Which Variety is Right for Me?
Elizabeth Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

The seed catalogs have all been received and eagerly reviewed. It is time to make the final decisions regarding which varieties you’ll be growing and place those last seed orders. Balancing all of the features available can be tough – I mean there’s only size, color, flavor, bin count, days to harvest, and suitability to your production system to take into account. Oh, and don’t forget disease tolerance packages! I cannot recommend using disease tolerant varieties highly enough, they really do give you an advantage over difficult to manage pathogens.

In an ideal world, it’d be great to test run a small number of several varieties as a way to screen options for next year. Doing so requires a little bit more management and effort to track the new variety’s growing and marketing performance, plus field space. Alternatively, you could check out variety trial reports to get a sense of how new introductions stack up. Variety trials are commonly conducted by Extension and University researchers.

**TOP ALL-AROUND RESOURCE**
A fantastic resource is The Midwest Vegetable Variety Trial Reports. Published annually, these reports compile variety trials from vegetable producing regions in more than 10 states, including NY, MI, and OH. In 2019, there were
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:
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VegEdge is published 25 times per year, parallel to the production schedule of Western New York growers. Enrollees in the Cornell Vegetable Program receive a complimentary electronic subscription to the newsletter. Print copies are available for an additional fee. You must be enrolled in the Cornell Vegetable Program to subscribe to the newsletter. For information about enrolling in our program, visit cvp.cce.cornell.edu. Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, Cornell faculty, and other states’ Extension personnel may request to receive a complimentary electronic subscription to VegEdge by emailing Angela Ochterski at aep63@cornell.edu. Total readership varies but averages 700 readers.

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.

This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are possible. Some materials may no longer be available and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in NYS must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide usage in NYS should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) specialist or your regional DEC office.

CCE and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products or companies is made or implied. READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.

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 14424.

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The next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on March 1, 2021.
13 variety trials conducted in 9 different crops. Examples of varietal attributes studied include disease resistance, fertility response, suitability for tunnel production, the effect of transplant size on yield, and general crop performance. Purdue offers the Midwest Vegetable Variety Reports for free online. You can browse by the most recent reports or results by crop.

**NEW YORK TRIAL RESULTS**

Variety trials happen every year at Cornell’s research farms in Geneva. Pea, snap bean, sweet corn, and dry bean results online include both written and photo reports. Many of the trials conducted in Geneva focus on the processing market. Trials conducted by CCE tend to cater more to the fresh market uses. Our Eastern NY CCE counterparts were busy last year evaluating watermelon, specialty potatoes, leeks, and snow, shell and sweet peas.

**PENNSYLVANIA TRIAL RESULTS**

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program sponsors a wide range of applied vegetable research projects each year. Frequently the work includes variety trials and you’ll find studies focused on fresh and processing markets.

You’ll have to look through each year’s list of projects to find the variety trials, but I believe 2018 is a good year to start with, there were onion, cantaloupe, and pepper trials.

**ONTARIO TRIAL RESULTS**

Our friendly northern neighbors publish some of their results in University of Guelph’s Muck Vegetable Cultivar and Research Reports. Don’t write off this resource if you don’t have muck – many of the disease trials apply to mineral soils, too. Plus these reports are a treasure trove of other production-related research updates. Carrots, onions, celery, and specialty brassicas are the main crop focuses. Cucumber, tomato, snap bean and pea results are published by the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers, which do have a processing lens on evaluation. Their reports are broken out into three separate funding categories; each contains variety trial information.

Long story short, we’re really well-situated here in NY in terms of having access to relevant variety trials conducted in similar growing climates. The wealth of regionally conducted variety trials can help you get a feel for new varieties without having to wait a year to see how they perform.

