Cornell Cooperative Extension | Cornell Vegetable Program

VEGEdge

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Volume 21 • Issue 2 • February 5, 2025

Haskaps are Blue Berries—How Do They Compare to Blueberries?

Anya Stansell, Small Fruit Specialist, CCE Harvest NY

If you are considering planting blueberries but have neutral or basic soil, you may hear the suggestion to plant haskaps (also known as honeyberries) as an alternative crop. I've made this suggestion to several growers, myself. After attending a haskap conference hosted by CCE Oswego last summer, I've concluded that haskaps are different from blueberries in substantial ways. This article is a review of the ways that haskaps compare to blueberries.

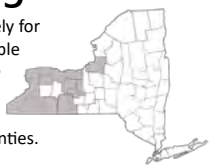
Haskaps are short-to-medium sized (3 - 6' tall) perennial woody shrubs in the honeysuckle family. This makes them unique from the other berry crops we grow—they are the only edible fruit in this family. Unlike invasive ornamental crops in the honeysuckle family, haskaps are not very competitive with native flora and have no invasive potential. All varieties of haskap will produce deep blue berries that are tart and sweet, with a flavor that's been described as "spicy blueberry".

Most varieties are ripe in June, making this crop a great companion to market alongside strawberries and early raspberries. As an added benefit, the early ripening of the fruit can avoid losses due spotted wing drosophila infestation, most years. Later-fruiting varieties have been developed recently – these allow for harvest in July and August in the Northeast: Boreal Blizzard', 'Boreal Beast', and 'Boreal Beauty' produce fruit in mid-July, late July, and August, respectively. These late-ripening varieties need protection from spotted wing drosophila, just like blueberries do. Note that recent breeding advances at the


Haskap berries. *Licensed photo.*

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:
CCE Cornell Vegetable Program
480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14224
Email: cce-cvp@cornell.edu
Web address: cvp.cce.cornell.edu

Contributing Writers
Elizabeth Buck
Robert Hadad
Christy Hoepting
Margie Lund
Julie Kikkert
Lori Koenick
Judson Reid

Publishing Specialist/Distribution/Sponsors
Angela Ochterski

VegEdge is published 20+ 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.

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 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Contents

The next issue of VegEdge will be produced on March 5, 2025.

continued from page 1

University of Saskatchewan have resulted in varieties that make bigger, sweeter berries on bushes well-adapted for Northeastern conditions. This article is concerned with haskap varieties released in 1990 and later—"heirloom" varieties released prior to this date are not well-suited for commercial production.

The disadvantages of choosing haskaps over blueberries include: a lack of consumer familiarity with the fruit; a smaller number of nurseries offering plants for sale; a tarter flavor that makes fresh eating less popular; a more labor-intensive hand-picking process, and a thinner skin, that makes losses during harvest more likely.

The lack of customer familiarity with haskaps is easiest to overcome if farm sales involve face-to-face interactions with the customer base. Haskaps are valued in Slavic cultures, as well as in Japan and parts of China. The lack of nursery offerings can be mitigated with good planning; Hartmann's is a major berry nursery that offers haskaps, and I encounter them on occasion in smaller-scale operations in Upstate New York, and one time, at Lowe's Garden Center. The tart flavor of haskaps does make this crop as divisive as "Sour Patch Kids" candy, although the low-acid variety 'Aurora' tastes so sweet that almost all consumers enjoy it out of hand. The berries grow deep in the bush, which makes hand-harvesting a cumbersome task.

The advantages of haskaps include: excellent tolerance of soils ranging from pH 5.0– 8.0; quick establishment that takes 2-4 years in most conditions; easy to mechanically harvest with a simple, DIY set-up; and a deep purple color that processes well in jellies, jams, and juices.

In most soils, all that haskaps need to establish well is good weed control and a steady supply of moisture, as provided by a dripline. Fertility needs are not as high as blueberries, but commercial producers in Japan use composted cow manure with good success. To easily mechanically harvest the crop, growers have cut a plastic kiddie swimming pool in half, placed it around the base of the plant, and shaken the bush with tongs, such as a pitchfork. Skin breakage up to 50% can occur in the fallen berries, which is the reason why processing the mechanically-harvested berries into a value-added product is so advantageous.

