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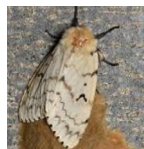
Empire State Producers Expo Returns with Expanded Class Offerings, Introduces Scholarships

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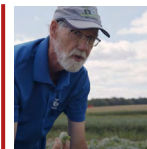
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Empire State Producers Expo Returns with Expanded Class Offerings, Introduces Registration Scholarships

Conversation Corners, Organic Management Sessions, and FFA Day Also Added to 2022 Program

Long time VegEdge readers know that our December issue heavily features our annual statewide grower meeting, the Empire State Producers Expo. Don't worry, your yearly dose of session highlights and an overview session schedule are on the following pages. First though, I'd like to explain Expo to our newer readers before introducing everyone to the many new features of Expo 2022. Full Expo details, including registration, are available online at nysvga.org/expo/information or paper copies can be requested by phone at 585-993-0775.

Empire State Producers



WHAT IS EXPO?

Not just for veg growers, Expo also serves small fruit and bedding plant/cut flower audiences and gathers around 900 attendees over 3 days. People attend educational classes on a huge variety of production-oriented, business management, environmental stewardship, food safety, marketing, and soil health topics. The trade show boasts a full collection of ag support and supply businesses and all of the companies are uniquely tailored to serving the produce industry. This year Expo is an in-person show on January 11-13, 2022 at the Syracuse OnCenter and will follow all local health and safety guidance.

Why go?

- **High caliber educational programming.** The larger number of attendees allows us to attract speakers with more specialized knowledge and bring in growers & experts from out-of-state.
- **Specialized topics** that are difficult to organize locally.
- Meet and **network with growers** from across the state, share techniques & management solutions.
- **One stop shopping** at the tradeshow, with many companies offering special deals at the show.
- **Need DEC credits?** You can earn up to 3.75 on Tuesday, 4.25 on Wednesday, and 4.75 on Thursday.
- **Easy** to get to location with plenty of parking.

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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:
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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 14424.



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The next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on January 4, 2021.

Empire State Producers
EXP
2022
@ The Oncenter, Syracuse, NY
JANUARY
11, 12, 13
and Becker Forum
JANUARY 10
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN
MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: NYSVGA.ORG

Who is Expo for?

Expo offers something for all grower skill and experience levels, from the first-year market gardener to the fourth generation farmer. Production classes will cover both organic/bioinformed and IPM/conventional management approaches. The range of topics provide something for everyone whether you're a greenhouse grower with a fall agritainment pumpkin patch or a mixed berry and maple farm, or a traditional produce farm, or an urban grower looking to build out your network.

WHAT'S NEW?

Registration Scholarships for Historically Underserved, Beginner & New-to-Expo Growers

The Expo organizers recognize that the produce industry best thrives when all stakeholders can readily access and participate in professional development and networking events. That's why **we're offering up to fifty [scholarships](#) covering Thursday's registration costs to growers who identify as belonging to beginning farmer and historically marginalized grower communities.** Farmers who have never attended Expo may also apply.

The 1-page scholarship applications are [available online](#). Applications can be returned by email to sr43@cornell.edu or by FAX to 315-787-2216, attention Steve Reiners. To request a paper copy or fill out an application by phone, call 585-993-0775. Priority will be given to applicants who submit applications by December 15. Applications received after December 15 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will be notified of their selection status & follow-up registration steps on or before January 3rd.

Expanded Class Offerings & Delivery Formats

- Dedicated sessions for organic and ecologically-forward production techniques (Thur.)
- More sessions on business management & marketing (all 3 days)
- Primers on irrigation, energy savings and improving pesticide applications (Tue. & Wed.)
- Classes for niche crops like novel berries (Wed.), flowers (Wed & Thur.), nuts & ginseng (Thur.)
- Many Thursday sessions feature interactive, participatory, or peer-to-peer teaching styles

FFA Day at Expo

FFA Day at Expo is on January 12, 2022 at the Syracuse OnCenter and will run from 8:45am to 1:30pm. This year's specially designed youth track includes a career exploration session, joint youth-adult educational classes, and an interactive trade show experience. We are excited to offer a hands-on raised bed building workshop exclusively for youth!

