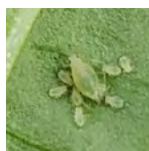




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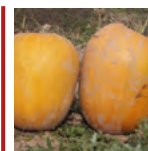
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Aphids in December

Judson Reid and Lori Koenick, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Vegetable season isn't over, it just moved inside for a few months! As the snow falls, there are greens and even fruiting vegetables such as peppers being harvested in the CVP region. Protected settings such as high tunnels (with low tunnels of row cover) and fully heated greenhouses empower farmers to extend the season. Unfortunately, these spaces are 'green bridges' for certain pests as well. Aphids, in particular, withstand the winter conditions and continue to feed on crops despite the lower temperatures and shorter days. In our experience, aphids can thrive in winter tunnels, even when canopy temperature drops below freezing.

There are an increasing number of spray materials with lower toxicity, yet still effective against aphids. However, given the limited hours of 'drying time' in December applying liquid sprays is not advised. The lack of sunlight means sprays dry on the foliage much slower and we risk causing a freeze damage on the plant or increasing canopy moisture such that we can encourage disease. But we still need to bring aphids under control.

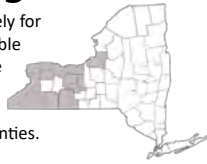


Low tunnels within high tunnels facilitate harvest of crops such as lettuce, Asian greens and spinach in December. No additional heat is required for greens crops. Photo: Judson Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

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About VegEdge

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



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

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

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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.

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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 CCE Cornell Vegetable Program will be closed for Winter Break from December 25, 2023 through January 1, 2024.

Our next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on January 3, 2024.

Biocontrols are an excellent option in winter greenhouse settings. Specifically, we observe success with Ladybeetles, who do not seem to be as affected by shorter days or temperatures as other biocontrols. These are generalist aphid predators, which is another advantage as they will eat any aphid species. They will also prey on thrips. Ladybeetles are often sold by volume (such as a pint). They can be released under row cover in tunnels to keep them within the crop canopy and busy eating aphids. The familiar adults lay eggs, which hatch into voracious larvae.

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? Check out this CVP [Winter Aphid Management Fact Sheet](#) to learn more and contact Lori Koenick (lbk75@cornell.edu, 301-802-3289) or Judson Reid (jer11@cornell.edu, 585-313-8912). Our work was supported by NESARE.



Orange aphids on the growing point of a pepper plant cause distorted leaves. The exact species of aphid does not have to be determined when releasing a generalist biocontrol such as Ladybeetles. Photo: Judson Reid, Cornell Vegetable Program



Aphids have very high reproductive potential and, in wintertime, populations can explode in the absence of natural enemies. Introduced biocontrols are an excellent management option. Photo: Judson Reid, Cornell Vegetable Program



Ladybeetle adults prowling winter-grown sage in Erie County. Photo: Lori Koenick, CCE ●

More on Cleaning Food Contact Surfaces – Detergents

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

How do you effectively clean food contact surfaces? Have good tools. Use a detergent. Follow up with a sanitizer. I know what you're saying: "Wait, what? Detergents? Aren't sanitizers enough?" No, they aren't.

Let's think of it this way. When washing dishes, do you just rinse them under water and pour bleach on them? Or do you rinse, scrub with a detergent, rinse again, then dry? A detergent helps lift off stuck on vegetative material and vegetable oils. Some vegetables have more oils than others. If a conveyor belt, washer, or other contact surface doesn't get cleaned often enough, oils can build up. An example would be peppers. More so with colored peppers.

Not all detergents are created equal. What you should use for cleaning tools, harvest bins, table surfaces, dunk tanks, sinks, wash equipment, is a product that is unscented and free from dyes. The reason for "free and clear" type of products is in case the final rinsing doesn't get all the soap off. It also would be nice to use a product that is "low suds". A lot of suds makes it harder to remove the residual soap. No one likes cleaning so the longer it takes the worse workers (or yourself) will want to do it and do it right. Products can be found in grocery stores, building material box stores, and some of the supply catalogs and online sites. If you are not sure if a product covers what you need, contact the manufacturer.