In terms of diseases and pests, haskaps don't have it too bad. They can struggle with mildew infestations in the leaves, which can be managed by organic or conventional foliar fungicides. They can lose branches to honeysuckle borers, boring insects that lay eggs in the wood and tend to move down to the branch base. These are best handled by pruning out injured wood and burning it. Weed pressure is an issue, and tarping, mulching, and otherwise suppressing weeds is the best approach. In this last regard haskaps are similar to blueberries. In addition, birds love haskaps just like they love blueberries. Netting is the most effective means of protecting the crop.

Haskaps aren't a great fit for all farms, nor is it a perfect substitute for a blueberry planting. Yet, for some operations, a few rows of this little-known berry may be a powerful tool for improving fresh produce and value-added offerings.

Resources and Further Reading

Growing Haskap in Canada | Dr. Bob Bors, n.d. | https://research-groups.usask.ca/fruit/documents/haskap/growinghaskapin-Canada.pdf

Haskap | Dr. Bob Bors, updated 2025 | https://research-groups.usask.ca/fruit/Fruit%20crops/haskap.php

Chinese Haskap production is growing: "We now look for overseas markets" | Anouk Sikomnsma, 2022 | https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9477584/chinese-haskap-production-is-growing-we-now-look-for-overseas-markets/

Haskap Compatibility, Flowering and Ripening Charts for U of SK Varieties | Dr. Bob Bors, 2016 | https://gardening.usask.ca/documents/Haskap-bloom-ripe-charts.pdf

WE'RE HIRING

Vegetable Field Research Technician (Batavia, NY)

If you enjoy working outdoors and want to gain hands-on experience in research conducted on a diverse set of working vegetable farms, this position is for you! The Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) is one of the premier agricultural extension programs in New York, serving a large multi-county region in the Finger Lakes and Western part of the state. Our 2025 projects include pest monitoring and management, vegetable variety trials, cover crop trials, high tunnel research, farm food safety, urban agriculture and more! Learn more about the Cornell Vegetable Program at https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/.

The position (39 hours/week) is available from May through August with possible extension depending on candidate availability. This position will be housed at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Batavia, NY. Regular travel throughout our program region will be required.

To Apply

External applicants must apply through the Cornell Careers site; the link to the posting is http://tiny.cc/Temp_Vegetable_51190. Internal applicants (including temporary employees) will need to apply through Workday.

The initial posting will close on February 23, 2025 but may be extended based on the initial candidate pool.

Fertilizer Calculations

Katelyn Miller, Field Crop and Forage Specialist, CCE SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program

There are many different formulas for calculating fertilizer needs, and the right formula depends on the situation. So, this article is packed with math (yes, you read that right), to help walk you through the calculations needed to determine the right fertilizer applications for your farm. We'll cover everything from understanding fertilizer labels to calculating how much of each fertilizer to apply based on your soil test results.

N-P-K

Fertilizer products are labeled with three numbers in the format **N-P2O5-K2O** (or **N-P-K**). These numbers represent the weight percentages of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P2O5), and Potassium (K2O) in the fertilizer. For example, a fertilizer labeled **15-10-10** contains:

- **15% Nitrogen (N)**
- **10% Phosphorus (P2O5)**
- **10% Potassium (K2O)**

The purpose of this labeling system is to help farmers understand the nutrient composition of the fertilizer so they can calculate how much of each nutrient is present in the product.

Example 1: Calculating Pounds of Nutrients in a Bag

Let's say you have a 50-pound bag of fertilizer labeled **15-10-10**. You want to calculate how many pounds of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P2O5), and potassium (K2O) are in the bag. Here's how to do it:

The general formula to calculate the pounds of nutrient is:

Lbs of Nutrient = Weight of Product × (% of Nutrient/100)

Now, let's break it down:

- **Nitrogen (N):** 50 lbs × 0.15 = 7.5 lbs of nitrogen
- **Phosphorus (P2O5):** 50 lbs × 0.10 = 5 lbs of phosphorus
- **Potassium (K2O):** 50 lbs × 0.10 = 5 lbs of potassium

So, in a 50-pound bag of **15-10-10** fertilizer, there are **7.5 lbs of nitrogen, 5 lbs of phosphorus, and 5 lbs of potassium.**

Now that you understand *how* to calculate the nutrient content in a fertilizer, we can move on to calculating *how much* fertilizer you need to apply based on your soil test results.

