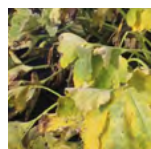




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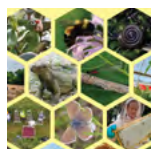
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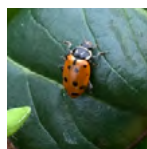
Introducing
Cucurbit Yellow
Vine Decline

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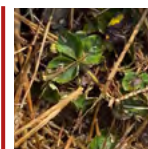
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Introducing Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline

Elizabeth Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline (or Disease, it goes by both) is an emerging (not brand-new) disease in the Northeast. We have had a handful of confirmed cases in NY in recent years, including an outbreak in some of Cornell's Geneva research plots. I say emerging because:

- the number of positively identified cases in the last couple years is trending up
- The fact that this disease exists isn't well known

What is it?

Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline (CYVD) is a phloem-clogging bacterial infection caused by *Serratia marcescens*. Surprise surprise, it causes vines and plants to yellow, wilt and die. (Many thanks to the pathologist who went with the obvious naming approach; I sincerely appreciate that choice!)

What does it look like?

Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline can be tough to spot in the field because at a glance it causes symptoms similar to bacterial wilt. Like bacterial wilt and many vectored diseases, it can start off as one or a few symptomatic plants distributed patchily in your field. But take a second look and you'll quickly realize that you've got one weird-presenting case of bacterial wilt (cuz it's CYVD!).



A squash plant with early symptoms of Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline. Note yellowing margins on all ages of leaves. Photo: C. Smart, Cornell

continued on [page 3](#)

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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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.

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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 April 19, 2023.

Farm Employer Input Needed! NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey

Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

New York farm employers are navigating enormous changes in farm labor markets and regulations in recent years. It is critical for farm managers and decision-makers to have accurate and up-to-date information about the farm workforce. The [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](#) collects farm managers' perspectives on these important issues. Please take about 20-30 minutes of your time to include your response as a NY farm employer. All data will be kept confidential, results will only be reported as group data, and no personally identifiable data will be reported. Respondents will receive a summary of the results.

Most of the survey can be completed with information that you have in mind, but please be prepared by assembling the following data from your payroll records:

1. The number of full-time, part-time, seasonal, and H-2A positions you employed in 2021 and 2022.
2. Total **regular** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
3. Total **overtime** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
4. Number of positions filled by owners and unpaid family members, and hours worked by them, in 2021 and 2022.
5. Number of employees who left voluntarily or were fired in 2021 and 2022.

Access the survey: [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](#) or type in your browser: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4xjhVpK54WzCGG

Please complete the survey only one time per farm business.

Thanks for participating!

Rich ●

1. CYVD bacteria move in the phloem, **so symptoms are progressing in all directions, especially down** towards older leaves and the crown. Bacterial wilt is in the xylem, so it moves out from crown to tip and often hits one vine hardest.
2. Leaf edges get **yellow**. Multiple age groups of leaves are developing symptoms, so there's a progressive **decline** in leaf health. The marginal (leaf-edge) yellowing pattern on a leaf is wide, somewhat variable in depth of color and is moving in from the edges so the greenest tissue is closest to the veins.
3. CYVD is **NOT** a narrow, consistently colored band of pale green collapsing tissue (bacterial wilt), narrow edge-band of bright yellow around one age of leaves (water-calcium deficit), or pale creamy tissue that appeared shortly after herbicide use.
4. CYVD plants go backwards in a hurry. **The whole thing yellows and wilts**. Leaf edges start to get crispy brown.
5. Cutting a wilted plant horizontally across the stem just above the crown should **reveal yellowed phloem tissue**. The phloem tissue is in between the whitish center and the dark green, exterior xylem.
6. You generally had excellent control of cucumber beetles. You may not have had great control of squash bugs.
7. You think you saw a little bit of this maybe last year, and you're seeing a lot more this year. Especially if your vine crop fields are relatively close to last year's location.
8. Your zucchini are most affected, then hubbards, then butternuts, then other winter squash. Cukes are not the worst hit crop (bacterial wilt is worst on cukes).



A squash plant with progressed symptoms of Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline. The whole plant is yellowing and wilting. Photo: Libby Indermaur



The discolored phloem of a plant infected with CYVD. The cut was made just above the crown. Photo: Sally Miller

Can I spray it?