If you are adhering to the FSMA produce safety regulations, three sections pertain to cleaning:

§112.116(b) [food packaging]: If you reuse food-packing material, you must take adequate steps to ensure that food contact surfaces are clean, such as by cleaning food-packing containers or using a clean liner.

§112.123(d)1 [equipment and tools]: You must inspect, maintain, and clean and, when necessary and appropriate, sanitize all food contact surfaces of equipment and tools used in covered activities as frequently as reasonably necessary to protect against contamination of covered produce.

§112.123(d)2 [equipment and tools]: You must maintain and clean all non-food-contact surfaces of equipment and tools subject to this subpart used during harvesting, packing, and holding as frequently as reasonably necessary to protect against contamination of covered produce.

Remember, the detergents you want to use are dish and kitchen types, NOT LAUNDRY detergent. A little goes a long way.

The USDA National Organic Program allows for the use of detergents not OMRI approved but growers need to list the brands being used and they must rinse off the products thoroughly.

For more information on cleaning and sanitizing, wash/pack facility issues, the soon-to-be required agricultural water self-assessments, AND the forthcoming traceability requirements, contact Robert Hadad at 585-739-4065 or rgh26@cornell.edu, and other Extension specialists and educators across the state. We are available for calls, Zoom conversations or in-person farm visits to go over all your food safety issues. ●

How Long do Sclerotia that Cause White Mold Survive in New York Soil?

Sarah Pethybridge and Sean Murphy, Cornell AgriTech, and Margie Lund and Julie Kikkert, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

White mold, caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is a disease that many specialty and field crop growers have experienced in New York. White mold outbreaks are sporadic and generally associated with cooler and wet summers, like we experienced in 2023.

There are several reasons why white mold is so challenging to control:

Ability to infect many crops and weeds: *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* has a broad host range and therefore infects many of the crops within NY rotations, but is particularly severe in snap and dry bean, soybean, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, and tomatoes.

Sclerotia: The primary inoculum for the disease (sclerotia) survives in the soil for many years. Sclerotia are small (0.5 to 1.2 in. diameter), black, resting structures of the fungus that form on the diseased plant parts (Fig. 1). The main purpose of sclerotia is to enable survival of the pathogen in adverse environmental conditions and the absence of a susceptible host plant.

Numbers of sclerotia: Methods to reduce sclerotia in the soil and hence white mold in the subsequent crop need to be highly effective to achieve populations below the threshold of 1 sclerotia per row meter (for beans). This is because 1 sclerotia germinates and produces thousands of ascospores which infect flowers and cause disease.



Figure 1. Sclerotia of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, the cause of white mold.
Photo: Dru Waggoner, Cornell AgriTech

After a white mold outbreak, there are two questions to consider:

- **How long do the sclerotia last in the soil?** and
- **What should I do with my diseased crop residue to promote break down of sclerotia?**

To tackle these questions for central NY conditions, we established a field trial at the Cornell AgriTech facilities in Geneva in October 2020. Sclerotia were placed in mesh bags on the soil surface or shallowly buried (placed at 1.2 inch depth in the soil (Fig. 2)). Bags were periodically collected from 67 to 769 days. At each time, the number of sclerotia were counted (sclerotia retrieval) and viability was assessed.

Sclerotial retrieval was significantly affected by soil depth and was higher in those on the surface compared to those that were buried. The length of time also affected the retrieval of sclerotia which was significantly reduced after 250 days (Fig. 3).

Approximately 15% of sclerotia placed on the soil surface were still viable after 769 days. After 433 days, viability of buried sclerotia was also significantly reduced compared to those on the surface. After 670 days, none of the buried sclerotia were viable (Fig. 4).