Example 2: Meeting Potassium Needs with Muriate of Potash

Let's say your soil test shows you need to apply **80 pounds of K2O per acre**. You're planning to use **muriate of potash (0-0-60)**, which means the product contains **60% potassium (K2O)**.

To calculate how much muriate of potash is required, you can use the following ratio:

$$\frac{60 \text{ lbs K2O}}{100 \text{ lbs fertilizer}} = \frac{80 \text{ lbs K2O}}{X \text{ lbs fertilizer}}$$

In this case, the unknown is **X**, or the amount of fertilizer you need to apply to meet the potassium requirement. To solve for **X**, we can cross-multiply and solve the equation:

$$60 \times X = 80 \times 100$$

$$60X = 8{,}000$$

Now, divide both sides of the equation by 60 to solve for **X**:

$$X = 8{,}000/60 = 133.33 \text{ lbs of muriate of potash per acre}$$

So, you would need to apply **133.33 lbs of muriate of potash per acre** to meet the potassium requirement of 80 lbs K2O.

Example 3: Blending Fertilizers

In many cases, you may need to blend different fertilizers to meet multiple nutrient needs for your crops. Let's say your soil test recommends applying **80 lbs of P2O5 and 95 lbs of K2O per acre**. You have access to two fertilizers:

- **0-46-0** (for phosphorus, P2O5)
- **0-0-60** (for potassium, K2O)

Here's how we can calculate how much of each fertilizer you need to apply.

Phosphorus (P2O5) Requirement

First, we calculate how much **0-46-0** fertilizer is needed to meet the phosphorus requirement. Using the same formula as before:

$$\frac{46 \text{ lbs P2O5}}{100 \text{ lbs fertilizer}} = \frac{80 \text{ lbs P2O5}}{X \text{ lbs fertilizer}}$$

Solving for **X**:

$$46X = 80 \times 100$$

$$46X = 8{,}000$$

$$X = 8{,}000/46 = 173.9 \text{ lbs of 0-46-0 per acre}$$

So, you need **173.9 lbs of 0-46-0 per acre** to meet the phosphorus requirement.

Potassium (K2O) Requirement

Next, we calculate how much **0-0-60** fertilizer is needed to meet the potassium requirement. Using the formula:

$$\frac{60 \text{ lbs K2O}}{100 \text{ lbs fertilizer}} = \frac{95 \text{ lbs K2O}}{X \text{ lbs fertilizer}}$$

Solving for **X**:

$$60X = 95 \times 100$$

$$60X = 9{,}500$$

$$X = 9{,}500/60 = 158.3 \text{ lbs of 0-0-60 per acre}$$

So, you need **158.3 lbs of 0-0-60 per acre** to meet the potassium requirement.

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Total Fertilizer Requirements

For a 20 acre field, to meet the needs of both nutrients, the total amount of fertilizer needed for each nutrient is:

- **0-46-0:** 173.9 lbs per acre × 20 acres = **3,478 lbs**
- **0-0-60:** 158.3 lbs per acre × 20 acres = **3,166 lbs**

To calculate the final nutrient analysis of the blended fertilizer, we need to find the percentage of phosphorus and potassium in the final mix:

For phosphorus:

$$\frac{\text{80 lbs of P2O5}}{\text{173.9 + 158.3}} \times 100 = \text{24\% P2O5}$$

For potassium:

$$\frac{\text{95 lbs of K2O}}{\text{173.9 + 158.3}} \times 100 = \text{28\% K2O}$$

So, the final analysis of the blended fertilizer will be **0-24-28** (0% nitrogen, 24% phosphorus, and 28% potassium).

Example 4: Liquid Fertilizers – Nutrient Content in a 50-Gallon Tank

Liquid fertilizers are also common, and calculating their application rates is slightly different because they are measured by volume, not weight. Let's look at an example using a liquid fertilizer labeled **10-15-10**, with a weight of **12 pounds per gallon** and a tank size of **50 gallons**.