No, you can't spray for the Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline bacteria just like you can't spray for our familiar, xylem-clogging nemesis, bacterial wilt (*Erwinia tracheiphila*). No product can treat a bacterial infection inside a plant's vasculature, regardless of whether you have CYVD, cucurbit bacterial wilt, or necrotic pith of tomato. Infected plants will die.

Don't panic, it's not as bleak as that sounds. I just really want to emphasize that spraying copper or other bactericides will be a waste of time & money. Hang with me for the rest of the story.

Transmission

Serratia marcescens is a vectored pathogen. **Squash bugs introduce this disease into your crop when they feed.** If you grow vine crops you're familiar with vectoring because that's how bacterial wilt is transmitted (by cucumber beetles) and how many viruses can get spread around (often by aphids). Just like those other diseases, we manage CYVD by managing the vector.

Squash bugs pick up *Serratia marcescens* when they are little nymphs and they feed on an infected plant. The nymphs grow up and move to other plants where they can introduce CYVD as they feed on the phloem. **The bacterium survives so well in the squash bugs that they remain infected for life.** Adults overwinter here, so individuals infected last year can carry the outbreak forward into the next summer's crop. This is why increasing incidence from one year to the next can be a signal that you may have CYVD.

Prevention

You can spray to prevent Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline by targeting the squash bug vector. Remember that zucchini are the most susceptible and a favorite of squash bugs. The squash bug threshold is 1 adult per every 2 plants before flowering. After flowering the threshold is 1 egg cluster per plant PLUS nymphs are present. It does no good to spray the eggs, keep a close eye on them and spray once hatch begins.

Sprays that can kill squash bugs tend to be hard on bees; that's a good reason to adopt practices that will encourage beneficial predators to reside in and around your field and to rotate as far as possible from last year's vine crops. Scouting is important because it will allow you to correctly time your squash bug application and choose an appropriate material for the pest's developmental stage.

Choice of spray material shifts with flowering and how best to protect your pollinators. Pyganic is an organic option and is best used to target adult squash bugs early, before flowering. Most conventional choices are restricted use and include pyrethroids (targeting adults) or neonics which will target the nymphs. Sivanto Prime is another option conventionally.

Symptomatic plants should be rogued out of fields as soon as you're certain you have CYVD. This will help prevent squash bugs from acquiring the bacteria and spreading it around your field.

What if I think I have CYVD?

Would you mind reaching out and giving one of us a call? Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline is actively being studied so we can learn more about the complex life cycle and transmission biology. We're also trying to get a better idea of how widespread CYVD is and understand if it has been misdiagnosed as bacterial wilt in the past. The more cases we can check out and confirm/ID as something else, the better we'll get at recognizing, preventing, and treating Cucurbit Yellow Vine Decline. ●

Weed Science Society Encourages Growers to Act Now to Understand the Impact of EPA's Endangered Species Act Compliance Initiatives

Lee Van Wychen, Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), 4/4/2023

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing an updated [Endangered Species Act \(ESA\) Workplan](#) that addresses how the agency can protect nearly 1,700 threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats while governing the registration, distribution, sale and use of pesticides. The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and its affiliates encourage growers and land managers to educate themselves immediately on the EPA's Workplan and the changes they likely will need to make to assure compliance.

To comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), EPA will evaluate the potential effects of pesticides on federally threatened or endangered species and their critical habitats and then recommend mitigation strategies developed in partnership with other federal agencies. Examples include requirements for vegetative filter strips, field borders and grassed waterways, terracing, contour farming, cover cropping, mulching, the adoption of no tillage or reduced tillage strategies, and the safe disposal of excess seed that has been treated with pesticides. Once finalized, such protections will become part of the formal registration review process for various geographic regions and for various groups of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

"The EPA's recent reregistration of the Enlist One and Enlist Duo herbicides provides a preview of what's in store," says Bill Chism, Ph.D., WSSA's ESA committee chair. "The updated product labels include new application timing requirements designed to reduce runoff, leaching, spray drift and other off-target impacts on threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats. In addition, the products can no longer be used in certain counties."

The WSSA and its five affiliates – the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science – have submitted a joint response to the EPA's call for public comments on the ESA workplan update. Selected highlights from that response are below:

The organizations suggest that broader adoption of new agricultural technologies could support the EPA's objectives and reduce total herbicide use. Examples include steam weeding, electrical weeding, unmanned drones, vision-guided systems for targeted precision spraying, and harvesters that can destroy weed seeds. In addition, hooded sprayers can reduce the risk of spray drift.