◀ Figure 2. Cages and field experiment were used to evaluate the survival of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* sclerotia. Photo: Sean Murphy, Cornell AgriTech

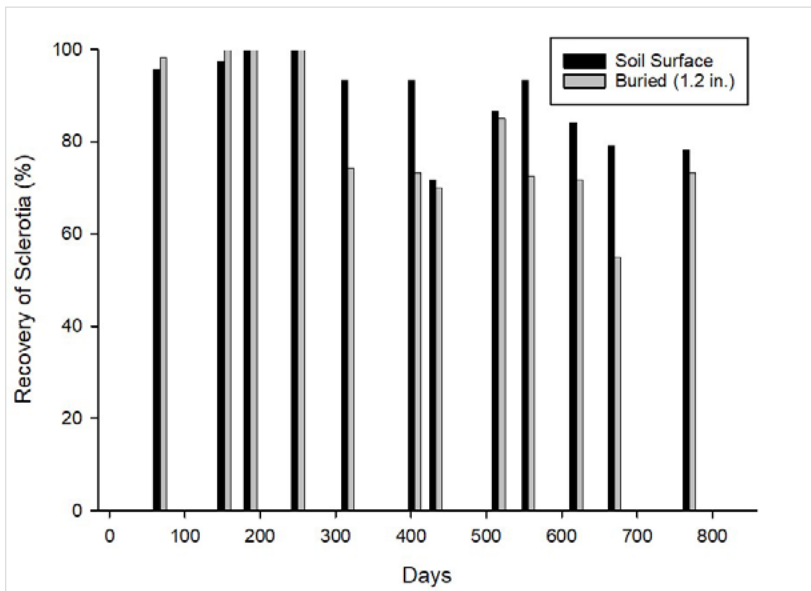


Figure 3. Recovery of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* sclerotia from the soil surface (black) and shallow (1.2 in.) burial (gray). Graph: Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell AgriTech

Take-home messages were:

- A rotation of at least 2 years between susceptible crops is required to reduce primary inoculum. However, given that low numbers of sclerotia are sufficient to initiate a white mold outbreak, a longer rotation (3+ years) may be beneficial.
- Timely tillage of crop residue to bury sclerotia after harvest to promote degradation is also encouraged.

For further information, please contact Dr. Sarah Pethybridge (sjp277@cornell.edu). ●

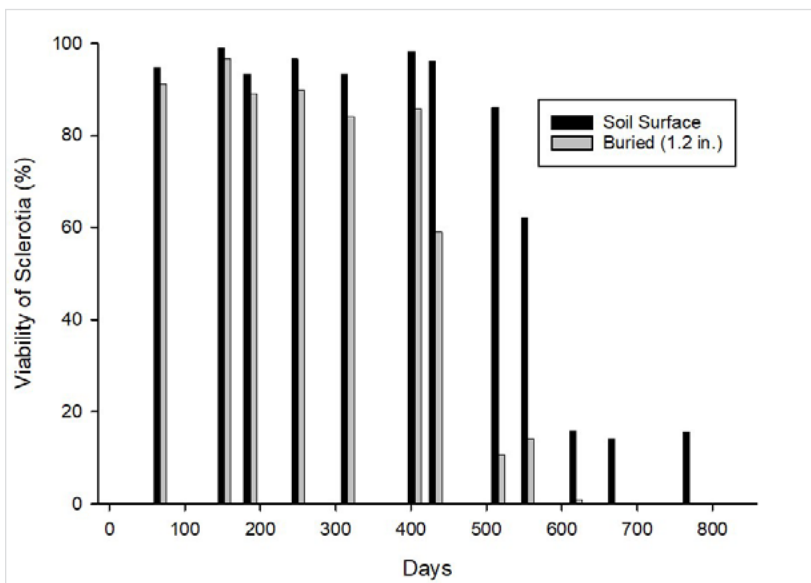


Figure 4. Viability of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* sclerotia from the soil surface (black) and shallow (1.2 in.) burial (gray). Graph: Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell AgriTech

New Broccoli Varieties Offer Better Adaptation to New York

Thomas Bjorkman, Professor, School of Integrated Plant Science – Horticulture Section, Cornell AgriTech

In the last 15 years there has been an uncommon amount of breeding for our climate. Previously the attention went to varieties for California's cool coastal summers or temperate desert winters. American breeding still overwhelmingly emphasizes those markets, but the new attention to the East, stimulated and supported by the [Eastern Broccoli Project](#), has produced valuable advances. Advanced crosses that excelled in regional testing are waiting to be commercialized.

