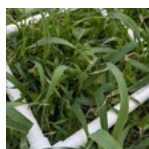




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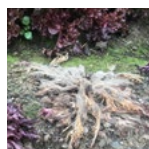
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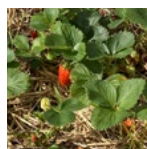
Winter High Tunnel Cover Crop Trial Update

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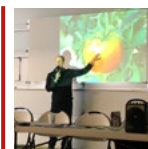
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Winter High Tunnel Cover Crop Trial Update

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

Introduction

High tunnel soils are different from other soils on the farm- even if they have the same name! Inputs, cropping cycles and lack of natural precipitation results in increased pH, nutrient imbalances, increased salinity, crop disease, and decreased yield. Cover crops have numerous well-documented benefits in field soil health which can include increasing organic matter, soil structure, microbial activity, and protection from soil erosion. However, less research is available on cover crop best practices for high tunnels. Tomato tunnel growers have limited cover crop species options between mid-Fall and early Spring. To reap the benefits of cover crops, these growers require cold hardy species that germinate quickly, produce biomass throughout the winter, and are easy to terminate and incorporate.

The Cornell Vegetable Program continues research assessing the impact of winter cover cropping on long term soil health and tomato yield. Here we share preliminary results from year one (October 2024-October 2025) of a trial evaluating the effects of cover crop mixtures versus monocultures on soil health indicators and crop yields.



Winter high tunnel cover crop trial in January 2025. Photo: Lori Koenick, 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.

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.

This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are possible. Some materials may no longer be available and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in NYS must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide usage in NYS should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) specialist or your regional DEC office.

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.

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 March 4, 2026.

Vegetable Growers: Share Your Pest Priorities!

Marion Zuefle, Cornell IPM

Take 5–10 minutes to complete our quick survey and let the Cornell IPM team know which pests are your biggest challenges. Your feedback will help guide research and extension programs that address the issues that matter most to you. Responses are completely anonymous.

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Kh8iUax0x3wuai

Questions? Contact Marion Zuefle at mez4@cornell.edu ●



Methods

This study is taking place in a grower-cooperator's high tunnel in Penn Yan. Treatments include 1) single species grain Cereal rye; 2) single species legume Austrian winter pea, 3) cover crop mix Crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, Oats, Cereal rye, Tillage radish; and 4) bare ground weeded control.

Cover crops were planted in early fall (Oct 17), grown throughout the winter, and terminated in early spring. Tomatoes were grown from mid-spring through early fall. Aboveground cover crop biomass was sampled throughout the winter and submitted for foliar analysis at Waters Agricultural Laboratories. Estimates of canopy cover were taken as a measure of winter survival, and soil samples submitted to the Cornell Soil Health Lab for Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health standard package and soluble salt tests. The cover crop was incorporated on March 20.

Farm-raised grafted 'Red Deuce' tomatoes (Red Deuce scions and Maxifort rootstock) were transplanted on April 1. Fertility was managed per grower standards, including preplant fertilizer and during the growing season, plants were fertilized with 1 lb/acre N applied with soluble 20N-20P-20K. Tomatoes were harvested from July 1 through September 22. At each harvest, marketable yield data was collected. There was pest and disease pressure throughout the trial, with gray mold (*Botrytis cinerea*) being prevalent early on and powdery mildew (*Leveillula taurica*) symptoms appearing later in the season. To estimate pest and disease severity on canopy coverage, a canopy assessment was conducted on August 11. Additional trial methods can be provided by contacting the authors.

Year One Preliminary Results

Biomass production, nitrogen contributions, carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N), and winter survival differed by cover crop treatment (Table 1). The legume treatment produced the highest amount of dry weight biomass (2534.1 lb/A). The legume produced more biomass than the grain at the first and final biomass collections. The mixture treatment was not statistically different than the legume or grain at the final biomass collection. Biomass nitrogen contributions ranged from 36.3 lb/A to 109.3 lb/A. Plant available N contributions from cover crops can be broadly estimated as approximately 50% of total biomass N. This estimate can vary based on cover crop growth stage at incorporation, amount of biomass produced, percent of grain versus legume in the mix, and soil properties and environmental conditions. The grain had higher biomass C:N at termination (21.8) and winter survival (94.5%) compared to the legume and mixture treatments.