The EPA plans to post detailed application instructions online, rather than relying solely on the printed product label. A 2021 USDA survey, though, shows only 67% of farms own or use computers and only 77% own or use a smartphone. "It is clear one size doesn't fit all," Chism says. "Multiple outreach channels and carefully tailored strategies will be needed to ensure the new requirements are successful at the local level."

The organizations recommend that EPA use greater granularity when it comes to defining areas where certain pesticides are prohibited. One example: Enlist Duo was banned in 11 counties in southern Georgia to protect two species of endangered salamander that prefer moist woodland habitats.

"After an in-depth evaluation at the field level, we are finding little overlap of agricultural fields and the salamander or its critical habitat," says Stanley Culpepper, Ph.D., of the University of Georgia and current WSSA past-president.

Culpepper says these findings point to the importance of working closely with regulatory partners to improve the process. "Removing critical tools from farmers on a county-level basis or inserting infield buffer restrictions can threaten the sustainability of family farms – highlighting the importance of making sure sound science is available when making ESA regulatory decisions."

Bill Chism urges growers and land managers to become familiar with the EPA's updated workplan and with how to access important application instructions online through [EPA's Bulletins Live! Two](#). "Most importantly, be prepared to incorporate any mitigation strategies required by EPA," he says.

WSSA and its affiliates have posted their full response to the EPA workplan [online](#) at the WSSA website.

The Weed Science Society of America, a nonprofit scientific society, was founded in 1956 to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their impact on the environment. The Society promotes research, education and extension outreach activities related to weeds, provides science-based information to the public and policy makers, fosters awareness of weeds and their impact on managed and natural ecosystems, and promotes cooperation among weed science organizations across the nation and around the world. For more information about WSSA, visit www.wssa.net. ●

Using Lady Beetles to Manage Aphids on Winter Greens

Lori Koenick, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Aphids, these pesky pear-shaped pests can be a problem year-round in vegetable production (see *Wintertime Bio-controls*, in [February 2023 VegEdge](#)). If growing in high tunnels and aphids were a challenge in the summer, they could continue to be a nuisance in the winter as well. In a protected setting such as a high tunnel, aphids are not killed by subfreezing temperatures. They will overwinter in the soil and can enjoy snacking on weeds and what you plant next.

Despite their small size and soft bodies, aphids can be a problem as they have a wide host range and can reproduce quickly without mating. They suck out plant juices when feeding, reducing plant vigor and yields. In addition, aphids excrete a sweet substance, honeydew, that can attract unsightly black sooty mold to grow. A few types of aphids can also transmit viruses.

Fortunately, lady beetles can be an effective aphid management tool in winter. Previous CVP research has shown lady beetles are hardy enough to survive the cold temperatures and shorter daylengths in Western NY. (Check out this CVP [Winter Aphid Management Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.)



Aphids feeding on underside of celery leaf on January 27, 2023.
Photo: Lori Koenick, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Tips for Aphid Management on Winter Greens

- Practice prevention throughout the year by regular scouting to get ahead of any outbreaks.
- Manage weeds to eliminate places for aphids to live in between crop plantings.
- When using lady beetles, wait to release them until infested plants have been removed and the winter crop has been established.
- Release lady beetles under row cover to keep them close to the crop and aphid food source.

Interested in learning more? Contact Lori Koenick (lbk75@cornell.edu, 301-802-3289) or Judson Reid (jer11@cornell.edu, 585-313-8912). This work was supported by NESARE.

Update: Lady Beetle Release in a High Tunnel to Manage Aphids in Winter Greens

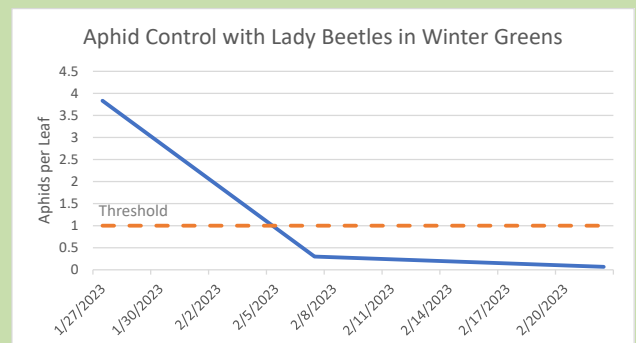
Last summer, in a cooperating Erie County high tunnel, we noted high aphid populations on tomatoes. Infested crops were removed in early fall but the aphids remained, most likely surviving on weeds and in the soil. We are working with the grower to manage aphids in the farm's winter greens production.