Chapters and other formal youth programs (ie 4-H) can bring groups of students for a flat rate fee of \$20. Individual youth may also attend the FFA Day programming and will enjoy free registration for Wednesday's programming. Individual youth remain the responsibility of their parent/guardian and must be dropped off at the FFA room between 8:45 and 9 am and picked up at the FFA room between 12 and 12:15pm.

All youth registration for FFA Day is being handled separately from regular Expo registration, please contact Elizabeth Buck (585-406-3419) for more details. The registration deadline for participation in the youth programming is December 20th.

New Programming Styles

Thursday programming features several sessions that are leaving the traditional classroom style presentations behind. Attendees can work hands-on with weeds, view live beneficials, and develop their own customized IPM plan during the "Tomato IPM School". An entire "Organic Apple Production" session is following an unconference design where topics are entirely participant driven. Folks will get a chance to work in small groups to practice newly learned skills in "Talking to the Media". Several other sessions on Thursday include other interactive approaches.

Conversation Corners and Poster Promenade

Responding to requests for more time and space for networking, this year we are introducing dedicated areas for grower-to-grower sharing, called "Conversation Corners". These Conversation Corners will be available for a mix of spontaneous and reserved, pre-set discussion topics. Another new feature will be the Poster Promenade, where growers can peruse research posters at their leisure. ●



Overview & Session Highlights

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Room	Session 1	Lunch	Session 2	Session 3
Ballroom East	9:45 AM – 11:30 AM Hemp Part 1: Research and Extension Updates 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21	11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Hemp Part 2: Growing the Industry No DEC credits	3:35 PM – 5:00 PM Hemp Part 3: Industry Insights 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21
Ballroom West	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Herbicides: Activity, MOA, Symptomology and Movement 1.75 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:25 PM Snap Beans: Stress Mitigation 0.75 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Sweet Corn 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23
Room 1/2	10:30 AM – 11:45 AM Putting the Cost Puzzle Together No DEC credits	11:45 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2.25 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Potato Part 1 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Potato Part 2 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23
Room 4/5/6	8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Produce Safety Alliance Training 2.25 DEC credits 1A, 22, 23			
Room 7/8	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Energy Savings – Ways to Cut Costs No DEC credits	11:15 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2.75 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM H-2A Audits No DEC credits	3:40 PM – 5:00 PM Pesticide Compatibility 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25, CORE
Room 3	N/A		2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Irrigation No DEC credits	N/A

DEC credits applied for; DEC offered will be updated upon approval

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Room	Session 1	Session 2	Lunch	Session 3	Session 4
Ballroom East	8:45 AM – 10:20 AM Berry 1: Production in Containers 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22	10:45 AM – 12:30 PM Berry 2: Focus on Blueberries 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.5 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Berry 3: Berry Crop Sustainability 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Berry 4: Unusual Fruit & Nuts 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22
Ballroom West	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Using Pesticides Wisely 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Greenhouse No DEC credits	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Preparing for Lanternfly 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22-25	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Tomato IPM School Part 1: Toolbox 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23
Room 1/2	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Brassicas Part 1: Maggots, Broccoli, Swede Midge 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Brassicas Part 2: Brussels Sprouts, Disease Solutions 0.75 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:20 PM Vegetable Variety Update No DEC credits	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Pesticides, Ag Practices & Pollinators 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22, 23
Room 4/5/6	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Agri-tainment: Nuts & Bolts for Success No DEC credits	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Agri-tainment: Risks Assessment No DEC credits	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Social Media Marketing Plan No DEC credits	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Farmers Markets No DEC credits
Room 7/8	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM FFA No DEC credits	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM H2-A Audits No DEC credits	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (2 hours)	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Energy Savings No DEC credits	N/A
Room 3	N/A	10:45 AM – 12:05 PM Pesticide Compatibility 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25, CORE	12:05 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1 h, 55 min)	2:00 PM – 3:05 PM Rodent Control On-farm 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25	N/A

