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Volume 22 • Issue 01 • January 7, 2026



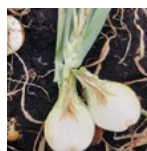
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Slicer Tomato Varieties Put to the Test: Multi-Site Trial Results

Greg Vogel, Cornell University, and Chuck Bornt, Sandy Menasha, and Teresa Rusinek, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Introduction

Variety selection is a cornerstone of successful tomato production, yet choosing the right cultivar is increasingly challenging. Breeders continue to release new varieties with enhanced disease resistance packages and other improvements in yield, quality, and agronomic performance. While this innovation offers growers more options than ever, the number of new releases has made it harder for growers to find clear, region-specific information to guide variety selection.

To help address this gap, we evaluated a selection of newer and widely used hybrid tomato varieties marketed to growers in the Northeast across three trials conducted in eastern New York. The **trials focused on mid-season, round, red, determinate “slicer” types grown in open fields** and assessed a range of productivity and quality traits. The goal of this project is to generate locally relevant performance data to inform variety selection decisions for growers in New York and similar production regions.

Varieties Tried

We evaluated a total of 17 varieties in three regions: the Capital District, the Hudson Valley, and Long Island. Soils were well-drained and ranged from loam to fine sandy loam. Not all varieties were featured in each region, with each trial containing 12-14 varieties (Table 1, page 3).



Hudson Valley tomato trial. Photo: Teresa Rusinek, CCE

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About VegEdge

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



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

We're interested in your comments. Contact us at:
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VegEdge is published 20+ times per year, parallel to the production schedule of western New York commercial vegetable 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.

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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 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424.



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The next issue of VegEdge will be produced on February 4, 2026.

Cornell IPM to Pause Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for 2026

Cornell IPM

Highlighting its commitment to quality and long-term sustainability, Cornell Integrated Pest Management's Pesticide Safety Education Program has announced a pause in production of the 2026 Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guidelines. Cornell IPM Director Alejandro Calixto said this temporary measure is the result of a comprehensive reimagining process facilitated by Illume Projects of Ithaca, which included end-user interviews, internal surveys and sales data analytics.

"It became clear to us that we cannot continue producing the guidelines and fully restructure them at the same time," Calixto said. "By pausing production, we can dedicate all available resources and time to rebuilding the production process, ensuring that when we re-launch in 2027, the guidelines will reflect a modernized approach built around the grower and other user experience."

Calixto and Pesticide Safety Education Program Lead Mike Helms will spearhead efforts to restructure the guideline process over the next 12 months, with a goal of launching a more streamlined, user-friendly version in 2027.

Limited print copies of the 2025 guidelines remain available for purchase while supplies last at: <https://www.cornellstore.com/books/cornell-cooperative-ext-pmep-guidelines>. The 2026-2027 Greenhouse Guidelines will be available.

For more information, contact Helms at mjh14@cornell.edu. ●

Table 1: Varieties evaluated, their disease resistance packages, and the trials in which they were included. Variety seed was provided by the following: Bejo Seeds, Earthwork Seeds, Rupp Seeds, Sakata Seed America, Seedway, Stokes Seeds.

Variety	Disease Resistance ¹	Trials
Ferrari (STM2488)	High: AS, F Races 1-3, LM Races A-E, V. Intermediate: GLS, TSWV Race 0, TYLCV.	Capital District; Long Island
Firebird	High: AS, F Races 1-3, V. Intermediate: GLS, TSWV, TYLCV (IS).	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
GTO (STM9745)	High: F Races 1-2, ToMV Races 0-2, V. Intermediate: GLS.	Long Island
Lancer	High: F races 1-3, LM, ToANV, ToMV, V. Intermediate: LB, TSWV, TYLCV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley
Maverick	High: F Races 1-3, FOR, GLS, ToMV, V. Intermediate: LB, LM Races A-E, N, TSWV, TYLCV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Mountain Gem	High: F Races 1-2, GLS, ToMV, V. Intermediate: LB, TSWV.	Hudson Valley; Long Island
Mountain Man	High: F Races 1-2, TSWV. Intermediate: N.	Capital District; Hudson Valley
Patsy	High: F Race 1, FOR, GLS, TSWV, V.	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Rambler	High: AS, F Races 1-3, FOR, V. Intermediate: GLS, TSWV.	Capital District; Long Island
Rebel	High: BS, F Races 1-3, FOR, GLS, V. Intermediate: LB, N, TSWV, TYLCV.	Long Island
Red Deuce	High: AS, F Races 1-2, ToMV, V.	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Resolute	High: F Races 1-2, V. Intermediate: TSWV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley
STM2255	High: AS, F Races 1-2, FOR, V. Intermediate: GLS, TSWV, TYLCV (IS).	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Temecula	High: F Races 1-2, GLS, N, V. Intermediate: TSWV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Thunderbird	High: AS, F Races 1-3, FOR, V. Intermediate: GLS, TYLCV (IS).	Capital District; Hudson Valley
Tulare	High: F Races 1-2, N, V. Intermediate: TSWV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley; Long Island
Windup	High: AS, F Races 1-3, FOR, GLS, V. Intermediate: TSWV Race 0, TYLCV.	Capital District; Hudson Valley