We released two pints of lady beetles (18,000 adults) under row cover in plantings of winter greens and herbs on January 27, 2023. By February 22, lady beetles were still alive and reduced the aphid population by 98.2% (Fig. 1). On our final check on March 10, we did not see any aphids in the high tunnel!



Lady beetles on the prowl for an aphid snack on February 22.
Photo: Lori Koenick, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Figure 1. Tracking aphid populations in high tunnel winter greens following the introduction of lady beetles.



NOTE: This release rate is very high for the 1800 sq ft that we were treating. We hope to see similar results with lower rates, which would be more cost effective. Our scouting program used an action threshold of one aphid per leaf. Lady beetles can be purchased from biological control suppliers. We sourced the lady beetles from [IPM Labs](#) (315-497-2063), a partner in this project. ●

Finger Lakes Berry Scouting Update, 4/4/23

Anya Osatuke, WNY Small Fruit Specialist, CCE Harvest NY

In the Finger Lakes region, bouts of warm weather and frequent rains are moving berry crops out of dormancy.

Strawberries

Lawns are starting to green up, prompting herbicide applications in strawberries. At this time, selective grass herbicides and pre-emergent herbicides, such as napropamide, can be applied to established strawberry beds. Mulch removal is a contentious topic amongst growers. The timing of the removal varies from farm-to-farm depending on the localized climate, but most folks agree that it's time to take the mulch off when the new leaves of strawberry plants are growing out and reaching for the sun. We recommend checking plants in the middle of the field to see if they're growing yet.

Blueberries

Blueberries are starting to have their leaf buds swell and crack open. There is still a small window to finish up winter pruning. Delayed dormant sprays can be applied at this time to prevent mummyberry, botrytis, and Phomopsis.

Raspberries and Blackberries

Brambles appear to still be dormant. Folks have more time to finish up pruning brambles than they do blueberries. If brambles are trellised, now is a good time to check the trellis wires and re-tension them if they have gotten loose.



These plants are green, but not pushing out new growth yet. The mulch can be kept on them if there is a risk of heavy frost (0 - 10°F). Photo: Anya Osatuke, CCE Harvest NY ●

Harvest and Post-Harvest Agricultural Water Regulatory Requirements Have Begun

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rule has spent the last few years reviewing the agricultural water requirements for produce farms. They split the Pre-Harvest water (surface water and other sources used for irrigation/sprays) from the Post-Harvest water. They finished the Harvest and Post-Harvest water requirements:

- These regulations began on January 26, 2023 for farms with food sales over \$500,000.
- Farms with food sales over \$250,000 but less than \$500,000 must begin on January 26, 2024.
- Farms with food sales over \$25,000 but less than \$250,000 will begin on January 26, 2025.

The Harvest and Post-Harvest key points of the regulations require growers to test ground water sources at least 4 times during the first season testing for quantifiable generic E. coli (the result is a number). If the samples all come back with results indicating no detectable generic E. coli then the following year only one test is required unless the grower suspects a problem (for example, well cap cracked, flooding, backflow valve malfunction etc.) then more tests should be done. Water test results must be kept as documentation.

If the water test shows detectable generic E. coli then the use of the water must stop, the cause of the problem determined, and corrections made. All of this must be documented.

If the harvest and post-harvest water source is from a municipality, then a copy of the yearly test results sent by the municipality must be kept with the records.

Growers are required to inspect their water distribution systems each year, evaluating the water source, connections, and delivery systems in the wash/pack facility. Since there is the requirement of having no detectable generic E. coli in the water, using a wash water sanitizer is a really good idea in tanks, sinks, tubs, any type of batch water as well as recirculating water.

If you are so inclined to review the sections of the rule applicable to this, check out sections in Subpart E:

112.41: Quality standard; 112.42: Inspections and maintenance monitoring; 112.43: Treatment; 112.44(a): Microbial quality criterion; 112.45(a): Measures; 112.46(a) and (c): Testing; 112.47: Who may test; 112.48: Additional management and maintenance monitoring; 112.50: Records

If you'd like to talk through the regulations in more detail, contact Robert Hadad at 585-739-4065, rgh26@cornell.edu. ●

Water Testing Drop-Off Sites Across WNY are Operational

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Last month, we published an article in VegEdge providing growers with a listing of locations for water testing drop-off sites where to obtain the sample bottles, forms, and instructions to collect water. (See [Agricultural Water Test Sample Drop-Off Sites in Western NY](#) on CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU for a printable version of the article.)