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**Apply for a 2021 On-Farm Housing Grant**

*Susan Lerch, Home Rehabilitation Administrator, PathStone Corporation*

**PATHSTONE CORPORATION IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR 2021 ON-FARM HOUSING GRANT**

This program is a matching grant of up to $2000 to repair and upgrade existing farm labor housing. Examples of eligible repairs include, but are not limited to: bathrooms, plumbing, laundry facilities, recreation rooms, upgrading kitchens and appliances, heating, windows, ceilings, doors and other major structural components. Special consideration will be given to projects that positively impact the quality of life for farmworkers during off work hours. Farm Owners must agree to provide $1 for every $1 provided by PathStone Corporation. This grant is available in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Orleans, Wyoming, Livingston and Genesee counties.

If interested, or if you have questions, please contact Susan Lerch at 585-261-1779 for an application. **Applications are due March 1, 2021 and the work will need to be completed by May 21, 2021.** Please help us spread the word as we want to assist as many farms as possible!

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**DEC Releases Proposed Regulation to Prohibit Pesticides Containing Chlorpyrifos**

*Christy Hoepting, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program*

A press release from the New York Department of Environment and Energy (NYDEC) on January 27, 2021 announced proposed regulation that will add chlorpyrifos to the list of prohibited pesticides in 6 NYSCR 326.2(c) of New York’s Pesticide registration regulations. To complement this regulation, DEC cancelled the registration of 29 pesticides containing chlorpyrifos on December 31, 2020, and is cancelling the registration of the remaining 15 pesticides as of July 31, 2021. Following cancellation, a pesticide can no longer be sold, distributed, or used in New York State. In addition, these canceled pesticides cannot be stored after the manufacturer’s container has been opened. The remaining 15 pesticides are those that may be used to control stem borer in apples. Since vegetables are on some of these labels including onions and cabbage, technically, these chlorpyrifos-containing products may be used up until July 31, 2021. In addition, DEC is holding a virtual public comment hearing for the proposed rule at 6 p.m. on March 30.

Specialists with the Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) at Cornell are working with NYDEC to get clarification on this proposed regulation and will have a comprehensive article shortly, which we will share with you.

The press release may be found at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122262.html
Mesotunnels: Next Best Tool for Organic Cucurbit Growers in the Northeastern US?

Kellie Damann and Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell AgriTech, Geneva

Let us talk about crop protection! We know the first thing on growers’ minds throughout the summer is keeping their plants healthy and green, so they are able to have a good harvest at the end of the season. For many organic growers, the worry of losing your plants to insects, diseases, or weeds offers the potential for nightmares! For organic growers, there are simply not as many tools in the box as one would like. Iowa State University and the University of Kentucky have been researching a new mesotunnel row cover system for a few years now and this year in collaboration, Cornell University has begun research with the same system to evaluate the potential for New York growers.

The mesotunnel system offers some great advantages, as noted in last month’s newsletter, and at the same time allows the grower to not worry as much about their crops within the tunnel. This system has been shown to keep the plants inside healthy all season long and provide protection against pests such as cucumber beetles, and the elements.

This is the first year that the mesotunnel system has been observed in New York and it is already demonstrating positive impacts on cucurbit production. We are trialing mesotunnels at four locations around the state including three on-farm trials with our collaborators. Most noticeable is the exclusion of insect pests and diseases.

Typically, around early to mid-July, growers across New York see an influx of Striped Cucumber Beetles, Acalymma vittatum (Fig. 1). The insect itself is more of a nuisance than anything, but the bacteria carried in their gut can spread into the plant via feces, causing severe wilting and dieback in the field after feeding. The bacterium, Erwinia tracheiphila causes Bacterial Wilt, for which currently there are no treatments after an infection has occurred. Another common pest of cucurbits is the Squash Bug, Anasa tristis (Fig. 2) which spreads Cucumber Yellow Vine Disease (CYVD), caused by the bacterium Serratia marcescens. There are currently no methods to cure plants with Bacterial Wilt or CYVD, so prevention is key.

In our first year with the mesotunnel system, we noticed a substantial decrease in incidence of Bacterial Wilt and CYVD in our covered plots. To date, the system has proven to reduce and/or prevent the insects from getting through the netting. We will be sure to follow up in a future post letting you know just how much of a difference there has been!