¹ **Disease resistance codes:** **AS:** Alternaria stem canker. **BS:** Bacterial speck. **F:** Fusarium wilt. **FOR:** Fusarium crown and root rot. **GLS:** Gray leaf spot. **LB:** Late blight. **LM:** Tomato leaf mold. **N:** Root-knot nematode. **ToANV:** Tomato apex necrosis virus. **ToMV:** Tomato mosaic virus. **TYLCV:** Tomato yellow leaf curl virus. **TYLCV (IS):** Tomato yellow leaf curl virus Israel strain. **TSWV:** Tomato spotted wilt virus. **V:** Verticillium wilt.

Trial Methods

Tomatoes were grown in open fields on raised, irrigated black plastic mulch beds at a 2 foot in-row spacing at each trial location. Each site used a replicated randomized complete block design. All fruit at pink stage and beyond was harvested and evaluated from the same 3 plants per plot each week at every site once the crop reached maturity. Additional trial design and establishment details for each site can be found at the conclusion of the article or by contacting the authors.

Results

Results are presented for each individual trial site. **Note that Total Marketable Weight is a per-plant weight across all harvest dates.** Red Deuce served as the standard grower variety in each trial and may be useful as a comparison point when reading the tables. Below, we briefly highlight key observations from individual trials, followed by general conclusions drawn from patterns observed across all three locations.

Capital District

From the preliminary data from this region, Maverick, Patsy, Rambler, Ferrari (STM2488) and Mountain Man are varieties that are worth taking a second look at in 2026. Although Ferrari had a higher level of cracking, the overall appearance of the fruit made it stand out compared to some others along with decent yields. Red Deuce, the standard for this trial and a workhorse for many growers in the CD, failed to impress and had a high rate of vertical cracking, significantly reducing marketable yields.

Hudson Valley

Marketable yield was limited significantly by Blossom End Rot (BER) and Vertical Cracking (VC) on this location's loamy sand soil (Table 2, next page). These disorders are common on tomatoes grown in sandy soils that are prone to fluctuating moisture levels and inconsistent calcium delivery to fruit. Results from this trial indicate that **Maverick, Thunderbird, Patsy, Red Deuce and Windup had statistically significantly higher total marketable weights compared to the other varieties and lower incidence of BER and VC defects.** Out of these five varieties, Red Deuce had the highest numerical average fruit weight of 13.2 oz, but also the highest incidence of vertical cracking. There was no significant difference in brix levels. Though not formally evaluated, there were **no notable differences observed in disease susceptibility among the 13 varieties evaluated.** This trial will be repeated in 2026.



Harvested fruit from the Long Island trial.
Photo: Sandy Menasha, CCE

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Table 2: Hudson Valley trial results. Column names followed by an asterisk reflect significant differences at P = 0.05.

Variety	Total Marketable Weight (lb)*	Average Marketable Fruit Weight (oz)*	Percent Marketable*	Jumbo Count*	Large Count	Medium Count*	Small Count	Defects	
								Blossom End Rot	Vertical Cracking*
Firebird	3.8	13.0	46.6%	32.7%	39.3%	21.6%	6.4%	23.7%	22.2%
Lancer	7.6	12.7	50.6%	34.3%	43.0%	19.6%	3.0%	11.2%	29.2%
Maverick	11.6	10.1	71.1%	15.0%	33.9%	39.3%	11.8%	10.8%	13.9%
Mountain Gem	7.3	11.1	51.6%	19.5%	47.8%	27.8%	4.8%	2.7%	42.3%
Mountain Man	10.9	9.3	60.4%	5.4%	37.3%	49.9%	7.4%	5.2%	22.5%
Patsy	11.3	9.8	83.6%	10.0%	40.2%	43.2%	6.6%	12.7%	3.3%
Red Deuce	10.8	13.2	64.0%	39.5%	40.2%	18.6%	1.8%	5.6%	27.6%
Resolute	8.7	9.2	62.6%	8.2%	33.8%	42.1%	15.9%	19.0%	18.9%
STM2255	6.2	12.3	44.0%	26.0%	48.1%	22.9%	3.0%	9.4%	39.8%
Temecula	7.6	11.3	54.5%	25.5%	42.9%	25.1%	6.5%	18.0%	25.6%
Thunderbird	11.4	12.0	77.8%	37.1%	35.3%	16.0%	11.6%	14.8%	7.8%
Tulare	7.1	12.3	54.1%	36.4%	32.6%	31.0%	0.0%	10.0%	25.9%
Windup	10.5	10.9	78.9%	19.6%	37.5%	40.4%	2.5%	9.2%	7.3%