DEC credits applied for; DEC offered will be updated upon approval

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Room	Session 1	Session 2	Lunch	Session 3
Ballroom East	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Beginner Organic Apple Production 1 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Beginner Organic Apple Production 2 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 22	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.5 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:10 PM Cover Crops for Weed Management 1.75 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-23
Ballroom West	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Tomato IPM School Part 2: Insects, Weeds 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Tomato IPM School Part 3: Diseases, etc. 1.0 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	12:15 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.25 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Tomato IPM School Part 4: Build Program 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-23
Room 1/2	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Organic Alliums 1: High Meadows Farm 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	10:45 AM – 12:05 PM Organic Alliums 2: Pest Control 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	12:05 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.25 hours)	1:30 PM – 2:55 PM Biocontrol 1.25 DEC credits 1A, 10, 21-25
Room 4/5/6	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Soil Health 1: Small Farms 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Soil Health 2: No-Till in Rolled Cover Crops 0.75 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.5 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM High Tunnels 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 23
Room 7/8	N/A	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM How to Know Your Pricing is Right, Investment Protected No DEC credits	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.5 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:45 PM Agroforestry No DEC credits
Room 3	9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Media No DEC credits	10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Labor No DEC credits	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Visit Trade Show (1.5 hours)	1:30 PM – 3:45 PM Cut Flowers 0.5 DEC credits 1A, 10, 24

DEC credits applied for; DEC offered will be updated upon approval

BECKER FORUM

2022 Becker Forum: Addressing 2022 Ag Workforce Challenges

Monday, January 10 | 8:30am - 5:00pm

Keynote topics: Immigration Policy and Washington Update by Craig Regelbrugge, AmericanHort, and Overtime and Labor Costs: Compliance and Management Strategies. See the [informational flyer](https://nysvga.org/expo/informational-flyer) at NYSVGA.ORG/EXPO/INFORMATION for other labor related topics that will be discussed. Register before January 2, 2022 to pay the reduced registration fee.

EXPO SESSION

Snap Beans: Stress Mitigation

Tuesday, January 11 | 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Session organized by Julie Kikkert, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, and Steve Reiners, Cornell

Stressors can rob snap beans of yield potential. Our panel of experts will provide tips to mitigate common stress factors that may occur from planting through harvest. Do you know the physiology behind heat stress in beans? Associate Scientist Emmalea Ernest from the University of Delaware will dig into this topic as well as present research results on heat tolerant varieties. Dr. Alan Taylor, Professor of Seed Science at Cornell AgriTech will review the effects of stress on snap bean germination. Did you know that herbicides can also stress beans? Find out the impacts of herbicide application timing on snap bean injury and yield from Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Cornell Weed Scientist. Lastly, Dr. Thomas Björkman will review cover crops that improve soil health in a typical bean rotation and reduce the risk for bean root rot. We hope you come away less stressed about your bean crop in 2022!

EXPO SESSION

Potatoes

Tuesday, January 11 | 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Session organized by Margie Lund, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Do you currently grow potatoes, or interested in learning more about potato production in New York State? The half day Potato Session will consist of two back-to-back sessions running from 2-5pm. These two sessions will include presentations on potato varieties for both large-scale potato production and smaller diversified growers, insect pest management in conventional and organic systems, potato disease management including bacterial ring rot, soil health impacts on potato production, and updates in potato storage. Whether you grow conventionally or organically, large- or small-scale, all potato growers or those interested in incorporating potatoes onto their farms are encouraged to attend!

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EXPO SESSION
Produce Safety Grower Training Course

Tuesday, January 11 | 8:30am - 5:30pm

Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.' **Note:** This session occurs outside of the traditional Expo hours (8:30AM -5:30PM). In order to receive an AFDO/PSA certificate of attendance, participants must be in attendance for all modules. Please do not arrive late and plan to stay for the entire workshop.

