



VEGE_{Edge}

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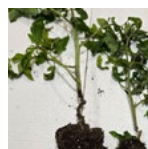
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Food Safety
Considerations

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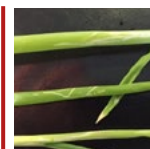
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Urban Ag Food Safety Considerations

Lori Koenick, Yolanda Gonzalez, Robert Hadad, and Elisabeth Hodgdon, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Best practices for food safety—taking active steps to minimize risk of microbial, physical and chemical contamination of food—are important for growers of all sizes to consider. Reasons include you want to minimize the risk of people getting sick, especially vulnerable populations such as youth and people with weakened immune systems. Food illness outbreaks can hurt business. There are federal and state regulations (Food Safety Modernization Act and NYS Agriculture and Markets Article 17) requiring growers to implement best food safety practices on the farm. Certain markets and programs require food safety certification (ex. NYS Grown and Certified). Other benefits from applying food safety practices include increasing efficiency, improving produce quality, reducing spread of plant diseases through regular cleaning and sanitization of tools, harvest bins, and equipment, and improving wildlife management.

Common sources of contamination on any farm include people, water, soil amendments, pests, and equipment. Below we explore these in more depth in an urban agriculture context:



Best practices for food safety include keeping harvest bins off the ground. Placing them on a pallet is a simple way to do this. *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.

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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 April 8, 2026.

Survey About Weed Seed Movement on Equipment

Lynn Sosnoskie and Collins Buggingo, Cornell University

This survey is part of a research effort led by Collins Buggingo, Seed Biologist, and Lynn Sosnoskie, Weed Specialist, at Cornell University. The goal is to better understand grower perceptions about weed seed movement on agricultural equipment and if/how growers manage that risk.

Your responses will help inform future research, extension materials, and practical guidance tailored to different production systems and regions.

The survey should take approximately 8 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential and reported only in aggregate. There are no right or wrong answers—we are interested in your experience and perspective.

[Link to the survey:](#)

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Mlv5Xi2wwe4tTg ●

People

- Consider physical barriers like fences to keep the public away from sensitive areas like the wash/pack station and crop fields.
- Post the farm's visitor policy, which can protect against unwanted visitors/illegal activity on the urban farm.
- Ensure both workers and the public are following good hygiene practices like handwashing. Examples of [low-cost hand washing set-ups can be found on UVM's website](#).
- Regularly scout for broken glass or needles in aisles or on raised beds.

Water

- Treat rain barrels as surface water, meaning it has the greatest risk of contamination and can pose a serious food safety risk if used as irrigation of fresh crops on the farm. When possible, use municipal water for crop irrigation.
- Cover rain barrels to prevent animal intrusion.

Soil Amendments

- Reduce the risk of contamination of heavy metals by mulching and keeping dust to a minimum (follow [Cornell's SoilNOW 10 Best Practices for Healthy Gardening](#))
- Test your soil and compost and reduce your risk of contamination by growing in raised beds using imported clean soil.
- Consider proximity of unfinished compost piles to crop fields in case of runoff after extreme weather events.

Pests

- Rats are often the greatest food safety pests on urban farms. NYC Department of Health offers an online [Rat Academy training for Community Gardens](#). Cornell IPM offers additional resources for [managing mice and rats](#).
- Regularly scout for dog and cat feces; make sure to reinforce pet and leash policies if you encounter contamination in your garden beds.
- If bee hives are close by, it can be helpful to post a "bees at work" sign to protect workers and visitors.
- Keep chicken coops and chickens away from garden beds with fresh produce. A buffer may be necessary to keep chickens from entering planting areas.
- Traps can be effective in managing animal pests such as groundhogs.

Equipment

- Replace wood surfaces with stainless steel for easier cleaning and sanitizing in the wash/pack area. Besides stainless steel, any water-resistant high gloss surface could work, or a wire shelf or PVC frame covered with folded over plastic/vinyl snow fencing held on with cable ties.
- Keep harvest bins off the ground. Placing them on a pallet is a simple way to keep them off the ground.