For our region, broccoli varieties need to be adapted to warm nights during the growing season. That is an uncommon adaptation. Catalogs often describe varieties as “heat tolerant”, but that description usually refers to adaptation to desert heat—which is a bigger market for broccoli seed. Unfortunately, adaptation to the desert climate does not confer adaptation to our eastern growing season. Even in the East, something that a catalog describes as heat tolerant in Quebec or central-New England summers may not hold up in New York and southward.

Other important adaptations for New York include a distinct dome to shed water and resistance to turning purple under stress. *Alternaria* head-rot resistance is valuable, and current trials show that genetic tolerance exists.

The recent breeding improvements mean that old stalwart varieties can't compete with newer materials. I encourage all broccoli growers to focus on new varieties that have the attributes their market wants.

Planting several of the best varieties is prudent because even the best will sometimes misbehave when a particular combination of environmental factors disrupts development.

New Varieties to Consider

Crown Cut

The greatest volume of broccoli sales by far is crown cut, so this where the breeding has been focused. All of these varieties mature within a few days of each other. Unless noted, they are available from several distributors.

The dominant variety in the East remains **Eastern Crown** (Sakata). It yields very well due to its dense head. In trials to date, and has sufficient heat tolerance that the yield advantage makes up for the few times the quality doesn't measure up. This variety replaces its predecessors, Emerald Crown, Green Magic and Gypsy, having all their benefits plus higher yield and better adaptation to the East.

Imperial (Sakata) has long been a global leader for the warmest slot in the season. It is used here in the same way for harvest in August.

Burney (Bejo). A strong summer variety released specifically because it performs in this region. It has a more open head than Eastern Crown, so the maximum yield is lower. Organic seed is now available, making it the newest and best-adapted organic variety. In trials to date, Burney has shown fewer *Alternaria* leaf and head spot symptoms than Eastern Crown.

Bejo's **Exp-3622** is a hybrid that I'm particularly excited about because it came out of an Eastern Broccoli Project public-private collaboration. While similar efforts continue with other seed companies, this hybrid has reached market testing for 2024. Exp-3622 combines climate resilience developed by Cornell's Philip Griffiths with excellent commercial qualities from Bejo breeder Cees Sintenie. It has handled warm summer nights very well in regional trials. It is also a vigorous grower with a dense head in a similar style to Eastern Crown. For 2024, seed is only available through Bejo's representative, Jan van der Heide j.vanderheide@bejoseeds.com or 805-689-1783.



Summer heat injury in Geneva, NY on August 18, 2020. Even the top varieties can develop uneven head in the heat of summer. Recent breeding has improved uniformity. Left: Heat tolerant check variety 'Imperial', 50 days after planting. Right: Improved uniformity of 'Exp-3622', 48 days after planting.



Burney has been one of the best adapted varieties since its release a decade ago.



The new experimental Exp-3622 (right) has a similar dense head structure to current market leader, Eastern Crown (left).

continued on page 7

Abrams (Seminis). High yield potential. Good field holding. Heat tolerance comparable to Emerald Crown. Higher population keeps stem solid.

King's Crown (Tainong) did well in New York and Florida though not in Maine. A limited amount of seed is still available from Stokes.

Roxanne (Emerald) tested well in the hot harvest Southeast spring, for both adaptation and yield potential. Available from Gowan.

Sprouting Broccoli

Brocolini, asparagus broccoli and sprouting broccoli are popular with many consumers. Several vegetable brassicas make one-inch heads with long stems for that market. They are less popular with growers because the harvest cost is astronomical. An alternative is to grow a standard broccoli with extra-long branches, so that spears can be harvested with a single cut. Two new varieties with this growth habit are **Montebello** (Bejo) and **Montflor** (Syngenta). These are suited for harvest from mid-September.



Montflor is a single-cut variety for stem broccoli.

Dinner-plate Broccoli

Giant single heads, 10 to 14 inches across, have a market, usually at Produce Auctions and Long Island farm stands. Varieties designed for a standard 5-6 inch crown cut head tend to make loose heads and hollow stems when planted at the wide spacing needed to make heads that big. **Godzilla** is the most consistent producer of these giant heads.