Soil results showed the grain and legume treatments to have significantly higher respiration than the control treatment (Table 2). No significant differences were detected among treatments for surface hardness, subsurface hardness, aggregate stability, organic matter, predicted soil protein, active carbon, pH, soluble salts and nutrient levels. We observed that the control treatment had higher surface hardness than the cover crop treatments. We observed a trend that the control treatment had the highest subsurface hardness and soluble salts levels, and lowest soil phosphorus and active carbon.

Table 1. Effect of cover crop treatment on biomass production, N contributions, C:N, and winter survival at final cover crop collection (3/12/25). Treatments are single species grain cereal rye [Grain]; 2) single species legume Austrian winter pea [Legume], 3) cover crop mix crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, oats, cereal rye, tillage radish [Mix]; and 4) bare ground weeded control [Control].

Treatment	Fresh weight (lb/A)	Dry weight (lb/A)	Total biomass N (lb/A)	Foliar N (%)	C:N	Canopy coverage (%)
Grain	5503.91 a ¹	1698.59 b	36.3 c	2.1 c	21.8 a	94.5 a
Legume	9045.13 a	2534.08 a	109.3 a	4.3 a	11.0 b	72.5 b
Mix	7442.58 a	1986.69 ab	65.5 b	3.3 b	13.9 b	67.5 b
P-value	0.061	0.006	0.0002	0.0002	0.00001	0.0051

¹ Values are given are the means of four replicates. Means followed by the same letter in a column are not statistically different using the Tukey-Kramer honestly significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$). No cover crop (bare ground) control plots were assumed to have zero biomass due to regular weed management.

Table 2. Soil metrics [organic matter (OM), pH, respiration (res), surface hardness (SH), subsurface hardness (SSH), aggregate stability (AS), predicted soil protein (Protein), active carbon (AC), soluble salts (SS), phosphorus (P)] from 3-12-25 sample date. Treatments are single species grain cereal rye [Grain]; 2) single species legume Austrian winter pea [Legume], 3) cover crop mix crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, oats, cereal rye, tillage radish [Mix]; and 4) bare ground weeded control [Control].

Treatment	OM (%)	pH	Res (mg)	SH (p.s.i)	SSH (p.s.i)	AS (%)	Protein (mg)	AC (ppm)	SS (mmhos/cm)	P (ppm)
Control	3.63 a ¹	7.06 a	0.53 c	201.3 a	321.9 a	32.6 a	5.49 a	658.8 a	1.17 a	23.73 a
Grain	3.77 a	7.10 a	0.81 a	155.6 a	301.9 a	31.9 a	5.64 a	691.1 a	1.07 a	26.78 a
Legume	3.58 a	7.07 a	0.71 ab	161.3 a	308.1 a	30.5 a	5.32 a	684.2 a	1.15 a	27.95 a
Mix	3.56 a	7.12 a	0.65 bc	170.6 a	304.9 a	27.4 a	5.37 a	663.4 a	0.93 a	27.30 a
P-value	0.69	0.928	0.002	0.088	0.429	0.504	0.635	0.675	0.378	0.200

¹ Values are given are the means of four replicates. Means followed by the same letter in a column are not statistically different using the Tukey-Kramer honestly significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$).

For overall tomato yields, the trial had 11 harvests in 2025 from 7/1 to 9/22 (Figure 1). In total, we harvested 5345 lb of tomatoes as part of the trial. We estimate the entire tunnel produced 21349 lb of tomatoes or 855 25-lb boxes. We observed the cover crop mix treatment produced higher yields per plant and had higher fruit weight than other treatments (Table 3). We observed our control plots produced the lowest fruit weight and tomato yields per plant compared to other treatments. The cover crop mix treatment on average produced 4 more pounds of marketable fruit per plant than our control treatment. We observed the control treatment starts off with higher yields compared to the cover crop treatments (Figure 1). Additionally, we detected a cover crop treatment by canopy rating interaction for fruit weight and observed a similar trend in plant yield and fruit weight. Initial analysis shows a trend that our control treatment is more variable depending on canopy rating and our cover crop plots may be more resilient with pest pressure.