Interested in Learning More?

Check out upcoming events for our [Urban Ag Food Safety Webinar](#) happening on March 11!

More urban ag food safety considerations can be found in a [new handout](#) available on our website at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

Contact project team members Lori Koenick (lbk75@cornell.edu) or Robert Hadad (rgh26@cornell.edu) of the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, Yolanda Gonzalez (yg88@cornell.edu) of CCE Harvest NY, or Elisabeth Hodgdon (eh528@cornell.edu) of CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture.

This work is funded by a USDA NIFA Food Safety Outreach Program Grant "Building Foundations of Food Safety for Beginning Produce Growers." ●



WEBINAR

Urban Ag Food Safety

March 11, 2026
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell IPM will explore the 'why' behind food safety, providing a basic overview and diving into specific urban ag considerations.

We will touch on the regulation and marketing landscape, and share resources.

Urban and small-scale producers are encouraged to join us! Bring your questions!

FREE! Register to receive the Zoom link. Scan the QR code or visit CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

PEOPLE WATER SOIL AMENDMENTS PESTS EQUIPMENT

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell IPM
New York State Integrated Pest Management

Broccolini – Bunching Broccoli – Mini Broccoli – Broccoli Raab – Italian Rapa

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Lots of names. Lots of flavor. Maybe lots of sales.

There are many varieties of non-heading broccoli types out there. Various cultures/cuisines have their favorites. Growing them correctly is critical. Harvesting too soon makes for thinner stalks/head buds. Too late and you'll have a bouquet of cabbagey flowers from bolting stems.

Think about adding sprouting or bunching broccoli to your early season mix of sales offerings. These types of broccoli can produce a crop quicker and easier than waiting for full heading broccoli to be ready. A lot can go wrong for the head broccoli which takes which loses time and money. Try the cut-and-come-again bunching types and see if it might work for your early sales offerings.

With the cooler weather of early spring, the tender shoots of these broccoli sprouts are sweet and attractive in a bunch, resembling a bunch of asparagus. Spring rains are good for the quick growth of these plants but they would require irrigation if there is a dry spell.



Harvest of sprouting broccoli from one plant (left). Bunches of sprouting broccoli grown for fall sales (right). *Photos: Robert Hadad, CCE*

Over the years, the number of varieties have increased. A mixed planting offers a wider harvest window. Maturity dates range from 24 to 50 days from transplants. Some work best in cool weather while some can perform in milder summers. Season extension can offer earlier starts in the spring or more protection in the fall. Shade cloth can also help reduce early bolting for early summer types.

Many resprout allowing for more product per plant making them a bigger money maker. Retail pricing can run from \$2.50-\$4.50 a bunch (about 8-12 stems fastened with elastic or twist tie). There are some variations with shades of green and a more purple variety. Stem widths also vary in size but harvesting at the correct time allows for not only perfect small bud formations to be sweet, stems are also quite edible and crunchy.

Numerous seed companies carry from a couple to quite a number of varieties. Check out offerings from such favorites as High Mowing, Johnnys Selected Seeds, Seeds of Italy, Stokes, Harris, to name but a few. ●

Farmer Survey: Social Values and Sustainability Outcomes

Food Systems Research Institute, University of Vermont

You are invited to participate in a research study about farmers and their values. The study is titled: “Social Values and Sustainability Outcomes: Measuring Social Processes in Agriculture” by the Food Systems Research Institute at the University of Vermont. We seek to better understand **what values motivate farmers, and how much they are able to make decisions that reflect those values**. Your participation is completely voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential. Completing the survey should take about 30 minutes. At the end, you will be compensated with a \$50 gift card for your time.