EXPO SESSION
2022 Berry Sessions

Wednesday, January 12 | 8:45am - 4:00pm

Session organized by Laura McDermott, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, and Anya Osatuke, CCE Harvest NY

The 2022 Berry Sessions will be held in-person with a simultaneous virtual option. These sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, running from 8:45 AM until 4:00 PM. A mix of researchers, growers and business owners will share their findings over the course of 4 sessions.

The first Berry Session of the day focuses on containerized berry production. Dr. Neil Mattson (Cornell University) will go over the trends in commercially-grown greenhouse strawberries, and their applicability to Northeastern farms. Senior Extension Associate Kathy Demchak (Penn State University) will review her research on container-growing strawberries and caneberries. Session I is scheduled for 8:45 –10:15 AM EST on January 12, 2022.

The second Berry Session reviews blueberry production: researchers from the United States Department of Agriculture will present on the latest breeding efforts, and Dr. Thierry Bescanon (Rutgers University) will discuss the best approaches to manage weeds in blueberry plantings. Liz Machoff (Empire Drip Supply) will explain the principles of water acidification in drip irrigation. The session will close with a meeting hosted by the New York State Berry Growers Association. Session II will be held from 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM on January 12, 2022.

The third Berry Session is dedicated to the economics and sustainability of berry crop production. Business owner David Duda (Dudas Blues) will discuss the role of value-added products in his business. Dr. Kris Park (Cornell University) will review a New York State pricing survey of berry growers, and provide economic insights. Dr. Heather Grab (Cornell University) will share her findings on balancing pollinator care and weed management in strawberries. Session III will be held from 1:30 – 2:15 PM on January 12, 2022.

The fourth Berry Session explores lesser-known berries and nut crops that are suitable for the Northeast. Ph.D. Candidate Samantha Bosco (Cornell University) will share her knowledge of nuts as a crop and food source. Dr. Iago Hale (University of New Hampshire) will discuss the characteristics of hardy kiwifruit when grown as a commercial crop. Coming down from Northern NY, Dr. Mike Davis will present on juneberries, and grower Duane Smith will provide a summary of his experience growing honeyberries. Session IV will be held from 2:45 – 4:00 PM on January 12, 2022.

EXPO SESSION
Brassicas: Leaf Spots, Head Rots, Cabbage Maggot, and How to Overcome Growing Challenges of Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts

Wednesday, January 12 | 9:00am - 12:00pm

Session organized by Christy Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

There will be something for brassica growers of all kinds at the 2022 Empire Expo— sessions will cover issues relevant to both conventional and organic growers and will include applications for all scales of production. As of July 31, 2021, it is illegal to use chlorpyrifos/Lorsban in New York, which cabbage growers have relied on extensively for control of cabbage maggot. Cornell Entomologists (Nault, Zamen and Hoepting) will share latest research results from 2021 trials that investigated alternatives to chlorpyrifos, including product placement (in-furrow vs. directed spray) and cost. Organic options for cabbage maggot will also be reviewed. Swede midge continues to become more prevalent, especially in organic production. CCE Vegetable Specialist Christy Hoepting will share new developments in managing this pest with emphasis on new crop rotation recommendations and crop preference.

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Consumer demand for broccoli and Brussels sprouts is excellent, but these brassicas are fickle and challenging to grow in New York conditions. Leader of the Eastern Broccoli Project, Thomas Bjorkman, will pose solutions to the five most common reasons for not growing broccoli, based on insight gathered from 10 years of his in-depth study of all aspects of broccoli production and marketing. Northeast Market Manager for Bejo Seeds, Jan van der Heide, has been studying the nuances of growing Brussels sprouts under New York conditions for years and will share his insights on how tweaking planting date, fertility, and variety selection may come together to achieve bodacious Brussels sprouts.

Leaf spots and head rots caused by *Alternaria*, downy mildew and black rot continue to challenge brassica production in New York. The Expo brassica sessions will close with a presentation of new 2021 field trial results on control of *Alternaria* leaf spot and head rot with both conventional and organic fungicides by Cornell Plant Pathologist, Chris Smart, followed by an open discussion among growers regarding their experiences in managing these brassica diseases.