Videos of many varieties can be found on the Eastern Broccoli YouTube page: www.youtube.com/@easternbroccoli7931, and more information about raising broccoli at easternbroccoli.org

Small-Scale Fresh Market Potato Variety Trial Results

Margie Lund and Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

This year, the Cornell Vegetable Program planted a potato variety trial focused on commercially available fresh market potato varieties, with the small-scale potato grower in mind. This trial allowed us to test different varieties of potatoes that might be of interest to consumers at farm markets and see how well they perform in a western NY climate. Below we share overall yield results from the trial as well as some details on some standout varieties.

Yields varied between varieties, with Baltic Rose and Eva outyielding all other varieties, and Red Pontiac performing the worst in the trial (Figure 1).

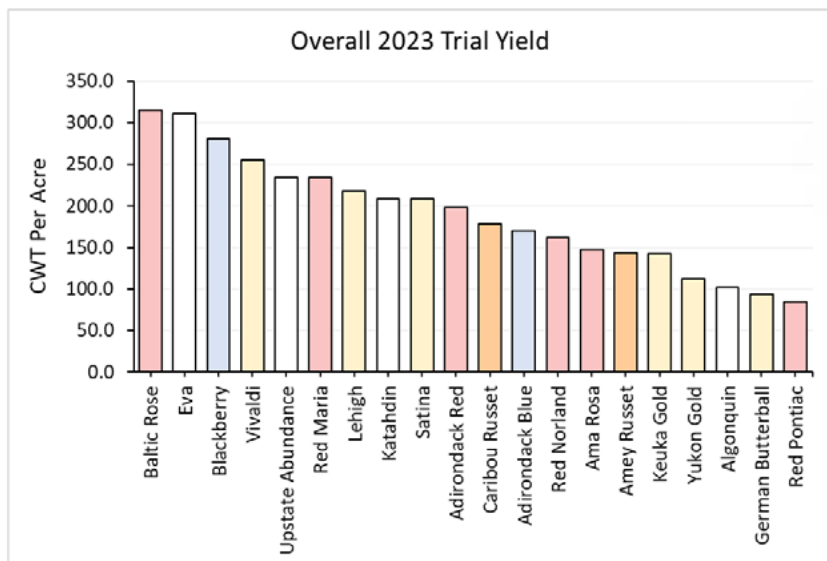


Figure 1. Marketable yield measured in cwt per acre of all varieties in this year's small-scale fresh market potato variety trial from highest to lowest yielding. Varieties are color coded according to skin color (yellow, red, white, purple, and russet).

Baltic Rose and Eva were the two highest yielding varieties in our trial. Eva (white skin, white flesh) not only yielded well, but was visually nice with bright white skin and consistent sizing. Baltic Rose (red skin, yellow flesh) had some insect damage present, but otherwise was visually nice looking. Blackberry (purple skin, purple flesh) was our highest yielding purple skinned variety, producing deep purple round tubers, though they did show some color variation in the skin. Among the yellow varieties, Vivaldi (yellow skin, yellow flesh) was the highest yielding. Vivaldi was the standout performer last year in the 2022 trial and has consistently been a reliable yellow variety. We also grew two russet varieties, Caribou Russet and Amey Russet, both of which yielded similarly. Caribou is a larger sized russet while Amey is consistently smaller in size, however both presented with some hollow heart. This year we did see PVY in several varieties including Adirondack Red, Algonquin, German Butterball, and Vivaldi.

We look forward to sharing more on this trial and each specific variety in our full report. For questions on the trial and any varieties featured above, or if you would like to be emailed a copy of the full report once it is released, please email Margie Lund at mel296@cornell.edu.

Integrating Pumpkin Breeding Lines and Biorational Fungicides to Control Powdery Mildew

Elizabeth Indermaur, Culy DeBeer, Charles Day, Gregory Inzinna, Michael Mazourek, and Christine Smart, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell AgriTech

Powdery mildew (PM) is a common problem in cucurbits. Typically, this disease is controlled with host resistance and/or fungicide applications, but heavy reliance on some FRAC groups has encouraged the development of fungicide resistance in the pathogen. In an effort to increase the number of available and effective products, extensive research has been conducted on [targeted fungicide efficacy](#), and OMRI-listed [biorational fungicides](#) with multiple modes of action are becoming increasingly available. However, more field trials to test the efficacy of biorational fungicides are needed. New and effective biorational products could be useful in organic operations where tools to control PM are limited.