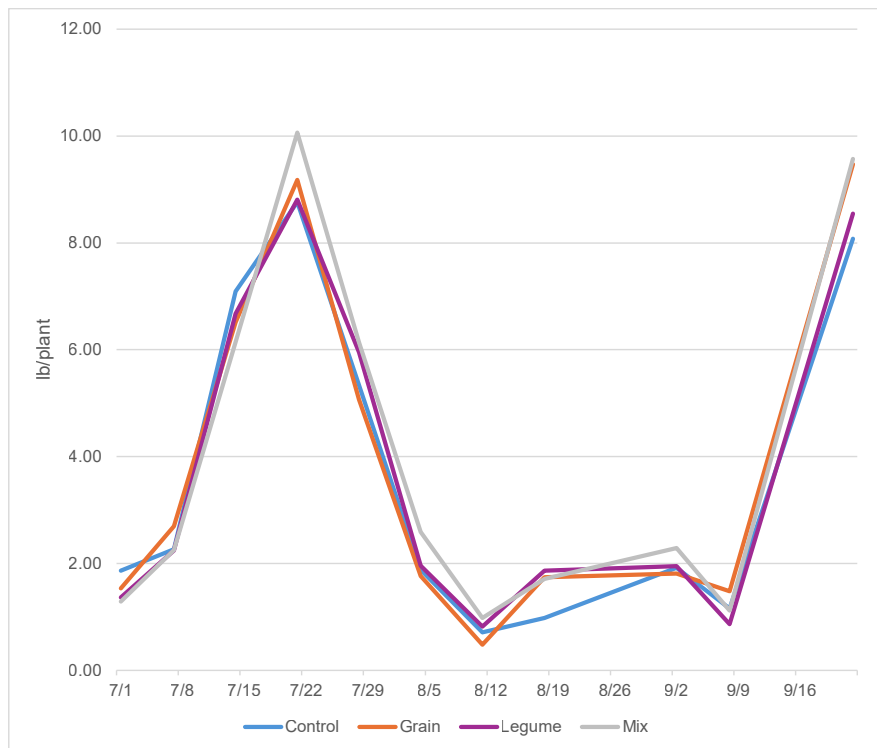


Figure 1. Tomato yields per plant (lb) by cover crop treatment over the season (11 harvests). Treatments are single species grain cereal rye [Grain]; 2) single species legume Austrian winter pea [Legume], 3) cover crop mix crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, oats, cereal rye, tillage radish [Mix]; and 4) bare ground weeded control [Control].

Next Steps

Year one shows promising results with cover crops contributing to soil health and increased tomato yields compared to a bare ground weeded control. We documented our legume treatment produced significantly more biomass than our grain treatment, and our mixture treatment fell in the middle. Soil respiration was higher in the grain and legume treatments compared to the control. We observed our bare ground control had a trend of higher surface hardness and soluble salts, and lower soil phosphorus and active carbon compared to our cover crop treatments. We observed tomatoes grown in cover crop plots produced higher yields than tomatoes grown in bare ground control plots.

We are repeating the trial with our grower cooperators in Penn Yan and at Cornell's Willsboro Research Farm in Northern New York. Stay tuned for future results!

Curious about trying winter cover cropping in high tunnels? Check out our [Dec 2024 winter cover cropping in high tunnels hand-out](#) on best management practices to learn more.

Funding for this project was provided by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, using Hatch and Smith Lever Federal Capacity Funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ●

Table 3. Effect of cover crop treatment on tomato yields in year one (11-week harvest). Treatments are single species grain cereal rye [Grain]; 2) single species legume Austrian winter pea [Legume], 3) cover crop mix crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, oats, cereal rye, tillage radish [Mix]; and 4) bare ground weeded control [Control].

Treatment	Yield per plant		Fruit weight (lb)	Canopy Rating ¹
	Weight (lb)	Fruit (no.)		
Control	40.07 a ²	64.22 a	0.62 a	10 a
Grain	41.75 a	63.19 a	0.66 a	12.5 a
Legume	41.05 a	64.22 a	0.64 a	10.75 a
Mix	44.16 a	65.81 a	0.67 a	12.5 a
P-value	0.385	0.881	0.225	0.473

¹ Canopy rating done on 8-11-25

² Values are given are the means of four replicates. Means followed by the same letter in a column are not statistically different using the Tukey-Kramer honestly significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$).

Lettuce Rot Diseases in Winter High Tunnels

Genevieve Higgins, UMass Extension Vegetable Program, from [Vegetable Notes, 1/22/26](#); ed. Robert Hadad, CCE
[This has been a tough winter tunnel season for greens. Early heat then insects then deep freezes. Then snow with even deeper freezes. When the sun does make an appearance, the angle is higher as winter moves on. With that sunshine there can be considerable condensation in the tunnels dripping moisture onto plant leaves. Rot, especially with lettuce is a major problem.]