[Link to survey website](https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_3POp1aYayWC9WGG): https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_3POp1aYayWC9WGG ●

Cold Soil Tomato Diseases

Judson Reid, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Every winter there is a race to get tomatoes to market first. Essential equipment for the competition includes a greenhouse, transplants, forced air heat, soil warming technology (such as plastic mulch, in-soil hot water) and most importantly a risk-taking spirit. The reward? Of course: bragging rights for the highest priced tomatoes at the market and the satisfaction of a blue ribbon to the winner.

The risks? There are several, such as losing money for the family's mortgage payment to the propane delivery truck, deep freezes and soil borne diseases that cause crop loss. We'll discuss the latter here.

Cold soils are a stress on the root system and nutritional status of the tomato plant. The minimum temperature for tomato root growth is around 60°F. However, this is a minimum and soil temperatures above 65°F is greatly preferred. Soil temperatures below this will eliminate phosphorus uptake, which requires direct root contact through root growth in the soil.

For diseases, these cold temperatures create a window of opportunity for infection of the stagnating roots. Two of these seen in late winter greenhouses are White Mold (*Sclerotinia*) and Verticillium Wilt.

White Mold is a soil borne disease with spores that overwinter in the soil. When larger transplants are placed in infested soil any part of the stem below the soil surface is susceptible to infection. The stem will eventually collapse and the plant will wilt. White cottony growth may be observed on infected plants, although the characteristic black nuggets (sclerotia) don't have time to develop in such a quickly dead transplant. The disease is active from 59-70°F.

Verticillium will also cause young seedlings to wilt during soil temperature windows of 55 to 70°F. In these infections there is the above ground wilt common to White Mold, however stem collapse is less common as the fungus is taken up through the roots and then clogs the xylem (water transport). This results in discolored vascular tissue while the exterior portion of the stem is still healthy and may develop new, adventitious roots in response to the water demand of the now wilting growing point.

In both cases of White Mold and Verticillium there are not viable fungicide treatments once infection occurs. Prevention should focus on warming greenhouse soil prior to transplanting, with a goal of clearing 65°F. With these soil temperatures, ideally the tomato will have a daytime canopy temperature of 75°F, which keeps the propane driver working. Cold resistant grafted rootstock are also an option, as is in-ground heat, or above ground containerized production (pots or bags), which benefit from forced-air heat and don't require in-ground heat. Avoid the age-old tradition of burying tomato stems this time of year to decrease the risk of infection, as the soil temperature near the surface warms sooner, and keeping cold, moist soil away from the stem is also preventative. ●



When larger transplants are placed in White Mold infested soil any part of the stem below the soil surface is susceptible to infection. The stem will eventually collapse and the plant will wilt. White cottony growth may be observed on the infected plant on the left of this photo. Photo: J. Reid, CCE



White Mold is active from 59-70°F, and overwinters in the soil. Photo: J. Reid, CCE



Verticillium is taken up through the roots and then clogs the xylem (water transport). This results in discolored vascular tissue while the exterior portion of the stem is still healthy and may develop new, adventitious roots in response to the water demand of the now wilting growing point. Photo: J. Reid, CCE

Allium Leaf Miner in Garlic Warrants Awareness & Risk Assessment, Especially for Seedstock Producers

Elizabeth Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Allium leaf miner (ALM) is a newer pest of alliums, best known locally for devastating losses in fall leeks and other fall alliums. This pest is now resident in most, if not all, of western NY and the Finger Lakes. While fall damage is more widespread, allium leaf miner also can cause economic damage in spring allium crops. Examples of these include chives, scallion, green/bunching onion, onion, spring leeks, and garlic. I'm going to focus on ALM risk in garlic because **there are important plant health regulatory requirements and out-of-state export restrictions pertaining to ALM for the sale of seed garlic.**

Basic Allium Leaf Miner Biology

Allium leaf miner is a fly as an adult. It has no trouble overwintering, and has slowly dispersed throughout many states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic since first being detected in PA in 2015. Once it arrives in an area, it persists and becomes an annual problem. Populations can and have built to regularly damaging levels. Unfortunately, this pest can survive and multiply on wild allium hosts.