Long Island

Because this trial was conducted at a research station in small plots, management was more intensive than is typical on commercial farms. In general, fruit were of high quality in this trial. Defects such as vertical cracking were minor and did not affect marketability. Based on the preliminary data presented, the varieties Firebird, GTO (STM9745), and Mountain Gem look promising when compared to the grower standard Red Deuce. Variety Ferrari (STM2488) appeared prone to infection from bacterial speck on the fruit. Further analysis of the data will be needed to confirm these results in addition to more years of field data.

Table 3: Long Island trial results. Column names followed by an asterisk reflect significant differences at P = 0.05.

Variety	Total Marketable Weight (lb)*	Average Marketable Fruit Weight (oz)*	Percent Marketable	Jumbo Count*	Large Count	Medium Count*	Small Count	Defects
								Vertical Cracking*
Ferrari (STM2488)	27.0	7.8	97.3%	8.1%	43.3%	36.4%	12.2%	6.0%
Firebird	27.1	9.4	94.6%	28.1%	34.2%	29.0%	8.7%	9.7%
GTO (STM9745)	26.4	12.2	94.4%	45.5%	37.9%	15.1%	1.5%	26.7%
Maverick	30.2	8.7	97.7%	13.1%	51.2%	28.1%	7.6%	2.0%
Mountain Gem	25.1	9.8	96.4%	27.9%	42.9%	24.0%	5.2%	28.2%
Patsy	24.1	8.6	97.0%	12.7%	49.2%	36.3%	1.8%	12.0%
Rambler	25.6	9.6	96.1%	24.1%	48.0%	22.0%	5.9%	3.4%
Rebel	22.3	8.1	98.0%	12.0%	46.5%	35.1%	6.4%	7.6%
Red Deuce	23.5	12.2	90.9%	46.9%	41.4%	11.2%	0.6%	20.9%
STM2255	25.1	9.4	91.8%	25.9%	36.5%	30.2%	7.4%	18.7%
Temecula	20.7	10.0	96.1%	26.0%	47.6%	22.7%	3.7%	14.0%
Tulare	22.7	10.7	95.7%	34.6%	44.9%	18.8%	1.7%	34.6%

Overall Results and Recommendations

Across the three trials, some traits were relatively consistent among locations, while others varied more substantially. Average fruit size was generally stable across sites. Smaller-fruited varieties, including Rebel, Mountain Man, Ferrari (STM2488), and Patsy, averaged less than 9 oz, while larger-fruited varieties such as GTO (STM9745) and Red Deuce averaged more than 12 oz.

In contrast, percent marketable fruit was less consistent across sites, with several varieties shifting in relative ranking among trials. For example, Windup ranked second in percent marketable in the Hudson Valley but ninth in the Capital District. Despite this variability, a few varieties consistently produced a high percentage of marketable fruit across locations, most notably Patsy, Thunderbird, and Maverick.

Marketable yield showed intermediate stability across trials. Maverick ranked first in all three locations, indicating strong potential for broad adaptation across the region. Other varieties with consistently strong performance included Ferrari (STM2488), which ranked third in both Long Island and the Capital District; Mountain Man, which ranked second in the Capital District and fourth in the Hudson Valley; and Patsy, which ranked fourth in the Capital District and third in the Hudson Valley. In contrast,

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some varieties showed pronounced location-specific responses. Firebird, for example, ranked second in Long Island but was tenth in the Capital District and last in the Hudson Valley, underscoring the importance of considering local performance data when selecting varieties.

Taken together, these results can be used to help guide variety selection for individual farms and growing conditions. When choosing varieties, it is important to weigh the traits that matter most for your operation and markets, including yield, fruit size, disease resistance, and quality characteristics valued by customers. Because performance can vary across locations, new varieties are best planted first in small trial plantings before committing a larger portion of production.