To find how many pounds of each nutrient are in the tank, we multiply the concentration of each nutrient by the weight of the product and the number of gallons:

- **Nitrogen (N):**
  10 lbs N × 12 lbs/gal × 50 gal = 60 lbs of N in the tank
- **Phosphorus (P2O5):**
  15 lbs P2O5 × 12 lbs/gal × 50 gal = 90 lbs of P2O5 in the tank
- **Potassium (K2O):**
  10 lbs K2O × 12 lbs/gal × 50 gal = 60 lbs of K2O in the tank

Example 5: Gallons Needed to Apply Nitrogen

If you want to apply **50 pounds of nitrogen per acre**, you can calculate how many gallons of this liquid fertilizer are needed using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{60 lbs N}}{\text{50 lbs N}} = \frac{\text{50 gal}}{\text{X gallons}}$$

Solving for **X**:

$$60X = 50 \times 50$$

$$X = 2{,}500/60 = 41.7 \text{ gallons per acre}$$

Thus, to apply **50 lbs of nitrogen per acre**, you would need to apply **41.7 gallons of fertilizer per acre**.

By understanding how to read fertilizer labels and perform these calculations, you can ensure that your crops get the right amount of nutrients without over- or under-applying. Whether you're using granular or liquid fertilizers, knowing how to calculate nutrient requirements and fertilizer application rates is essential for optimal crop growth and cost-effective farming.

Food Safety Risks of Personal Belongings Factsheets and Visual SOPs Available

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

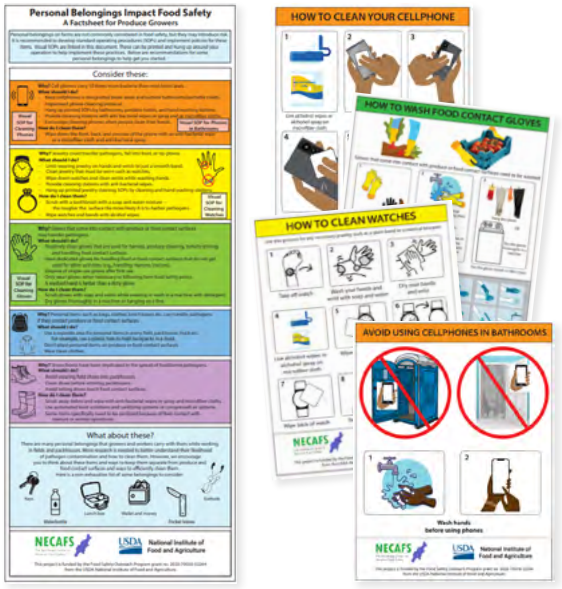
Food safety for workers can extend beyond what they come in contact with while out in the field or pack house. Personal belongings such as cell phones, jewelry, gloves, clothes, lunch containers, and shoes/boots can be carriers of potential microbial contamination.

As part of a Food Safety Outreach Program grant, a Personal Belongings Factsheet and associated visual SOPs were made. These were created to help growers and workers consider the food safety risk of personal belongings on produce farms. Heavy focus has always been on proper handwashing. The factsheet outlines suggested risk mitigation policies for various personal belongings.

The factsheet can be printed out as part of a worker training resource page. The associated SOPs were created to be printed out and hung up around the operation to help remind workers to implement these practices. Posters could go by bathrooms, sinks, or in worker break areas.

From the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety educational resource site (https://foodsafetyclearinghouse.org/) you can find a printable two pate factsheet, a one-page poster size version, a cellphone cleaning visual SOP, a visual SOP on avoiding using cellphones in bathrooms, a watch/jewelry cleaning visual SOP, and a glove cleaning SOP.

These resources were completed by Elizabeth Newbold, The Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) – Univ VT, Lisa McKeag - UMass, Robert Hadad – Cornell, and Anna Loewald, NECAFS – Univ. VT.



Food Safety Risks of Personal Belongings factsheets and visual SOPs. *From https://foodsafetyclearinghouse.org/*

Understanding the IR-4 Project's Nomination and Priority Setting Processes

Lynn M. Sosnoskie, Cornell AgriTech

The **IR-4 Project (Interregional Research Project No. 4)** supports U.S. specialty crop growers by facilitating the registration of pest management solutions. Specialty crops—including fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and ornamentals— often lack effective pest control options because their smaller market size makes it less profitable for companies to develop and register products for them. To address this, IR-4 conducts research to generate the data required for EPA registration, including studies on pest control efficacy, crop safety, and pesticide residues.