An integrated program with fungicides and resistant varieties is generally the best approach for successfully controlling this disease. However, in processing pumpkin, there are no commercially available cultivars that are resistant to PM. Researchers at Cornell have developed processing pumpkin breeding lines with resistance to PM and have identified several OMRI-listed biorational products that effectively control PM. The primary goal is to provide growers with improved strategies to organically manage PM in processing pumpkin. Field trials have found that integrating these breeding lines with the biorational fungicides significantly decreased PM severity.

Evaluating Biorational Fungicides (2021 and 2022)

Fungicide efficacy was tested on 'Bush Delicata' (*Cucurbita pepo*), a winter squash variety with a growth habit and size that are more convenient than vining types for screening many products. **Biorational products and rates giving control of powdery mildew were:**

- Kocide 3000-O (copper hydroxide) at 1.25 lb/A
- Theia (*Bacillus subtilis*) at 3 lb/A
- Regalia (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*) at 2 qt/A + Stargus (*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*) at 2 qt/A
- Curezin (copper zinc), a developmental product from VM Agritech, reduced PM severity at 1% v/v, but is not yet commercially available.

Evaluating Processing Pumpkin Breeding Lines (2022 and 2023)

'Dickinson' is a large-fruited processing pumpkin cultivar (*Cucurbita moschata*) related to butternut squash and susceptible to PM. Two parents 'Bugle' (butternut, PM resistant) and 'Dickinson' (PM susceptible) were crossed. They were both assessed alongside the breeding lines generated by this original cross.

- One breeding line (Accession 3) had significantly less disease than the susceptible parent 'Dickinson' and was as resistant as the resistant parent 'Bugle'. A second breeding line (Accession 6) had an intermediate amount of disease severity. **This demonstrates that PM resistance has been bred into a commercially desirable variety.**
- Fruit number was not significantly different across breeding lines and 'Dickinson', the commercial standard.
- Fruit from Accession 3, the resistant breeding line, also had processing qualities that resembled 'Dickinson' in canning trials conducted in the fall of 2022. Evaluations for 2023 are ongoing. **This demonstrates that PM resistance has been bred into a commercially desirable variety.**



Fruit of Accession 3. Photo: Chris Smart, Cornell



Leaves from untreated 'Dickinson', Accession 6, and Accession 3, showing severe powdery mildew on 'Dickinson' and very little disease on Accession 3. Photo: Chris Smart, Cornell

Integrating Fungicides and Breeding Lines (2023)

One field trial was conducted to evaluate the effect of integrating breeding lines with promising fungicides. Accessions 3, 6, and 'Dickinson', the PM susceptible commercial standard, were sprayed with Curezin, Theia, Kocide 3000-O, or left untreated. Achieving good spray coverage is important with OMRI-listed fungicides. Adjuvants can help improve coverage by evenly distributing the product. In this trial, Theia was tank-mixed with Dyne-Amic at 0.375% v/v and Curezin was tank-mixed with Hook at 0.15% v/v.

- **Host resistance played a larger role than biorational fungicides in reducing disease.**
- The most effective integrated control combination was applying Kocide 3000-O to Accession 3.
- 'Dickinson' yielded the most per plot, which is expected for these genotypes.

Take Away Message

Generally, integrating effective biorational fungicides with resistant varieties is the most successful method to reduce disease. Ultimately, we found that host resistance played a larger role than biorational fungicides in reducing disease. Among the biorational fungicides we tested, Kocide 3000-O, Theia, and Regalia + Stargus were the most effective. We demonstrated that it is possible to obtain PM resistance and desirable processing traits in processing pumpkin (Accession 3). Further evaluations on the quality of the processed fruit of Accession 3 are underway.

We look forward to sharing more about these trials. For any questions about these results, or if you would like to receive a copy of full reports once they are published, please email Chris Smart at cds14@cornell.edu.