For more information or to request copies of additional tomato trial reports from previous years, please contact Greg Vogel at gm23@cornell.edu or 607-255-9233. ●

Stop the Rot Finale: Managing Bacterial Bulb Rot is All About the Neck of the Onion

Christy Hoepting, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

The ‘Stop the Rot’ project just wrapped up this August after 6 “rotten” years - lol! It was an ambitious project involving 24 scientists from across the country who set out to research the complete system of bacterial diseases of onion to develop practical, economically sound strategies for pathogen detection and management that will improve profitability and sustainability of onion production. Over these years, we sure did talk a lot about rot! One thing that kept coming up was the neck of the onion. Focusing on the neck part of the onion plant proved to be central to managing bacterial onion bulb rot. Let’s walk through the 5 major take-aways related to neck management and rot prevention.

Bacterial Pathogens Commonly Infect the Neck Region of the Onion Plant

Soilborne bacterial pathogens are splash-dispersed onto onion plants where they usually infect plants in the neck region. If there is moisture in the neck, the pathogen can multiply in the neck tissue and move down the neck into the bulb (Fig. 1). Because most bacterial pathogens of onions are “neck-dwellers”, their location makes it difficult for foliar applications of bactericides with contact activity to be effective - the bacteria are protected in the neck. **Products with contact activity**, including copper bactericides, sanitizers, and biological control products, **failed to control bulb rot in 9 “Stop the Rot” field trials in California, Colorado, New York and Washington**. The Stop the Rot team **does not recommend foliar sprays of copper bactericides, sanitizers, or biological control products to manage bacterial diseases of onion** in any region aside from Georgia.



Figure 1. Rain/irrigation water splash-disperses soil contaminated with bacteria into the necks of onion plants (left), where they infect neck tissue and spread down the neck into the bulb (right). Photos: C. Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Georgia was the only place where foliar applications of copper bactericides proved effective, providing 77-88% control. Stop the Rot scientists theorized that bactericides were effective in Georgia because the dominant bacterial pathogens in that winter area of production are “leaf-dwellers” located where contact foliar sprays can contact the bacteria. “Leaf-dwelling” *Pseudomonas* spp. and *Pantoea* spp. dominated in Georgia onion fields surveyed during the cooler winter months, while in all other major onion growing regions “neck-dwelling” *Pantoea* spp. and *Burkholderia* spp. were dominant during the hotter summer months when onions are grown.

Subsequent investigation indicated the **most likely reason copper-based bactericides have been ineffective in most onion producing regions is that many of the bacteria in these regions are resistant to copper**. Stop the Rot researchers found that 50% of the strains of *Pantoea agglomerans* from Washington and California and 90% of the tested strains of *Burkholderia* spp. from New York have genes that confer resistance to copper. This was confirmed by testing bacterial strains on agar media amended with different concentrations of copper.

Fully Developed Necks are Most Susceptible to Bacterial Infection

The onion stage most susceptible to infection by bacterial pathogens that lead to bulb rot is after the plants reach maximum neck size until the necks have dried - when the necks are soft - (Fig. 2, next page). When onion necks have reached full size and are soft, water can splash into the upright tops, creating favorable conditions for bacterial infection. The dense canopy at this stage means poor air movement between plants, creating a moist microclimate favorable for bacterial disease development.

During the ‘tops down’ stage (lodging), onion neck tissue is dying and thus no longer has resistance to infection by bacterial pathogens.

Stop the Rot trials in Washington showed that bulb rot progressively increased every week that irrigation was continued after 5% lodging. Consequently, the recommendation is to **stop irrigation no later than 50% lodging**, which can reduce bacterial bulb rot by up to 50% compared to continuing irrigation through 90% lodging. Stopping irrigation sooner can further reduce bulb rot but also may reduce yield. In regions more at the mercy of rains, such as New York, if Mother Nature is kind, she will not deliver “rot rain” at maximum neck size through 50% lodging.

Protect Late-Stage Standing Onions from Rain Splash

If “rot rain” is in the forecast when at least 80% of the onions in a field have soft necks and the foliage still has some green color (moisture), the field may be rolled gently to lay down any upright plants so that rain cannot splash infested soil into the neck (Fig. 3). Stop the Rot studies in New York showed that rolled onions had 35-57% less bulb rot than non-rolled onions. Rolling onions is especially effective when onion plants are “dying standing up”, which happens when thrips or disease has ravaged the foliage to the extent that it does not have enough weight to lodge properly.

Rolling onions prior to pulling/undercutting is a way of preventing new bacterial infections from occurring. For plants that are infected but the bacterial infection has not yet moved down the neck into the bulb, protecting open necks from collecting water by rolling the tops could avoid the favorable conditions that accelerate progression of bacterial infection into the bulb.



Figure 2. Onion crops are highly susceptible to bacterial infection from maximum neck size until the neck is dry. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE



Figure 3. Onions can be gently rolled (right) to lay down upright onions (left) so that the necks are protected from rain splashing bacteria-contaminated soil into the necks. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE

For more information on rolling onions to stop the rot, see the video linked at the QR code.