Currently, we are in the initial phase of the 2025 IR-4 priority-setting process, gathering input on pest, disease, and weed problems that lack effective solutions. This process begins with the online submission of **Project Clearance Requests (PCRs)**, which are formal proposals to study specific pest problems on crops. PCRs not only describe the pest issue but also suggest a potential solution (e.g., a specific insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide) for evaluation. The PCR form requires information such as projected use rates and patterns, export market considerations (including maximum residue limits or MRLs), and the value of the proposed product within an integrated pest management (IPM) framework. It also asks whether performance or safety data are available to support the request. Providing a detailed justification may improve the likelihood of the proposal being prioritized.

After a new PCR is reviewed by IR-4, the pesticide registrant evaluates the proposal. If the registrant declines to support it, the request can move no further. If deemed "researchable," the proposal can be nominated for and prioritized at the annual **Food Use Workshop (FUW)** held in September. Prior to the FUW, IR-4 will submit a list of potential projects to the EPA for review with respect to toxicology, environmental fate, existing regulations, etc., to determine if there will be any foreseeable issues with a final submission to the agency. These considerations will be shared with FUW attendees to help guide the review process.

During the FUW, experts—including researchers, growers, industry representatives, and government officials—evaluate PCRs that were nominated for consideration earlier in the summer to identify the most urgent pest management needs. The FUW attendees prioritize projects with the greatest potential impact across crops and regions, ensuring IR-4's limited resources are allocated to the most critical research needs. Once a project is approved and initiated, research trials are assigned to researchers across the country. These trials may evaluate the product's performance, safety, and/or generate residue data. If residue data was required for a particular project, the results are reviewed by IR-4 and the registrant before a petition is prepared and submitted to the EPA. The EPA's review includes assessments of toxicology, environmental fate, and other regulatory considerations before an MRL is established.

The process is not fast; if a PCR is nominated for discussion at the FUW and prioritized for research trials, it will take at least 30 months before a submission is even made to the EPA. Despite this, the IR-4 Project remains one of the best avenues for securing new or expanded pesticide labels for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops. Without the IR-4 Project, many pesticide manufacturers wouldn't pursue registrations for minor-use crops because of low potential profits and crop injury concerns. By bridging this gap, IR-4 safeguards the economic viability of specialty crop production.

Link to the IR-4 Project: https://www.ir4project.org/.
Link to the IR-4 Project PCR Submission: https://www.ir4project.org/about-ir4/submit-a-request/ ●

Surveys Seeking Vegetable Growers Input

Cornell AgriTech

Snail and Slug Pests Affecting Horticultural Crops Survey

As part of a USDA-SCRI, we are conducting a needs assessment among extension agents, growers, researchers and other stakeholders regarding the impact of slug and snail pests on horticulture. We would really appreciate it if you could take time to complete this survey to help us establish the level of nuisance caused by those pests in horticultural farms and the priorities for a future Extension program. The outcome will serve to develop appropriate Extension and research control methods against critical slug and snail pests in horticulture. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.
==> Take the survey at: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6SvKddt9CKms9mK

Priorities for Broccoli Production and Disease Management on the East Coast Survey

Broccoli production has increased in the Eastern US over the last decade. As such insect pests, diseases, and potential fungicide resistance have arisen as major problems. Currently, there is a knowledge gap about the practices that growers use to produce broccoli and other brassicas throughout the Eastern US. We are conducting an online research survey to gather information about practices, preferences, and procedures used in brassica production. More specifically, we are interested in learning about how broccoli growers deal with diseases, specifically Alternaria leaf blight and head rot of broccoli. The survey takes 10 minutes to complete. This is completely voluntary, and responses will be kept anonymous.
==> Take the survey at: https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_befiuIHgR8508fA. For a paper copy of the survey, contact Elizabeth Buck at 585-406-3419. ●

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

Genesee Valley Winter Meeting

February 11, 2025 (Tuesday) | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM vegetables and flowers; 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM soil, fertility, manure management
Farmersville Center Community Church, 9038 Rt 98, Farmersville, NY

This two-session event will feature vegetables and flowers in Session 1, and soils, fertility, and manure management in Session 2. See the meeting agenda at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Beginning Farmer Class: Insurance and Business Essentials for Ag Professionals Webinar

February 11, 2025 (Tuesday) | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
via Zoom

Cooperative Extension of Ontario and Wayne County are partnering to offer a webinar discussing general business insurance requirements for farming, workers comp insurance, crop insurance, and state and local laws applying to farming. There will also be a presentation by Farm Bureau on how they help farmers work through legal issues, provide educational resources, and training opportunities. This webinar is intended towards agricultural-related business but would be ideal for anyone looking to take the first step in their entrepreneurial journey or seeking to learn more about starting a business.