In winter high tunnels, it's fairly common to see lettuce crops rotting from the base upwards, and in some cases, fully melted heads. This can be caused by several different pathogens that are all favored by the cool, humid environment of a winter tunnel. Sometimes, more than one pathogen can be present at once, and they are unfortunately fairly difficult to control in a winter high tunnel environment.

Gray mold, caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, is a common pathogen in high tunnels year-round—it loves the high humidity in a tunnel. Botrytis produces lots of gray-brown asexual spores on the surfaces of infected tissue, giving them a fuzzy appearance. It is a weak pathogen; the spores cannot infect healthy, robust plant tissues initially but can infect weak or damaged tissues. In high tunnel tomatoes, Botrytis spores will infect senescent flowers or stems wounded from pruning, where the fungus is able to grow and gain strength before moving on to infect healthy fruit or stems. In winter lettuce crops, spores can infect senescent or damaged leaves (e.g. leaves that have been frosted or those cut during harvesting) and then move into the healthy stem and crown of the lettuce plants, causing the whole plant to melt. The leaves need to be wet for the fungus to infect. The fungus survives between plantings on crop residues and as sclerotia (small, hard, black masses of mycelia that serve as overwintering structures) in the soil. Gray mold often occurs along with other diseases, including bottom rot, moving in as a secondary pathogen.



Gray mold. Photo: G. Higgins, UMass Extension

Bottom rot is a similar disease to gray mold, but caused by a different fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani*. This is the same fungus that can cause damping off in seedlings, wirestem in brassicas, and other seedling diseases. Similarly to Botrytis, it is not a super strong pathogen but can take off when plants are somehow weakened, like in the cold, dark winter months when lettuce crops are growing slowly. Rhizoctonia survives in the soil, as mycelium or sclerotia, and infects lettuce leaves that are in contact with the ground. Unlike Botrytis, it does not produce spores on the surface of the infected tissue. Bottom rot is most commonly seen affecting older lettuce plants.



Bottom rot. Photo: G. Higgins, UMass Extension

Lettuce drop or white mold also looks similar to gray mold and bottom rot. The fungus that causes lettuce drop, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is a more aggressive pathogen than Botrytis or Rhizoctonia, and can infect healthy crops. Its host range includes many vegetables such as tomato and beans. It produces sclerotia that can survive in the soil for many years. Sclerotinia produces notable fluffy white mycelium on infected tissues, and pea-sized (or larger) sclerotia within the plant tissue. For management recommendations for lettuce drop, see our [white mold fact sheet](#).

Management

- **Till under summer crop residue thoroughly.** All of these fungi can survive in crop residues and have broad host ranges. Sclerotia of Rhizoctonia survive for less time and are less able to infect plants at greater depths.
- **Plant into raised beds with good drainage.** All of these diseases are favored by wet conditions.
- **Plant healthy, vigorous but not overgrown transplants.**
- **Take measures to reduce leaf wetness.** Ventilate your high tunnels when it's warm enough to do so, avoid using row cover unless it's needed to prevent frost damage, use drip instead of overhead irrigation, control weeds.



White mold or lettuce drop. Note the black sclerotia amidst the dead tissue. Photo: S. Butler ●

Empire State EXPO Berry Days 2026: Event Summary

Anya Stansell, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Harvest New York, and Anna Wallis, Cornell IPM

The 2026 Empire State Producers EXPO held Berry Days on January 15, 2026. This event was organized by the Cornell Cooperative Extension teams Harvest New York (HNY) and the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP), as well as the New York State Vegetable Growers Association. It was hosted at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva, NY.

Berry Days were attended by growers, agricultural workers, crop consultants, and other industry and research professionals.

After coffee, the event started with an update on insect and fungal pest control research. [Dr. Anna Wallis](#) of [Cornell IPM](#) presented on her multi-farm trial of two new behavioral-control products that may be used with a reduced-pesticide program to manage spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) in blueberry production.

[McKenzie Schessl](#), PhD candidate in Kerik Cox's lab at Cornell University, described her research on controlling botrytis gray mold in strawberries. She is comparing biological pesticides to conventional products, as well as using a UV-C light treatment in a no-spray management system.