Rolling Onions to Reduce Bacterial Bulb Rot

https://youtu.be/C2-xtuVRdrk?si=fbFKz9olefRgMQ_J

Dry Neck Tissue is Impassable for Bacterial Infections

Green neck tissue contains moisture, which is critical for the bacteria to multiply and move down the neck into the bulb. Bacteria cannot reproduce or move in dry neck tissue. Topping/harvesting when neck tissue is green (moist) creates a wound that is an “open door” for bacterial infection. **The greener the neck tissue at topping/harvesting, the greater the risk of bulb rot.** A Stop the Rot study in Washington showed that topping/harvesting onions when the foliage had only 5% green tissue and the necks contained 60% moisture significantly reduced bulb rot by 65-89% compared to topping/harvesting onions with 90% green foliage and 90% moisture in the neck (Fig. 4).



5% green foliage
60% neck moisture



90% green foliage
90% neck moisture

Figure 4. In a central Washington study, topping/harvesting onions with 5% green foliage and ~60% neck moisture (left) resulted in 65-89% less bacterial bulb rot than when onions were topped/harvested with 90% green foliage and 90% neck moisture (right). Photos: L. du Toit

Ways to Win the "Rot Race"

Dry green necks before the bacteria can multiply in the necks and move into the bulbs.

1. **Pulling/undercutting onions to speed up drying of onion foliage.** Ideally, Mother Nature will be kind and deliver warm sunny weather with a light breeze to dry onion foliage rapidly vs. days of rainy weather. Pulling/undercutting onions too early can reduce bulb size and yield.
2. **Avoid late applications of nitrogen** (after initiation of bulbing). This promotes vegetative growth and delays maturity, resulting in thick-necked onions that take longer to dry and delays drying into unfavorable late season field conditions.
3. **If neck tissue is green, top onions to leave at least 2-3 inches of neck length.** This increases the distance that a bacterial infection at the tip of the topped neck must travel to get to the bulb, which 'buys time' for the neck to dry down and become impassable for the bacterial infection to spread into the bulb. Georgia studies showed that leaving necks 2-3 inches long when onions were topped with green necks reduced bulb rot by 36-66% compared to onions that were topped with a neck length of 0-1 inch.
4. **Rolling mature onions to prevent water from pooling in the necks** can make conditions less favorable for bacterial infection to spread into the bulb.
5. **Use heated forced air curing for healthy onions.** When onions are harvested with >5% green foliage and >60% neck moisture, they can be cured with heated forced air in a building. Since new bacterial infections can occur at the tips of green necks after topping onions, leaving a 2- to 3-inch-long neck and using postharvest curing can quickly dry down the neck tissue to prevent bacterial infections from entering the bulbs. Only healthy onions should be cured postharvest with heated air, not those already infected in the necks with bacteria because the warm/hot temperatures used for postharvest curing are favorable for bacteria and accelerate movement of bacterial infection from the neck into the bulb.
6. **Skip the disinfectant.** Multiple years of trials in Washington and Colorado showed that **applying disinfectants like ozone or hydrogen peroxide to onion bulbs in storage does not prevent any latent infections in the bulbs from developing in storage** because these products cannot penetrate the outer, dry wrapper scales to the site of infection in the necks or bulbs.

Once bacterial infection has spread into the bulb, there is nothing that can be done. If only there was a way to shove that rot back up into the neck!

This work is supported by the Stop the Rot: Combating Onion Bacterial Diseases with Pathogenomics Tools and Enhanced Management Strategies, project award no. 2019-51181-30013, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy. ●

WE'RE HIRING

Vegetable Field Research Technicians – 2 Positions

If you enjoy working outdoors and want to gain hands-on experience in plant agriculture and field research conducted on a diverse set of working vegetable farms, this position is an excellent opportunity for you! Working 2-3 years as a technician for the Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) is proven foundation for students that are graduate school bound, as well as moving up within CVP/Cornell, especially in the Extension field. We are looking for someone with excellent work ethics, appreciation for agriculture, attention to detail and a can-do attitude.

Entry Level Positions

1. **Full-time, Albion, NY (Hoepting).** 1-year appointment with potential for extension depending upon performance and funding. Excellent benefits. Working overtime (more than 40 hours/week), including evenings, is common from June through September. Emphasis on muck onion production, plant pathology, entomology and weed science. For more information and to apply visit: https://cornell.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/CornellCareerPage/job/New-York-State-Other/CALS--Technician-I--Cornell-Cooperative-Extension-Orleans-County_WDR-00056324-1
2. **Seasonal, Batavia, NY (Kikkert).** June-August (39 hours/week) with possible extension depending on candidate availability. Assist with pest monitoring and data collection in a variety of crops including dry beans, snap beans, sweet corn, onions, potatoes and cole crops. For more information and to apply visit: http://tiny.cc/Temp_Veget_Field_56335.