Another positive benefit observed with this system is the protection from abiotic factors including high winds and hail. New York can get fairly windy and every so often those high winds can bring hail. When you are growing crops such as squash or pumpkin that grow a few feet tall, wind damage can become a serious threat to the plant’s health (Fig. 3). Generally, a plant can bounce back from these events even if stems break or leaves get punctured from hail. However, plant damage can often provide an entry way for fungal and/or bacterial pathogens, which then may cause disease in plants that are already stressed. By having this extra layer of protection, you are not only protecting your crop from biotic threats, but also abiotic. The netting used for this system is breathable, so in the event of high winds the air flows right through causing minimal damage to the tunnel and the plants inside.

This form of a season-long row cover has the potential to protect crops from both abiotic and biotic stresses, and allows plants to grow stronger, larger, produce better yields, and increase quality. The magnitude of these benefits along with a cost-benefit analysis will be determined in New York to better understand the true advantages and trade-offs of this system. We will also be listening to our on-farm collaborators to hear their thoughts and suggestions for making this system practical for organic grower.

continued on next page
This research is funded through the USDA-NIFA Organic Research and Extension Initiative led by Iowa State University. Sarah Pethybridge and Kellie Damann (Cornell AgriTech, Geneva) are the New York collaborators on this project. More details on the New York research can be found by contacting Sarah (sjp277@cornell.edu; (315)744-5359 [cell]) or Kellie (kcd48@cornell.edu; (585)233-6779 [cell]). Please visit our project’s website and follow us on Twitter to stay up to date on all the latest mesotunnel news: https://www.cucurbit.plantpath.iastate.edu/.

Do You Value the Seasonal Weather Charts in VegEdge?

Julie Kikkert, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

As we plan for the seasonal issues of VegEdge in 2021, I would like to obtain your feedback as to the value of the Weekly Weather Summary (Rainfall and Temp Max/Min) and Accumulated Growing Degree Days (April 1-Sept). These charts have appeared on the last content page of VegEdge from April through September and were compiled by John Gibbons who has retired from our program. The information from 23 weather stations in the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program Region was compiled by hand from data that is publicly available on the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA) at http://newa.cornell.edu. A sample of the VegEdge Weather Charts is below.

Please email Julie Kikkert at jrk2@cornell.edu or call/text 585-313-8160 if you utilize this information and wish to see it continued in VegEdge. It would also be helpful to know which weather stations you use the information from.

SAMPLE WEATHER CHARTS FROM 2020

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*Airport stations
** For other locations: http://newa.cornell.edu

Farmer’s Voice Survey: Cleaning & Food Safety

You asked, we listened, and now we have a few follow-up questions...

Partners at the University of Vermont, Cornell University, USDA, and National Farmers Union Foundation are working together to develop a new training program to help small and medium-scale farmers take their businesses to the next level of safe and efficient vegetable handling systems. Do you have a few minutes to complete a short survey to help us? The voice of farmers is invaluable to the process. Take the survey online or contact Caitlin Tucker, Cornell Vegetable Program Assistant, at 573-544-4783 to have a printed copy of the survey mailed to you.
In-Person Pesticide Applicator Opportunity in Penn Yan
A series of pest management courses is being offered over the next two months to create in-person opportunities for certified pesticide applicators who do not have access to online courses. With limited space, pre-registration is required by calling 315-536-5123. Location: Yates County Building, Basement Auditorium, 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan. Please show up a few minutes early to sign-in and plan to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines including face masks and social distancing. Questions? Call Judson at 585-313-8912 or Caroline at 315-536-5123. There is no charge for these recertification credit classes.