Changes in pesticide registrations occur constantly and human errors are possible. Read the label before applying any pesticide. The label is the law. No endorsement of companies is made or implied. ●

Vegetable Seed Production Course and Mentorship Available to Growers Throughout the Northeast

Crystal Stewart-Courtens, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

To increase the number of growers able to produce high quality regionally adapted vegetable, herb, and flower seed in the Northeast, a group of educators, experienced seed producers, and regional seed companies is working together to offer a training in seed production and connect participants to markets for their seed. Last year, 65 commercial growers participated in the course, and we are inviting another 65 to participate this season. The course is **free** through generous support of a Northeast SARE Research and Education grant, but we expect participants to fully engage in the course and to share their experiences with us at the end of the course.

The online course, which starts January 10th and runs for 10 weeks, is designed to help growers determine whether seed production is a good choice for their farm and then to guide them in selecting an initial seed crop to grow for sale, on-farm, or community use. Each week will feature guest speakers with expertise in seed production, plant pathology, seed economics, and more. During the course participants will form learning cohorts and will work with a mentor throughout the 2024 growing season to successfully produce a quality seed crop. The cohorts will have monthly group check-ins via Zoom and one-on-one access to a grower mentor experienced in producing their chosen seed crop. At the end of the season, participants can sell their marketable seed crops back to the companies that provided stock seed.

The grower mentors for this course bring substantial experience in seed production and will help participants deepen their understanding of how to cultivate vegetables to produce the highest quality seed. Amirah Mitchell has worked in agriculture and food justice since 2007. She founded her business, [Sistah Seeds](#) in Emmaus, PA, to connect black and brown growers to culturally important seeds. She primarily grows vegetable, herb and grain seeds from across the African diaspora, with a focus on African American, Afro-Caribbean, and West African cultural crops.

Our other commercial mentor for this project, Heron Breen, owns and operates Fruits of our Labors farm in Saint Albans, Maine. His experience has been as a market farmer who has become almost solely a seed grower. He had the added benefit of working for a seed company (Fedco Seeds) for his "day" job or seasonal income. After 22 years in the seed trade, he is glad to be farming full-time, and with a near exclusive focus on seed growing.

If you are interested in being a part of the seed education cohort, please fill out our quick intake form by visiting this link: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ODK2oimZ1gPcYnQ. If you have any questions about the project, you can reach Crystal Stewart-Courtens at cls263@cornell.edu or 518-775-0018. For more information about the course, please reference the [course syllabus](#). ●

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

2023 Potato Advisory Meeting

December 12, 2023 (Tuesday) | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
CCE Ontario, 480 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

This year's Potato Advisory Meeting will include talks from Cornell faculty on insect pest and weed updates, as well as updates from this year's potato variety trials. Following lunch, there will be a round table discussion with fellow potato growers and industry members. DEC credits: 2.0 credits in 10, 1a, 23.

COST and REGISTRATION: FREE, includes lunch! [Register online](#) by Friday, December 8 online at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU so that we can make lunch arrangements. For more information, contact Margie Lund, mel296@cornell.edu, 607-377-9109.

MWBE Certification 101 – Webinar

December 13, 2023 (Wednesday) | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Online webinar via Zoom

This virtual information session aims to guide and support businesses seeking Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification. Whether you're a startup or an established business, this webinar will provide comprehensive insights, and offer step-by-step guidance on the MWBE certification process. This session is FREE and hosted by CCE Harvest NY. [Pre-registration](#) is required to receive the Zoom link. Questions? Please contact Precious Tshabalala, pt385@cornell.edu, or 607-793-0837.

Labor Roadshow VII

December 19, 2023* (Tuesday) | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Cornell AgriTech, 216 Jordan Hall, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY
* ONLINE OPTION: On this date only, you can register to attend via Zoom.