The brassica sessions will be held in-person only on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 9 am to 12 noon.

EXPO SESSION

Cover Crops for Weed Management

Thursday, January 13 | 1:30pm

Session organized by Bryan Brown, NYS Integrated Pest Management

Which cover crops are best for weed management? How should they be used most effectively? How to maintain cover crops between rows of black plastic? These hot topic questions will be explored by five different speakers – two researchers, two educators, and one farmer. Dr. Bryan Brown will start off the program with a broad overview of cover crop rotation considerations in the context of weed seedbank management. Dr. Thomas Björkman will provide his top three tips for success then delve deeper, with discussion of the best species to use for different situations. Jean-Paul Courtens will discuss his use of sunn hemp – a relatively new cover crop to many farmers – and what he has learned from using it on small-and large-scale organic farms. Then Judson Reid and Dr. Thierry Besançon will each provide highlights from their separate trials using living mulches between rows of plasticulture vegetables. It will be interesting to see if they have the same take-home message!

EXPO SESSION

Biocontrol

Thursday, January 13 | 1:30pm

Session organized by Amara Dunn, NYS Integrated Pest Management, and Lidia Komondy, Cornell

This year's Biocontrol session will focus on managing insect pests. Learn how to recognize the friendly insects that are helping you with pest control, including parasitoid wasps. These friend insects have a particularly gruesome way of killing their prey, and you'll learn some specific ways you can support them. Speakers will also cover the basics of using entomopathogenic nematodes against insect pests in the soil, and optimizing the use of bioinsecticides on low-tunnel strawberries. Whether you're a fruit or vegetable grower, organic or conventional, this session is full of great information!

EXPO SESSION

Cut Flowers

Thursday, January 13 | 1:30pm

Session organized by Besty Lamb, NYS Integrated Pest Management

For the first time in several years, there will be a Cut Flower session at the Producers Expo! Local cut flower growers will tell you how they build their soil for resilience and use social media for niche marketing their products. The session will round out with a presentation on managing cut flower diseases. ●

Tar Spot of Corn Reported for the First Time in New York State

Julie Kikkert, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Tar spot of corn is a fungal disease that commonly occurs in the cool, humid areas at high elevations in Latin America. It was identified in Illinois and Indiana in 2015 and since then has become widespread throughout the Midwest and into eastern states and Ontario, Canada. In October 2021, tar spot was confirmed in field corn from two locations in Erie County, NY by Dr. Gary Bergstrom, Cornell Field Crops Pathologist. This is the first confirmed appearance in New York State. A map of the spread of tar spot in the U.S. can be found at <https://corn.ipmPIPE.org/tarspot/>.

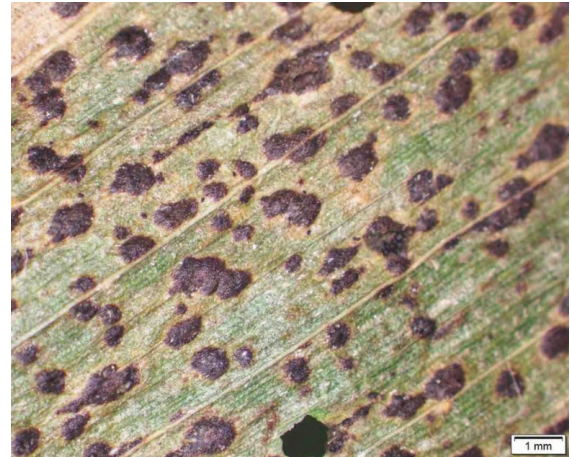
Tar spot in the U.S. is caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*. The disease begins as small yellow to brown lesions with raised round black structures on leaves and husks. The fungal fruiting bodies protrude from the plant tissue and look like a spot of tar. The spots give the leaf a bumpy or rough texture. They can occur as small flecks or coalesce into large areas of blighted tissue. Tar spot can be confused with the overwintering phase of corn rust. There are also many saprophytic fungi that feed on dead corn tissue and form black splotches on the leaves.