COST: Free. Pre-register to receive the meeting Zoom link. Questions? Contact Jacob Maslyn, jlm563@cornell.edu, 585-394-3977 x402.

2025 New York State Potato School

February 11-12, 2025
Del Lago Resort and Casino, 1133 St Rt 414, Waterloo, NY

This year's program will feature speakers covering critically important topics like disease management, updates in storage techniques, new varieties, and other production management practices. New for this year will be the Processor Panel where guests will have the chance to interact with some of the major chip processors in the northeast. Your participation will also earn you DEC and CCA points. See the full agenda at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Registration is $100 for Empire State Potato Growers members; $150 for non-members. REGISTER at bit.ly/NYPotatoSchool

Food Safety Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

February 11, 18, 25, 2025 | 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM
online

This 3-part webinar series, organized and hosted by Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship (CADE), will provide a general background of farm food safety. Presented by Robert Hadad, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program.

Part One (February 11) : What's Going on with Food Safety?
Part Two (February 18): What Counts as Food Processing?
Part Three (February 25): Traceability – Benefits for Food Safety and Beyond

More information. REGISTRATION: https://cadefarms.org/webinar-registration-2025/

From Seed to Success: Turn Your Idea into an Actionable Business Plan

February 11 - March 4, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
online course

This course is designed for existing farm businesses or those planning to undertake a new farm business venture. Students will work with their farm's data, and the goal of the class is for participants to have a draft of a written business plan for a specific business venture. During the course, you will learn to:

- Assess whether or not a business idea is a good fit for you.
- Develop a marketing strategy to make a profit
- Use financial tools to evaluate if your business has the potential to be profitable

All course content is available online so you can work on it at your own pace. There will be weekly webinars where you can meet other students and interact directly with the instructor on the content. These webinars will be recorded.

Learn more and register here! https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1991

COST: $150 NYS Farm. Contact: Elizabeth Higgins 518-949-3722 or emh56@cornell.edu.

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

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

Remote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

February 12, 2025 (Wednesday) | 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
via Zoom

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange and Oneida Counties, the Cornell Vegetable Program, Harvest NY, and the Eastern NY Horticulture Team on Feb. 12 for a remote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) training. Good Agricultural Practices is a voluntary food safety audit program requiring minimum standards for the production, handling, packing, and storing of fresh fruits and vegetables, and is required by some buyers. Trainers will cover food safety best management practices related to worker training, preharvest assessments and wildlife management, water testing, postharvest handling, hygienic equipment design and efficient wash-pack setups, how to write a farm food safety plan, and more. The training will follow the USDA GAPs audit checklist so that farms will be prepared for an audit. A NYSDAM GAPs auditor will join us to discuss audit logistics and answer questions from participants. Following the course, we will offer a series of virtual office hours to follow up with course participants to assist them with writing their farm food safety plan, which is mandatory for the GAPs audit. Participants will receive a certificate of course completion after the training.

For more information, the meeting agenda, and registration: https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2039

Allium Pests!

February 26, 2025 (Wednesday) | 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM
via Zoom

Presented by Christy Hoepting (CCE Cornell Vegetable Program) and Ann Hazelrigg (Univ. of VT), this webinar will focus on organic management of pests and diseases of onions, garlic, leeks. The webinar is part of a series supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. The full line up is at https://go.uvm.edu/webinars2025

COST: Free. Pre-register at https://go.uvm.edu/webinar-registration to receive the meeting Zoom link. Webinars will be recorded and posted at https://www.youtube.com/@vvbga, or listen on Spotify.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

March 4 -5, 2025 (Wednesday) | March 4th 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM; March 5th 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
CCE Onondaga County, 6505 Collamer Rd, Syracuse, NY 13057 (or remote via Zoom)

Hosted by CCE Onondaga County, this two-day workshop* will train fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), the Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPSs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.

COST and REGISTRATION: $50 includes lunch. Register online by February 28.