Both positions:

- **Start June 1, 2026**
- Require reliable transportation for regular travel throughout CVP multi-county region
- Involve working in vegetable crops that have been treated with pesticides
- Involve some work on diverse vegetable crops, including organic

Application deadline: January 31, 2026

For more details about the Cornell Vegetable Program, see <https://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/>. ●

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

2026 Ontario Produce Auction Winter Growers Meeting

January 13, 2026 (Tuesday) | 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

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

At this grower-focused meeting, ag industry experts will discuss European Cherry Fruit Fly, greenhouse phytosanitary inspections, the benefits of using cover crops, plus more. Two grower panel discussions will focus on pest management techniques. [Full agenda](http://CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU. DEC recertification credits offered: 3.0 in categories 10 and 1a, 1.5 in category 22, 2.5 in categories 23 and 24. FREE to attend. No pre-registration required.

Pesticide Applicator Exam Prep Course

January 13 & 14, 2026 | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Join ENYCHP specialists for an in-depth review of topics covered on the NYS DEC pesticide applicator certification exam. This two-day virtual course includes explanation of key concepts on the core exam, test-taking tips for the core and category exam, practice questions, and Q&A with instructors. Course materials, including program recordings, practice exams, and DEC materials will be available to registrants after the program. This training is geared toward certification categories 1A (agricultural plant), 21 (field and forage), 22 (fruit), and 23 (vegetable).

Prior to attending:

- Participants are encouraged to view the introductory 'How to Obtain a Pesticide Applicator License' webinar recorded on December 17. Visit <https://youtu.be/nYxJlpLy9Og?si=AUeTz2tvqk-l2y10>
- Participants should also purchase or borrow the Core Certification Training Manual for Pesticide Applicators and Technicians and appropriate category manual beforehand for category certification sought. Manuals may be purchased from [The Cornell Store](http://TheCornellStore).

Note that this training IS NOT a substitute for the 30-hour eligibility course. For more information on upcoming 30-hour eligibility courses, search listings on the NYSPAD website: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/find?1&tab=COURSES>

Cost: \$40 per farm. Register: https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=2127. Questions and requests for accommodations: Contact Elisabeth Hodgdon at eh528@cornell.edu or 518-650-5323.

2026 Becker Forum – Smart Strategies for a Changing Landscape

January 14, 2026 (Wednesday) | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Cornell AgriTech, Jordan Hall, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY

The Becker Forum addresses major changes in H-2A, overtime, and union organizing, as well as issues like tax credits, retirement plans, and avoiding fraud and scams. Cost: \$90 for advanced registrations; \$120 walk-ins. Register: <https://nysvga.org/meeting-registration/>. Register by phone at 315-787-0530.

2026 Empire State Producers Expo

January 15, 2026 (Thursday) – Berries | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

January 16, 2026 (Friday) – Vegetables | 8:15 am - 5:00 pm

Cornell AgriTech, Jordan Hall, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY 14456

Berries: Spotted wing drosophila, botrytis fungicide resistance, food safety, irrigation, revenue tracking, crop protection, mulching practices, and grants. **Vegetables:** Novel weed control technology, herbicide evaluation, FSMA water risk management, beet diseases, UV-C light for powdery mildew control, titanium dioxide for pathogen control, disease updates, wholesaling economics, grower panels. DEC credits available. Cost: \$105/day 1st registrant, \$95/day additional registrants.

For more information: <https://nysvga.org/2026-empire-state-expo/> or call 585-993-1767.

Genesee Valley Winter Produce Meeting

January 20, 2026 (Tuesday) | 9:30 am - 2:00 pm; arrival at 9:10 am

Farmersville Center Community Church, 9038 Rt 98, Farmersville, NY (may show up as Franklinville in GPS)

Fresh market production meeting for small to mid-sized farms. Topics include: fundamentals of plant disease management, keeping yourself safe while spraying (organic & conventional), mushrooms, white mold management, selling at auction, and soil health. No DEC credits available – those seeking local credits are encouraged to attend the 1/28 Crop Congress in Belfast. Cost: Free! Lunch generously provided by the Genesee Valley Produce Auction board. **Pre-registration requested to Elizabeth Buck by 5pm on Friday, Jan 16 (585-406-3419).**

