implications of changes to work schedules, employee policies and farm

Please visit <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/overtime> to download these tools. You can contact Jennifer Ifft (jiff@cornell.edu) or Richard Stup (rstup@cornell.edu) for more information.

In addition we have three Info Sessions on the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act with NYS Department of Labor Ag Specialists coming up to have your farm labor questions answered in WNY. If you didn't make it to the Labor Roadshow the week of Nov 18th, this is your chance to come and learn about the new labor laws that will apply to all farms as of January 1, 2020.

INFO SESSION ON THE FARM LABORERS FAIR LABOR PRACTICES ACT

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 10:00-11:30 am
CCE Wayne County, 1581 NY-88, Newark, NY 14513

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 2:00-3:30 pm
CCE Wyoming Co., 36 Center St Suite B, Warsaw, NY 14569

Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 9:30-11:00 am
CCE Orleans County, 12690 NY-31, Albion, NY 14411

Cost: Free – Please RSVP prior to event

New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Ag Specialists will be on hand to field questions regarding the new laws. They are here to help producers understand the impact of new laws. NYSDOL will provide information on compliance with the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act. DOL will review how the changes will impact employer scheduling, payment of wages and recordkeeping. Updated materials will be available. This is a program for all producers who have employees on their payroll.

Although this meeting is free to attend, registration is requested by Friday, December 13. Register by calling or emailing Libby Eiholzer, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Team, geg24@cornell.edu, 607-793-4847, or register online at: https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/events.php?date=12_2019. ●

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VegEdge is the highly regarded newsletter produced by the Cornell Vegetable Program. It provides readers with information on upcoming meetings, pesticide updates, pest management strategies, cultural practices, marketing ideas and research results from Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. VegEdge is produced every few weeks, with frequency increasing leading up to and during the growing season.

VEGETABLE SPECIALISTS

Elizabeth Buck | 585-406-3419 cell | emb273@cornell.edu
fresh market vegetables, weed management, soil health

Robert Hadad | 585-739-4065 cell | rgh26@cornell.edu
farm food safety, organic, business & marketing, fresh market vegetables

Christy Hoepting | 585-721-6953 cell | cah59@cornell.edu
onions, cabbage, broccoli, pesticide management

Julie Kikkert, Team Leader | 585-313-8160 cell | jrk2@cornell.edu
processing crops (table beets, carrots, peas, snap beans, sweet corn)

Margie Lund | 607-377-9109 cell | mel296@cornell.edu
potatoes, dry beans, and post-harvest handling and storage

Judson Reid | 585-313-8912 cell | jer11@cornell.edu
greenhouses/high tunnels, small farming operations, fresh market vegs

PRECISION AG SPECIALIST

Ali Nafchi | 585-313-6197 cell | anafchi@cornell.edu

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

John Gibbons | jpg10@cornell.edu

Angela Ochterski | 585-394-3977 x426

Sarah Vande Brake | sv483@cornell.edu

Emma van der Heide | ev247@cornell.edu

Caitlin Vore | cv275@cornell.edu

ADMINISTRATION

Peter Landre | ptl2@cornell.edu

Steve Reiners | sr43@cornell.edu

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Vegetable Program**

For more information about our program, email cce-cvp@cornell.edu or visit CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU



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