[Dr. Elizabeth Bihn](#), Produce Safety Alliance Director, led a 1-hour interactive workshop on food safety and crisis readiness. Attendees assessed their operations and created a management plan in real time. Participants were coached on identifying critical contacts to share with their teams, and the group discussed strategies on how to identify potential choke points in their crisis response. One example was the coffee pot exercise: the core farm leadership team place each of their names on a strip of paper in a coffee pot. One name is drawn from the pot—the team must imagine that this person has passed away suddenly. The remaining team must then identify the critical tasks and contacts that person was responsible for, to keep the operation running. Through exercises like this, Dr. Bihn helped the attendees notice ways they can help prepare the farm for crises when the full team is not present.

During the lunch session, [Bree Bacon](#) from the [Small Business Development Center at SUNY Niagara](#) presented on strategies that growers can use to harvest grant funding. This presentation explained how to identify grants that will fit a farm's business goals, what to expect in applying and receiving funds, and how to manage the funds and other funder requirements to avoid a revocation of the funds, even if things do not go according to plan.

The afternoon sessions covered a broad range of topics relevant to berry growers. Liz Malchoff, manager and lead designer of [Empire Drip Supply](#), led a detailed discussion of using sprinkler irrigation for protecting strawberries from frost.

Next, [Dr. Elizabeth Higgins](#), Agricultural Business Specialist and Production Economist for the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, compared the financial protections offered by the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to those of the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance.

[Heather Kase](#), Berry Specialist for the CCE ENYCHP, presented on the rainfastness of fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides. This information can help growers get and retain crop protection when rain patterns are less than ideal.

[Anya Stansell](#), Berry Specialist for Harvest NY, gave a review of berry crop mulching strategies practiced in New York, as well as how row covers, low and high tunnels, and exclusion nettings change the profitability and seasonality of berry crop production systems.

The day ended with a summary of key grant writing strategies by [Laura Biasillo](#), Agricultural Economic Development Specialist at CCE Broome County. She highlighted two grants for growers to keep in mind for funding: the [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(NESARE\) program's Farmer Grant](#), and the [New York State Beginning Farmer Grant](#).

The 2026 Empire EXPO's Berry Days spanned a range of topics, including new, effective pest control strategies, opportunities for business growth, and opportunities for protecting revenue and operations in uncertain times.

For questions about the event's agenda, please contact Anya Stansell at aco56@cornell.edu.

For questions about the EXPO, Becker Form, and trade show, please contact the New York State Vegetable Growers Association at nysvegetablegrowers@gmail.com. ●

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

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. *This event is sponsored by Helena Agri-Enterprises and Timac Agro.*

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.

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/4Pf42YDGIgTQQgRnnIM3EZFa489uyXwtOv8utxGU80%3D/>. Questions? Email us at farm2institution@cornell.edu.

African Eggplant Participatory Breeding Kick-Off

March 5, 2026 (Thursday) | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
via Zoom

Join us to learn about the Cornell African Eggplant Research Project and learn how you can participate! African eggplant, also known as Bitterball, Garden Egg, Kittley and other names, is an important crop for many members of our community with heritage from regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Brazil. Since 2024, the Cornell African Eggplant Research Project has been collaborating with growers and community partners across New York to develop high-quality varieties adapted to the Northeast U.S. In this meeting, we will share information about growing and preparing African eggplant, highlight our research to date, and invite partners to collaborate with us in our 2026 participatory breeding and variety selection efforts.

COST: FREE! You must pre-register to receive the Zoom link. [Register online](http://CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/EVENTS.PHP) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/EVENTS.PHP.

QUESTIONS? Please reach out to one of the organizers:

- Greg Vogel, Assistant Professor, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University, gmv23@cornell.edu, 607-255-9233
- Lori Koenick, Extension Support Specialist, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, lbk75@cornell.edu, 585-469-5798
- Sam Anderson, Urban Agriculture Specialist, CCE Harvest NY, swa39@cornell.edu, 781-366-5939

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

Managing the Invasive Swede Midge Webinar

March 6, 2026 (Friday) | 9:00 am - 11:30 am
via Zoom

Swede midge is an invasive fly that causes serious economic losses to brassica crops. Due to its small size and hidden feeding habits, swede midge is often called an "invisible pest" and damage may be misdiagnosed. In this webinar, we will review the swede midge life cycle and crop damage symptoms, current management recommendations, new research findings, and highlights from on-farm case studies with a focus on organic management.