- A new site has been added in the greater Lockport (Niagara County) area: Flint Brothers Hardware, 2769 Main St, Newfane, NY, 716-778-9654. Water samples are due to this location before Wednesday 9:00 am.

These sites were chosen to hasten the time needed for growers to bring in fresh samples collected properly the morning of sample pick up by the testing lab. There is only 8 hours between collection and testing for water samples to be completed accurately. If you need water testing, stop by the closest site near you to get the bottles, etc. Be sure to take the samples in the morning on the pick-up day and bring the samples in before the scheduled pick-up time. For assistance in understanding the water test results, contact the lab or Robert Hadad, rgh26@cornell.edu, 585-739-4065. ●

Dry Bean Webinar Series Recordings Available to Watch Online

Margie Lund, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

If you were interested but unable to attend the Dry Bean Production in the Northeast Webinar Series, the recordings from both dates are now available online.

[Growing Dry Beans in the Northeast](#) (2/17/23) - <https://youtu.be/96mC8qGwL2Y>

Farmers and producers from the Northeast share their experiences with dry beans from harvesting and cleaning to storage and markets. Guest speakers:

- Joe Bossen, Vermont Bean Crafters
- Mark Callan, Genesee Valley Bean Co.
- Luke Gianforte, Gianforte Farm
- Seth Johnson, Morningstar Farm
- Peter Martens, Peter & Hanna Martens Farm / Seneca Grain & Bean

[Basics of Dry Bean Production](#) (3/3/23) - https://youtu.be/vtf_5ITSYxQ

Presentation by Scott Bales, a dry bean specialist at Michigan State University. ●

Still Time to Respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Farmers still have time to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the deadline for submitting the ag census has passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring to ensure all farmers and ranchers take advantage of the opportunity to be represented in the widely used data.

"We thank everyone who has completed their census to date. Since data collection began last fall, over a million ag census recipients across the country have returned their questionnaires, ensuring their operations and communities are represented," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We want all producers to use their voices to help shape the future of American agriculture. Census data inform decisions about policy, farm and conservation programs, infrastructure and rural development, research, education, and more. The stronger the response, the stronger the data. It's not too late for farmers to be heard through the ag census, which occurs only once every five years."

NASS will continue to follow up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their ag census either online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible. The online questionnaire is accessible on desktop, laptop, and other mobile devices.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 mandates that everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they are not currently farming. The same law requires NASS to keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only, and publish aggregate data to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on Twitter at [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass). ●

2023 Cabbage, Dry Bean & Processing Vegetable Crops Grants Awarded

Julie Kikkert, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

The following projects were awarded by the respective industry funding programs for applied research and extension in 2023. Sincere thanks to the growers and processors who contributed to these funds and to those who served on the advisory committees/boards to review the project proposals.

Cabbage Research and Development Fund

Researcher	Project Title	Award
C. Hoepting	Optimizing Herbicide Weed Control and Crop Safety in Transplanted Cabbage	\$11,000
L. Sosnoskie	Evaluating Novel, Non-Chemical Weed Control Strategies in NY Cabbage	\$5,609
C. Smart	Surveying NY cabbage fields for a new black rot pathogen	\$5,310
TOTAL AWARDS		\$21,919

Dry Bean Endowment

Researcher	Project Title	Award
P. Griffiths	Breeding, Evaluation and Development of Dry Bean Varieties that are Highly Adapted to NYS Growing Environments and Markets	\$11,424
S. Reiners, M. Rosato	2022 NYS Dry Bean Variety Trial	\$10,000
S. Pethybridge, J. Kikkert, M. Lund	Optimizing White Mold Control in Dry Bean in New York	\$6,000
M. Lund, M. Zuefle	Determine the Magnitude and Distribution of Western Bean Cutworm and the Risk to Dry Beans, in the Major Production Areas in New York	\$3,217
A. Hamlin	Cool School Food: Encouraging the Use of Dry Beans in School Lunches, and Promoting the Health Aspects of Dry Bean Consumption	\$1,000
TOTAL AWARDS		\$31,641