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

New York Winter Greenhouse & Growers School

January 21, 2026 (Wednesday)

Virtual Morning Program 8:00 am - 12:30 pm; Afternoon Program in-person 1:15 - 3:30 pm

Roycroft Powerhouse, 39 S Grove St, East Aurora, NY 14052

See the full agenda at <https://erie.cce.cornell.edu/events/2026/01/21/new-york-winter-greenhouse-growers-school>. Attend half day or full day. Cost:

- VIRTUAL (AM) only \$60 *(\$50 for NYSFI Members or CCE Erie Ag Supporter)
- IN-PERSON (PM) only \$15 *(\$10 for NYSFI Members or CCE Erie Ag Supporter)
- BOTH PROGRAMS \$75 *(\$60 for NYSFI Member or CCE Erie Ag Supporter)

*(Ag Supporters only allow one \$5 discount for the workshop to be applied to the full day or an am or pm session)

Register by January 16th at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/GreenhouseGrowers2026_214

Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

January 27 - 29, 2026 (Tues - Thurs)

Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA

Approximately 2,000 fruit & vegetable growers, students, educators, and extension personnel will participate in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. Over 160 companies will be represented in the trade show. Monday will feature pre-convention workshops and a farm market bus tour. The various associations' committees are diligently planning the convention educational sessions with the goal of building on the 48-year history of a premier grower educational event. Full details available at: <https://mafvc.org/> or contact Tammy Linn at 717-973-5915.

Southern Tier Crop Congress

January 28, 2026 (Wednesday) | 10:00 am - 2:30 pm; arrival 9:45 am

Belfast Firehall, 13 Merton Ave, Belfast, NY 14711

Topics include recent updates in field crop production, pesticide mixing fundamentals, field crop disease management, neonicotinoid seed treatments, and EPA mitigation updates. Cost: \$15 payable at the door. Lunch included.

DEC credits available: 1.5 CORE plus either 1.0 in 23 (veg) or 1.75 in 21 (field crops) and 1A.

CCA credits available: 0.5 CM, 1.5 IPM

Pre-registration requested by Jan 23 to Kelly Torrey, 585-268-7644 x10. Walk-ins accepted but cannot be guaranteed lunch.

Chautauqua Region Winter Vegetable Meeting

January 30, 2026 (Friday) | 9:30 am - 3:30 pm; arrival 9:00 am

Randolph Firehall, 70 Main St, Randolph, NY 14781

Fresh market production meeting for small to mid-sized farms. Topics include: vegetable disease management, keeping yourself safe while spraying (organic & conventional), soil and water sampling, managing soil organic matter, grower panel, industry and programmatic updates.

DEC credits available: 1.0 in CORE plus 1.5 in 1a and 23

Cost: \$15, payable at the door. Lunch included.

Pre-registration requested to Elizabeth Buck by noon on January 29. Walk-ins accepted but cannot be guaranteed lunch.

Organic Dry Bean Production Short Course

February 2, 6, 9, 13 & 20 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Online via Zoom and Extension Foundation course portal

Organic Dry Bean Production is an online short course offered through UVM Extension and ECOBEAN: East-Central Organic Dry Bean Collaborative. This course will provide an introductory overview of dry bean production for farmers, service providers, students, and anyone interested in growing dry beans.

During this three-week course, participants will engage with content in five modules covering topics ranging from variety selection to marketing. For each module, participants will attend a virtual class session featuring an expert guest speaker, a live Q+A, and a research round-up segment highlighting current research in the field. After each live class, participants will review additional materials on the Extension Foundation course portal. CCA credits will be available for this course.

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

Organic Dry Bean Production Short Course (cont.)

Course Expectations: Participants are expected to attend all five virtual class sessions, each lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. Educational materials will be hosted on the Extension Foundation Campus website. Archived class sessions, supplemental guides, videos, and information will be available in the Dry Bean online course platform once the class has begun.

Course Schedule:

- Class 1: Monday, February 2, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Introduction to Dry Beans & Course Platform
- Class 2: Friday, February 6, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Production & Management
- Class 3: Monday, February 9, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Weed Control
- Class 4: Friday, February 13, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Pest and Disease Management
- Class 5: Friday, February 20, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Harvest & Storage

Cost: Free! **Course registration:** <https://go.uvm.edu/drybeanshortcourse>

Eden Area Winter Vegetable Meeting

February 4, 2026 (Wednesday) | 9:25 am - 3:30 pm; doors open at 9:00 am
Langford Firehall, 3901 Langford Rd, North Collins, NY 14111

Join us for a mix of industry updates, crop protection talks, pesticide safety programming, and fertility management discussions. This meeting is jointly hosted by the Cornell Vegetable Program and Timac Laing-Gro.