** A remote attendance option is available. Please contact Janet Oppedisano at 315-424-9485 x243 or jto32@cornell.edu for more information.*

2025 Pesticide Training and Recertification Series

March 6, 13, 20, 2025 (Thursdays) | 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Exam: March 27, 2025 (Thursday) | 12:00 noon - 4:00 PM
Romulus Fire Hall, 2010 Cayuga St, Romulus, NY 14541

A series of pesticide training and recertification classes will be offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County, presented by Russ Welser of CCE Ontario County. Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification license and who meets the DEC experience/education requirements or current applicators seeking pesticide recertification credits should attend. 2.5 recertification CORE credits will be available for each class. More information on each of the three classes is available at https://senecacountycce.org/events/2025/03/06/2025-pesticide-training-and-recertification-series

COST and REGISTRATION: $190 for certification which includes the training manuals and all 3 classes. Check made payable to CCE Ontario. $100 DEC exam fee due the day of the exam, made payable to NYSDEC. Recertification is $40/person per class.

This is NOT a 30-hour credit course that is required for those who do not meet DEC eligibility requirements for commercial certification.

REGISTRATION: Please print off and complete this registration form, and mail it in with your check.

If you have questions, contact CCE Seneca County at 315-539-9251, or the instructor Russ Welser at 585-394-3977 x436.

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

Upcoming Events

Elba Muck Onion Growers Pre-Season Meeting: SLB in Transplants, Onion Thrips

March 10, 2025 (Monday) | 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon
CY Farms Boardroom, 6465 Transit Rd, Elba, NY 14058

This meeting will provide muck onion growers with a heads-up prior to the 2025 growing season: Stemphylium leaf blight in onion transplants and its effect on SLB epidemics and fungicide resistance, onion thrips topics, and information on potential use of a weekly scouting app to map onion thrips pressure in Elba. See the meeting agenda at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU. 2.0 DEC recertification credits will be offered in 1a, 10, and 23. CCA credits will be available too.

COST: FREE! No pre-registration required.

NYS Processing Vegetable Industry Meeting

March 11, 2025 (Tuesday) | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
First United Methodist Church, 8221 Lewiston Rd (Rt 63), Batavia, NY 14020

Processing vegetable industry members who grow, manage, or support crop production for Farm Fresh First/Nortera Foods, Seneca Foods and/or Love Beets, are encouraged to sign-up for the 2025 NYS Processing Vegetable Industry Meeting! You will:

- Network at this in-person meeting.
- Learn the results of industry-funded research.
- Have a voice in Cornell research and Extension.
- Earn 2.0 DEC pesticide applicator recertification credits
- Earn 2.0 Certified Crop Advisor Credits

COST: FREE! See the meeting agenda and pre-register at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

This meeting is sponsored by BASF, Bejo Seeds, Rovensa Next, Sakata Seed America, and Seedway.

Oswego Muck Onion Growers Pre-Season Meeting: Bacterial Bulb Rot

March 13, 2025 (Thursday) | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM, catered dinner follows
Mohegan Manor Restaurant and Banquet Facility, 58 Oswego St, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Can we win the rot race? At this pre-season meeting, Oswego muck onion growers will hear the complexities of bacterial bulb rot of onion. An open discussion between growers and allied industry reps will be led by Christy Hoepting. 1.0 DEC recertification credits in categories 1a, 10 and 23 will be available.

COST and REGISTRATION: FREE! Please RSVP by February 27 to Rane Sorbello (rsorbello87@gmail.com; 315-591-5712) or Christy Hoepting (cah59@cornell.edu; 585-721-6953).

2025 NYS Dry Bean Meeting and Cutting Event

March 19, 2025 (Wednesday) | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (meeting); 1:00 PM (cutting)
Cornell AgriTech, Jordan Hall, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY

Meeting details and registration at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Vegetable Program

480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

VEGEdge
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

VEGEdge
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

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.

Contact Us

VEGETABLE SPECIALISTS

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

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

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

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

Lori Koenick | 585-469-5798 cell | lbk75@cornell.edu
fresh market vegetables, mushrooms, urban agriculture

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

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

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS & SUPPORT

Camila Ichazo | lichazo@cornell.edu

Sarah Mertson | slm369@cornell.edu

Angela Ochterski | aep63@cornell.edu

ADMINISTRATION

Peter Landre | ptl2@cornell.edu

Steve Reiners | sr43@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Vegetable Program

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