Dr. Bergstrom says that for diagnosis, it's all about the stromata (fruiting bodies). They can't be wiped off. Stromata form on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces of corn leaves as well as leaf sheaths, husks, or tassels. The stromata remain highly visible on frosted or completely senesced leaves and provides an opportunity to scout for stromata on foliar residues in harvested fields.

Tar spot has become an annual problem in field corn in the Midwest, with estimated yield losses ranging from 20 to 60 bu/A in regions with favorable environmental conditions (cropprotectionnetwork.org). Dr. Bergstrom says that it is likely to become an episodic disease in New York. Moisture is a strong driver of the disease. Spores blow around in the wind. There are a number of really good fungicides for this pathogen. Research on sweet corn is limited. Late planted sweet corn is probably most at risk.

Dr. Darcy Telenko is currently a plant pathologist at Purdue University and is a leading expert on tar spot and other diseases of corn. She will be speaking at the sweet corn session at the Empire State Producers Expo in Syracuse in January.

For more information on tar spot: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/series/tar-spot/publications/tar-spot-preface-and-introduction> ●



Tar spot stromata on corn foliar tissue. Photo by Ed Zaworski, Iowa State University

USDA Builds Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations

U.S. Department of Agriculture, November 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses to agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic. USDA will make \$20 million available through the new [Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program \(OTECP\)](#) as part of USDA's broader [Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative](#), which provides new, broader and more equitable opportunities for farmers, ranchers and producers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, certified organic and transitional operations faced challenges due to loss of markets, and increased costs and labor shortages, in addition to costs related to obtaining or renewing their organic certification, which producers and handlers of conventionally grown commodities do not incur. Transitional operations also faced the financial challenge of implementing practices required to obtain organic certification without being able to obtain the premium prices normally received for certified organic commodities.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

OTECP funding is provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. For each year, OTECP covers 25% of a certified operation's eligible certification expenses, up to \$250 per certification category (crop, livestock, wild crop, handling and State Organic Program fee). This includes application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, state organic program fees and more.

Crop and livestock operations transitioning to organic production may be eligible for 75% of a transitional operation's eligible expenses, up to \$750, for each year. This includes fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan.

For both certified operations and transitional operations, OTECP covers 75% of the registration fees, up to \$200, per year, for educational events that include content related to organic production and handling in order to assist operations in increasing

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their knowledge of production and marketing practices that can improve their operations, increase resilience and expand available marketing opportunities. Additionally, both certified and transitional operations may be eligible for 75% of the expense of soil testing required under the National Organic Program (NOP) to document micronutrient deficiency, not to exceed \$100 per year.

APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE

Signup for 2020 and 2021 OTECP will be November 8, 2021,

through January 7, 2022. Producers apply through their [local Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) office](#) and can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. Visit [farmers.gov/otecp](#) to learn more.

ADDITIONAL USDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

To learn more about USDA's assistance for organic producers, visit [usda.gov/organic](#). Visit [www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance](#) for additional information on USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. ●

Winter Prevention of 2022 Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Outbreak

Anya Osatuke, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Harvest NY

INTRODUCTION

In Summer 2021 we saw a huge emergence of gypsy moth caterpillars. These voracious caterpillars emerged in June, parachuted into cropping fields from trees, and ate the leaves off of blueberries and strawberries with a great appetite. These caterpillars are not likely to eat raspberries or vegetable crops; they tend to prefer trees (including Christmas and apple trees) and shrubs.

The Latin name for these insects is *Lymantria dispar*, and that's how they will be referred to throughout this article. While the term "gypsy moth" may be more familiar, entomologists are looking to rename the caterpillars to something that is not derogatory to Romani people. Translated from Latin, *Lymantria* means "destroyer" and *dispar* means "unequal". It's easy to understand why these caterpillars are called destroyers, and they are "unequal" because you can tell apart male and female caterpillars by appearance when they are about to turn into cocoons.

The 2021 generation of *Lymantria dispar* was record-setting. The warm, dry weather in May helped caterpillars emerge safely-- in wetter years, a fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) will infect young caterpillars and kill many of them off.