1.25 credits available in CORE plus 1.75 in 1a & 23

Free to attend! **Pre-registration requested to Timac Laing-Gro at 716-992-3830 by Jan 27.** Lunch included but cannot be guaranteed for those not pre-registered.

2026 Pesticide Training and Recertification Series

February 5, 12, 19, 26 (Thursdays) | 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Exam: March 5, 2026 (Wednesday) | 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
CCE Ontario County, 480 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification and 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.

COST and REGISTRATION: \$260.00 for certification which includes the training manuals and all 4 classes. Does not include the \$100.00 exam fee. Recertification is \$40.00/person per class. Contact CCE Ontario County, 585-394-3977 x427 or x436, or email nea8@cornell.edu or rw43@cornell.edu. [More information and the registration form](#) are available at: <https://cceontario.org/agriculture/pesticide-training-certification>

Orleans Regional Winter Vegetable Meeting

February 9, 2026 (Monday) | 1:00 – 4:30 pm; 12:30 arrival, coffee, and sponsor booths
Trolley Building, CCE Orleans County, 12690 Rt 31, Albion, NY 14411

Topics include: Breeding and evaluating tomatoes to control disease and improve yield, jar testing and ensuring spray water quality, breaking down organic matter, FSMA updates and Q&A with Ag & Markets, and industry updates. Includes hands-on learning, coffee break, and sponsor booths.

DEC credits available: 1.0 in CORE plus 0.5 in 1a, 10 or 23

Registration: Free! **RSVP requested to Elizabeth Buck at 585-406-3419 by 5pm on Thursday, Feb 5.**

Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention

February 18 - 19, 2026
Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC) features a lineup of horticultural experts, educational sessions, trade show exhibitors and networking opportunities. 2026 session highlights include: Disease Management in Tomato & Pepper, Legume Vegetables, Garlic, Agritourism, Sweet Corn & Cucurbits, Cost of Production, Organic Potatoes, and two Berry sessions. OFVC is a great show close to home for many WNY growers! Complete list of sessions and tradeshow exhibitors available at: ofvc.ca. Cost: \$90 Canadian single day, \$130 Canadian 2-day before Feb 11.

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Upcoming Events

New York Farm to School Summit 2026

February 23 - 25, 2026

The Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

The 2026 NY Farm to School Summit, co-hosted by NYS Education Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest NY, will have sessions for all Farm to School stakeholders including farmers and producers, food service directors, educators, school administrators, and more! The workshops, panel discussions, presentations, and optional field trips are wide-ranging and suitable for stakeholders just starting out in their Farm to School journeys, and those who have been working in the field for many years.

To foster NY business-to-business relationships, Day 2 features a large trade show exclusively featuring:

- Producers of NY products, whereby School Food Authorities and other institutions can sample products.
- Support service organizations designed to support Farm to School program development.

The full Summit agenda is coming soon. In the meantime, take a sneak peek of the schedule and workshop titles you can expect to see! Event Webpage: <https://whova.com/web/4Pf42YDGLtQQt-gRnnIM3EZFa489uyXwtOv8utxGU80%3D/>. Questions: Email us at farm2institution@cornell.edu.

NYS Processing Vegetable Educational Meeting

March 16, 2026 (Monday) | Time TBD

First United Methodist Church, 8221 Lewiston Rd (Rt 63), Batavia, NY 14020

Meeting time and cost may differ from previous years. For more info, contact Julie Kikkert, jrk2@cornell.edu or 585-313-8160.

2026 NYS Dry Bean Meeting and Cutting Event

March 20, 2026 (Friday)

Cornell AgriTech, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY

The Cutting Event will be held in the morning, followed by lunch, and the NYS Dry Bean Meeting in the afternoon. More info soon. Contact Margie Lund, mel296@cornell.edu, 607-377-9109.

2026 Rochester Urban Ag Conference: Submit a Workshop Proposal!

The Urban Agriculture Working Group of Rochester

Calling on all gardeners, farmers, food system educators and advocates to join us for our **annual Rochester Urban Ag Conference** to be held this year on **Saturday, March 21, 2026 at East High School!**

We are looking for presenters with knowledge and passion for urban agriculture and our local food system to propose ideas for a one-hour workshop. Workshop topics should broadly relate to Growing & Production, Advocacy & Policy, or Garden Education & Outreach. **Submit a workshop proposal online:** <https://forms.gle/JJYrVspR6dGjEVnN8>

Applications are due by Feb 4th. We will let you know by Feb 20th if your proposal has been accepted. Please share this widely with your networks. Thanks! ●

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Vegetable Program

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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 increased frequency 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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