Potato Leafhopper Biology, Scouting and Management for Vegetable and Field Crop Production
February 10, 2021 (Wednesday) | 10:30am - 11:30am
Credits: 23 Vegetable (1 credit), 21 Field and Forage (1 credit)

Principles of IPM
February 24, 2021 (Wednesday) | 9:30am - 11:30am
Credits: Core (2 credits)

Bee Smart- Utilizing Best Management Practices to Protect Pollinators
March 3, 2021 (Wednesday) | 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Credits: Core (1.5 credits)

Management of Common Greenhouse and High Tunnel Pests and Diseases with a Focus on Biological Control Methods
March 10, 2021 (Wednesday) | 10:00am - 11:30am
Credits: 23 Vegetable (1.5 credits) and 24 Greenhouse (1.5 credits)

Principles of IPM
March 24, 2021 (Wednesday) | 9:30am - 11:30am
Credits: 21 Field and Forage (2 credits)

Assess & Prevent Food Safety Risks in Leafy Greens Production
March 9, 2021 (Tuesday) | Time TBD
Online Training via Zoom

E. coli outbreaks in lettuce grown in the Southwest have made headlines numerous times over the last several growing seasons. In many instances, these outbreaks have led to recalls from coast to coast. Ultimately, the health and financial impacts of these outbreaks have resulted in more attention being paid by buyers and regulators on the leafy greens industry. What do the problems in the Southwest have to do with growers in NY? As leafy greens are a highly susceptible crop to contamination, precautionary lessons can be learned. This training will provide an overview of possible sources of contamination related to soil amendments, wildlife, water, post-harvest handling, transportation and more. This training will emphasize specific risks that leafy greens growers may experience, identify tangible corrective actions that can be taken, and provide participants the opportunity to work through example scenarios as a group.

This event is hosted by CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County. For more information, please email Robert Hadad or call 585-739-4065.

2021 NYS Dry Bean Meeting
March 19, 2021 (Friday) | Time TBD
Online Meeting via Zoom

Save the date for this year’s Dry Bean Meeting, with presentations covering the latest research in NY dry beans. Topic areas include market updates, white mold management, Western bean cutworm and soybean cyst nematode management, herbicide resistance management, dry bean variety testing, and incorporating NY dry beans into schools.

This event will be held virtually via Zoom, and 2 DEC credits will be available. Price: $15 for CVP Enrollees, $20 for Non-enrollees. Information on registering for the meeting will be released in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you there!
Wash/Pack Hygiene and Sanitation Training  
April 1, 2021 (Thursday) | Time TBD  
Online Meeting via Zoom

This program will be focusing on putting farm food safety into daily production practices. Besides some classroom presentations, there will be demos and hands-on activities with produce wash equipment. Participants will learn the why and how behind designing, cleaning, sanitizing, and drying produce handling equipment and buildings.” And much more!

Sponsored by the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University and the Produce Safety Alliance. Registration will be limited. Contact Robert Hadad for more information: rgh26@cornell.edu or call 585-739-4065

Essentials of Food Safety for Farmworkers  
Call to Schedule a Tailored Training for Your Farm Workers

This is a training is brought to you by the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program. Workers will learn the importance of farm food safety and the ins and outs of how it works on the farm and field.

This training aims to cover many of the required worker training topics set forth by GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices and FSMA (the Food Safety Modernization Act), or other 3rd party auditing programs. This training series primarily focuses on training farm-workers in the produce industry. Because Food Safety is a company-wide responsibility, we invite all farm employees to participate in this training. Each farm has unique operating practices but the basics of food safety are critical skill set needed for workers to have if a smoothly operating food safety program is going to work on your farm. Topics covered include:

- Understand the role of worker training in ensuring food safety on your farm
- Cover all the important points required for training
- Identify challenges to consider when training workers and discuss solutions
- Cover required records for training
- Introduce resources available to managers to assist in training
- Why is farm food safety important?
- How does produce become contaminated?
- What are the signs that you or a coworker are ill?
- How can you minimize food safety risks on the farm?
- What should you do if you see a risk you cannot reduce or eliminate?
- And much more

We can provide a tailored training for your workers through an online program before the season starts or combine workers with another farm to do a larger training. Contact Robert Hadad for more information: email rgh26@cornell.edu, or call 585-739-4065.
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.

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