Lymantria dispar has one generation a year. Once caterpillars turn into moths, the moths will mate and lay eggs on trees. The next year, the cycle will begin again. We have our fingers crossed that the weather next spring will be wetter.

HOW TO KILL EGG MASSES

If your farm has any trees on its property, you can take a couple hours this winter to kill off some *Lymantria dispar* eggs. **Consider doing this if you are located in Clinton, Warren, Saratoga, Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, or Orleans County.** Populations were especially high in these areas.

Examine trees on your property, looking for orange-buff masses 1 - 3+ inches long. Look for masses without exit holes, old masses will persist for years but have holes, empty eggs, and fade in color over time. Check out other surfaces like firewood, dead trees, and leaf litter for these masses too.

These masses can be sprayed with horticultural oil between October - November and between April - May. Any time of year, they can be scraped off of the tree and dumped into a bucket of soapy water. It's best to expose the eggs to some sort of chemical, like soap or a suffocating horticultural oil, to make sure they don't survive. Here is a [YouTube video showing how to scrape off these egg masses from a tree](#).

HOW TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR

Another way to prepare for *Lymantria dispar* populations in spring is to make sure you have the appropriate chemicals to control them. Spraying young caterpillars is the most effective way to kill them, as they age they become less susceptible to pesticides. We recommend Bt pesticides for their specificity and efficacy.

Bacillus thuringiensis, or Bt (trade name DiPel) is an organic pesticide that is highly recommended for *Lymantria dispar* control. This is because it has no impact on humans, aquatic life, or bees. It has a 4-hour re-entry interval and a 0-day pre-harvest interval. If you are purchasing DiPel for control, keep this in mind:

Ensure that the DiPel that you have lists either "Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki" (BtK), or "Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies aizawai" (Bt aizawai) as the active ingredient.

You can also use the USA Pest Networks' [Pest Forecasting Tool](#) to track populations of *Lymantria dispar*, as well as [other pests](#).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

[Field Protocol for Sampling Gypsy Moth Egg Masses](#) | NYS DEC; [Gypsy Moth](#) | NYS DEC; [A Virus and a Fungal Disease Cause Lymantria Dispar Outbreaks to Collapse](#) | Michigan State University IPM; [Gypsy Moth Damage in Blueberry](#) | Berry Diagnostic Tool; [People are Talking about Gypsy Moths](#) | Cornell IPM ●



Adult *Lymantria dispar* moth beside a fresh egg mass.
Photo credit: Ryan Hodnett, Creative Commons BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Upcoming Events

Cornell Vegetable Program events are listed at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Advanced Soil Health Certificate Virtual Course from a Global Perspective

December 5-14, 2021

Virtual event

Cornell University will be offering a virtual advanced soil health training event for December 5-14. It is organized as a certificate course that will involve approximately 40 hours of effort through lectures and self-guided study, as well as a small project. It is a well-designed event based on our 20+ years of experience in soil health. It is targeted at professionals on an international level. It will require approximately half-time effort over the course of the training event, i.e., participants can maintain their professional responsibilities during that time. For [details and to register](#). Fee: \$100.

Processing Vegetable Crops Advisory Meetings

December 13, 2021 (Monday)

Beets & Carrots | 9:00am - 12:00pm (2.0 DEC credits in categories 10, 1a, 23)

Peas, Snap Beans & Sweet Corn | 1:00pm - 3:30pm (1.75 DEC credits in categories 10, 1a, 23)

Hybrid Format: Join online via Zoom or in-person at the WNY location to be announced

COVID-19 Statement: Face coverings will be required at all times at the in-person meeting to adhere to Cornell Regional Ag Team meeting COVID-19 guidelines. **Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, December 7th** for both the online and in-person meetings. **Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/2021ProcVegMtgReg>**. We will follow all other state, local, and venue guidelines at the time of the meeting.