The New York Vegetable Research Association and Council (processing vegetables)

Researcher	Project Title	Award
B. Nault, C. Duplais	Improving Corn Earworm Monitoring and Control in Sweet Corn and Evaluating New Seed Treatment Control Options for Seed Corn Maggot	\$34,294
S. Reiners, M. Rosato	2022 NYS Processing Variety Trial Evaluations (English Pea, Snap Beans, Sweet Corn)	\$60,581
L. Sosnoskie	Weed Control Research in Vegetables	\$24,262
S. Pethybridge, J. Kikkert	Towards a Durable Management Strategy for Foliar Diseases of Processing Carrots in NY	\$26,272
S. Pethybridge, J. Kikkert	Development of a Preparedness Strategy for Tar Spot of Processing Sweet Corn in NY	\$11,384
TOTAL AWARDS		\$156,793 ●

Upcoming Events – See Cornell Vegetable Program events at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/EVENTS.PHP

Respirator Fit Testing in Wayne County

April 24, 2023 (Monday) | appointments start at 9:00 am
Pultneyville Lodge, 4035 Lake Rd, Pultneyville, NY 14589

Respirator Fit Testing includes a respirator medical certification, fit testing, and training on the proper use of respirators for each applicant. Space is limited! Make an appointment by April 14th by contacting Janet van Zoeren at 585-797-8368 or jev67@cornell.edu.

- \$90 per person, checks can be made out to 'Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services'
- Must have a respirator with clean particulate filters for each person.
- Individuals must be clean shaven where the respirator seals to the face.

Paperwork can be requested ahead of time at Donna.Lawrence@URMC.Rochester.edu

- If completing paperwork at the clinic, arrive 10-15 minutes early to complete paperwork.
- Paperwork is also available in Spanish.

continued on page 9

Upcoming Events *continued*

Virtual Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Grower Training

May 2, 2023 (Tuesday) | 8:45 am - 4:30 pm | via Zoom

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) is a voluntary food safety audit program requiring minimum standards for the production, handling, packing, and storing of fresh fruits and vegetables. Many wholesale buyers, including grocery stores, schools, and other institutions, require GAPs certification from farms in order to purchase their produce. Farms considering expanding their wholesale markets should attend this training, which will cover:

- An introduction to the GAPs certification program and audit requirements
- Record-keeping and worker training, health and hygiene
- Manure, compost, and wildlife management
- Preharvest, harvest, and postharvest food safety assessments
- Production water management
- Postharvest water use & packinghouse sanitation
- Traceability and transportation
- Writing a farm food safety plan

COST: \$25 per farm. [REGISTER](#) to receive a Zoom link. For more information, call Elisabeth Hodgdon, 518-650-5323.

This event is brought to you by CCE Oneida Co., CCE Broome Co., CCE Yates Co., the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, the Lake Ontario Fruit Team, and the Cornell Vegetable Program.

Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods

May 9, 2023 (Tuesday) | 8:20 am - 5:00 pm
and May 10, 2023 (Wednesday) | 8:20 am - 2:30 pm
Cornell AgriTech, Jordan Hall, Geneva, NY 14456

This training course, offered by Cornell's Food Venture Center, covers the FDA requirements for facilities manufacturing shelf stable foods using Mild Thermal Processes, such as acidified foods and Water Activity Controlled Foods. It is an important educational opportunity for operators, mid-level managers, and employees of food processing plants that utilize thermal processing. Food safety and quality assurance personnel, individuals who work with rigid and flexible packaged food products, academia, auditors, and government inspectors can improve their thermal processing knowledge through this training.

- FDA regulations 21 CFR 108, 113, and 114 require that each processor of low-acid or acidified foods operate with a certified supervisor on hand at all times during processing to prevent public health problems in low acid and acidified packaged foods.
- The course meets USDA FSIS regulations 9 CFR 431 for thermally processed meat and poultry products.
- Subject areas include thermal processing system operations, microbiological food safety, equipment operations, acidification, and container closure evaluation for low acid and acidified canned foods.

COST: \$450 per person covers the program, lunch, and the text book. **REGISTER by April 26th** by contacting Gemma Osbourne at 607-227-9137 or gro2@cornell.edu, or Sarah Lincoln at 315-787-2255 or sjl38@cornell.edu.

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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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potatoes, dry beans, post-harvest handling and storage

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**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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