December 20, 2023 (Wednesday) | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Genesee Community College, Room T-102, Conable Technology Building, One College Rd, Batavia, NY

Labor continues to be the primary challenge for many farm businesses and Labor Roadshow VII tackles those challenges head-on with topics including:

- Experienced labor attorneys to address managing in a union environment, complying with equal employment laws, and managing regulatory audits.
- How the new NYS Marijuana Law affects the workplace.
- State and federal employment law compliance.
- Overtime: the new 2024 NYS tax reimbursements for overtime, payroll systems, and compliance.
- Farm Safety and OSHA compliance.
- Workforce development: finding your future staff.
- Updating your payroll system to stay in compliance.

[Registration](#) is required, and payment of \$65 per person is collected on site. For questions, please email cu-agworkforce@cornell.edu or visit the Labor Roadshow website at <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/labor-roadshow/>

2024 Finger Lakes Produce Auction Winter Growers Meeting

January 4, 2024 (Thursday) | 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Finger Lakes Produce Auction, 3691 NY-14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527

This annual meeting will present information on insect and disease management in fresh market vegetables in both field and greenhouse (high tunnel) vegetables, primarily for those growing for wholesale auction. Of special note, there will be a grower panel from Buffalo Valley Produce Auction. Other topics include garlic and strawberry pest management. Judson Reid with the Cornell Vegetable Program along with CCE staff will instruct participants and facilitate peer-based learnings. DEC recertification credits available in categories 10 (2.0), 1a (2.0), 22 (0.75), 23 (1.5) and 24 (2.0). Bring questions! Lunch on-site.

2024 Seneca Produce Auction Winter Growers Meeting

January 5, 2024 (Friday) | Time TBD
Seneca Produce Auction, 2295 Yerkes Rd, Romulus, NY 14541

No pesticide recertification credits available. Of special note will be food safety. Bring your questions! Lunch on-site. Contact Judson Reid at 585-313-8912 with questions.

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Upcoming Events

2024 Ontario Produce Auction Growers Meeting January 17, 2024 (Wednesday) | 8:30 am - 2:00 pm Ontario Produce Auction, 4860 Yautzy Rd, Stanley, NY

This meeting will present information on fresh market vegetable production in both field and greenhouse (high tunnel) vegetables, primarily for those growing for wholesale auction. Of special note, there will be a Grower Panel from the Mohawk Valley Produce Auction growers, moderated with NYS specific pest control from Judson Reid. Other topics include pest and disease management in vine crops and greenhouse crops. 2.25 DEC recertification credits will be offered in 10, 1a, and 24, plus category 23 (2.0 credits). Bring questions! Lunch on-site.

2024 Agricultural Marketing Webinar Series 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm via Zoom

Topics:

- Monday, January 8: General Marketing
- Monday, January 22: Developing Marketing Plan
- Monday, January 29: Finding Markets
- Monday, February 12: Market Evaluation
- Monday, February 19: Working with Wholesale Buyer's
- Monday, March 11: Online Marketing
- Monday, March 25: Value Added Products

All sessions are FREE and hosted by CCE Harvest NY. [Pre-registration](#) is required to receive the Zoom link. Contact Lindsey Pashow, lep67@cornell.edu, 518-569-3073 with questions.

2024 Empire State Producers Expo and Becker Forum

Registration is now OPEN for the 2024 Empire State Producers Expo and the 2024 Becker Forum.

The [2024 Becker Forum: Addressing Ag Workforce Challenges](#) will be held Monday, January 22, 2024 at the Oncenter in Syracuse.

The [2024 Empire State Producers Expo](#) will take place on January 23-24, 2024 at the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse. This annual show is planned and hosted by the New York State Vegetable Growers Association in order to provide a comprehensive trade show and educational conference for New York producers, as well as neighboring states and Eastern Canada. Each session has been planned to encapsulate what Farmers want to learn about, plus plenty of networking opportunities. Panel discussions feature some of the top industry experts and growers in New York. Session topics include commodity specific programs in sweet corn, onions, cabbage, soil health, high tunnel, disease management, tomatoes, snap beans, cucurbits and small fruit.

DEC pesticide recertification credits will be offered during the appropriate educational sessions.

Between educational sessions, attendees can visit the trade show featuring commercial vendors and non-profit exhibitors.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) for the EXPO and the Becker Forum through the NYS Vegetable Growers Association.

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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 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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