All are invited to attend and discuss the 2021 growing season for each crop. Cornell researchers will be on hand to present an update on their research funded by the NYS Vegetable Research Association & Council. See the [Beets & Carrots agenda](#) and the [Peas, Snap Beans & Sweet Corn agenda](#) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU. The meeting is free of charge. Questions? Contact Julie Kikkert, 585-313-8160.

Produce Auction Growers Meetings

This winter, the Cornell Vegetable Program is working with the education committees of local produce auctions to develop relevant workshops to advance the farming knowledge to be successful in this market place. Topics such as disease resistant varieties, pest/disease, cultural management, biological controls and appropriate spray options will be covered. Winter meetings will include grower and buyer panels and auction updates. For meeting agendas, go to CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU or contact Judson Reid at 585-313-8912 for more information.

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

Thursday, January 6, 2022 | 9:00 coffee and registration; 10:00am - 2:30pm meeting

1.75 DEC credits in categories 10, 1a, 23, 24

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 | 9:00 coffee and registration; 9:30am - 3:00pm meeting

1.5 DEC credits in categories 10, 1a, 23

Farmer Tax School

An educational series from Cornell Cooperative Extension Farm Business Management Specialists offering courses designed to inform and empower farm managers to better understand their tax obligations, management strategies, and improve farm profitability.

Tax Management for Beginning and Small Farm Businesses

January 18, 2022 (Tuesday) | 7:00pm - 9:00pm

A one-night virtual meeting for beginning and part-time farmers that provides useful tax information enabling participants to be make better tax decisions for their business. Federal and state income taxes will be covered. Tax regulations specific to NYS will be covered as well. Cost: \$10/farm.

Farm Specific Tax Code Benefits

January 25, 2022 (Tuesday) | 7:00pm - 9:00pm

For farm businesses of all shapes and sizes, tune in to learn more about the tax advantages available for farms. This workshop will include information for the current tax season. Cost: \$10/farm.

Learn more about these courses at tinyurl.com/ccetaxschool or call Katelyn Walley-Stoll at 716-640-0522.

Bejo Seed Vegetable Trial Video

Robert Hadad, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program



In the early fall, Bejo Seeds in Geneva, NY put together an informative virtual “walk-through” of some of their many vegetable trials. Check out the [YouTube video link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gGIMbviSCc). Spend an hour and you will learn a lot. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gGIMbviSCc>

Briefly, here are some of the highlights worth checking out. Brussels sprouts highlights not only some of their varieties but the “how to grow Brussels sprouts correctly” is hugely informative. From timing of transplanting to spacing, fertility and, of course, variety trait selection are all covered. Did you know that front loading fertility with just enough to get the plants going is important but having the fertility begin to run out as sprouts form is critical? At this point of plant maturity, the sprouts will draw nourishment from the lower leaves. The lower leaves will yellow and drop the later into the season it goes. The sprouts get bigger and there will be good air circulation with fewer lower leaves also making for cleaner harvests.

Bejo has devoted significant space for trialing organic seeded varieties of vegetables as they grow them under organic conditions. Check out the cabbages, kale, and shallots along with the rest of the varieties.

Another interesting segment covered is tomato. A number of medium to large fruited varieties are available with late blight resistance while other varieties are stronger against virus. Determinant very bushy varieties are available offering good shade to protect the fruit from sun scald. A new variety that is a shorter indeterminant type seems like a good choice for high tunnel or staked field production offering uniform and longer fruit pick.

Carrots are covered in the video. With the late season tasty storage variety Nelson no longer available, Bejo has been running trials to find a strong replacement. Several types look like they have potential in Narvik and Nagasaki.

If colored carrots fit your marketing plan, new varieties with improved characteristics are going to be available. Filling out the rainbow are purple, red, yellow, white, and shades of orange.

Of course, no presentation by Bejo would be complete without much time spent on cabbage. Many varieties make up their trials and they look at time of planting, disease tolerance, and the effect of spacing on size and retail profits. This includes many fresh market types that can range in size and maturity dates. There are processing types and several Danish cabbage types producing heavy dense heads ideal for shipping, the slaw market, or even retail. ●

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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.

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Cornell Vegetable Program**

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



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