1.75 DEC pesticide recertification credits in categories 1a, 10, and 23.

COST and REGISTRATION: FREE! You must pre-register to receive the Zoom link. Register online at ENYCH.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/EVENTS.PHP

Reach out to Elisabeth Hodgdon (eh528@cornell.edu or 518-650-5323) with questions and requests for accommodations.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Food Safety Training

March 10, 2026 (Tuesday) | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
CCE Wayne County Auditorium, 1581 NY-88, Newark, NY 14513

Learn about food safety on the farm! This event hosted by the Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Lake Ontario Fruit Team, CCE Wayne County, and the NYS Department of Agriculture, will cover good agricultural practices (GAPs) to help reduce the risk of microbial contamination on the farm, keeping food and consumers safe.

- Learn how to integrate GAPs into your production practices
- If you are looking for new markets or if your buyer requires it, learn what is needed to have a USDA GAP audit
- If applying for a NY Farm Viability Institute grant, several of their programs require GAPs certification
- Learn about what is needed to begin writing a farm food safety plan. A food safety plan is helpful in implementing practices and should be written in a way to comply with a USDA GAP audit for certification.

COST: \$75 per person, includes lunch and resources. Register online!

For more information, contact Robert Hadad, Cornell Vegetable Program, at 585-739-4065, rgh26@cornell.edu.

Urban Ag Food Safety Webinar

March 11, 2026 (Wednesday) | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
via Zoom

Urban and small-scale producers are encouraged to join us for the Urban Ag Food Safety webinar, featuring speakers from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell IPM. We will explore the 'why' behind food safety, providing a basic overview and diving into specific urban ag considerations including water, pest, rodent, and soil health challenges. We will touch on the regulation and marketing landscape, and share resources for learning more. Bring your questions!

COST: FREE! You must pre-register to receive the Zoom link. Register online at CVP.CCE.CORNELL/EVENTS.PHP.

2026 NYS Processing Vegetable Educational Meeting

March 16, 2026 (Monday) | 9:00 am - 12:15 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 2026 NYS Processing Vegetable Industry Meeting!

- Network at this in-person meeting.
- Learn the results of industry-funded research.
- Have a voice in Cornell research and Extension.

2.0 DEC recertification credits available in categories 1a, 10, and 23. 2.0 Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits available.

This event is sponsored by Carolina Eastern-Crocker, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and KWS Vegetables.

COST: FREE! See the full meeting agenda and register online.

For more info, contact Julie Kikkert, jrk2@cornell.edu or 585-313-8160.

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Upcoming Events

Asparagus Workshop

March 17, 2026 (Tuesday) | 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm
via Zoom

Save the date! This online workshop will feature speakers Ben Werling of Michigan State, Elaine Roddy from OMAFRA in Ontario, and Elizabeth Buck from the Cornell Vegetable Program, as well as industry speakers on asparagus varieties and a farmer panel. DEC recertification credits will be available.

More details and registration will be available soon. Questions? Reach out to Elizabeth Buck, emb273@cornell.edu, 585-406-3419.

Postharvest Water Management, Sanitation, and Traceability Workshop

March 18, 2026 (Wednesday) | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
CCE Orleans County, 12690 NY-31, Albion, NY 14411

Cornell University personnel from the National GAPs Program and the Produce Safety Alliance are presenting a workshop on postharvest water management, sanitation, and traceability. This workshop will include a mix of short talks and hands-on activities to provide attendees with applied experience with sanitation, postharvest water, and traceability topics.

COST: \$50 per person. Registration includes coffee, tea, snacks, lunch, hands-on training materials, and a certificate of attendance. See more event details and [register online!](#)

For more information, contact Robert Hadad at 585-739-4065, rgh26@cornell.edu

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.

Harmonized GAP Plus+ Plan Writing Session

March 20, 2026 (Friday) | 7:30 sign in; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
CCE Wayne County, 1581 NY-88, Newark, NY 14513

Join us for this specialized workshop to cover requirements for this specific audit. Commercial fruit and vegetable growers are increasingly being asked to have the Harmonized GAP Plus+ audit to satisfy some large buyer's requirements. In this workshop, you will get an overview of the audit standards. Following this, you will have time to start writing your food safety plan to adhere to this audit. You will receive a food safety plan template tailored to the Harmonized GAP Plus+ standards. Extension educators and NYS Ag & Mkts auditors will be available for help.

COST: \$40 per person, lunch and refreshments included. See more details and [register online!](#)

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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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