ALM adults have two flights each year. The overwintering ("spring") generation survives winter as pupae in the soil or sheltered inside allium hosts. Adults emerge in early-mid April and begin flying and laying eggs on alliums. The eggs hatch within about 10 days (temperature dependent) and the larvae begin mining the leaves, creating little tunnels from inside the leaf tissue. With time, the larvae head down the plant toward the bulb and soil line where they will pupate either in the plant or in the soil. Pupae wait until September through October to emerge as the fall generation of adults. The fall generation is especially hard on leeks, in part because there are fewer suitable hosts available to the flies. Pupae from that fall generation overwinter, and the cycle begins again.

Ok, and I care why?

The potential of pupae-contaminated heads sets up a contamination, marketing, and long-distance spread concern for garlic.

We don't have a good sense for what percentage of pupae survive in garlic bulbs through the bulbing process. We do know that pupae can and do survive in the neck tissue of garlic, and that those pupae in the neck can successfully emerge in the fall. The regulatory concern is that ALM pupae will move long distances with infested garlic and that will introduce ALM to new states and regions. This is why many states have adopted garlic import restrictions for garlic coming from NY.

Current Regulatory Requirements, Including Shipping "Bans"

In fact, most states already had some level of legal import restriction for all seed garlic, albeit for other problems like white rot, garlic bloat nematodes, or other concerns. Importantly, **there are several states have standards that are so rigorous and difficult to meet that it is literally impossible at the current time for any NY grower to meet their requirements – in all effects a ban.** States included in this list currently include Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Georgia. Do not ship seed garlic to those states. More states are strengthening their restrictions, so this "do not ship" list may not be comprehensive. **It is important to reach out to your local Ag & Markets plant inspector to have the most current information.**

Additionally, the majority of states require some sort of plant health inspection for all seed garlic imported into the state. **In NY, garlic seed production actual falls under the plant propagation regulations and growers raising seed garlic need to have a nursery grower's license.** Folks purchasing and reselling garlic (brokers, aggregators, dealers, etc) need to have a nursery dealer's license. These licenses are easy to obtain, cost about \$100, and are good for 2 years. This is a reasonable cost of business given the value of garlic. It is a very affordable way to remove a lot of regulatory and legal risk related to shipping seed garlic out of state. Producers will receive one visit from an Ag & Markets plant health inspector, probably in May-early July. Inspections are not onerous and the inspectors are generally friendly and want to help growers learn and better manage any crop concerns they may find. **This is something Ag & Markets is pushing seed garlic producers to obtain in 2026,** given the increasing legal and regulatory risks around sending garlic out-of-state. **Having a plant health inspection will satisfy the export requirements for almost all states** and allow you to sell your seed garlic with peace of mind.

Assessing Risks

There isn't good data currently available to assess overall production risk beyond the general level of ALM pressure on your farm. The level of damage experienced in any fall alliums is an indication of potential spring risk. We don't have a strong grasp on ALM's preference for garlic relative to other spring allium crops. As discussed earlier, we also aren't sure what percentage of ALM pupae in garlic will survive and be able to spark new infestations, though we do know they can survive and spread that way. There also isn't a ton of data regarding control of the spring generation of ALM in garlic using conventional or organic insecticides or the efficacy of cultural methods. We're working off of control studies done in other crops and applying that to garlic, so there's another degree of uncertainty.

Overall, we know that there is production risk that your garlic could be infested with ALM and that it could be economically

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damaging and cause unhappy customers and unmarketable garlic, even for tablestock production. **Right now, the economic and legal risk is higher for seed garlic producers, especially for those selling garlic out of state.**

Alright, how do I manage these risks?

Step 1: Determine Your Market and Regulatory Risk Category

If you are **only selling tablestock garlic, or selling seedstock garlic only within NY**, this decision should come down to your personal risk assessment, damage tolerance, ALM pressure history, observations of in-season pressure, and your economic tradeoff assessment of the costs of prevention (cultural practices like exclusion) and treatment (spraying) vs loss of marketability and potential reputational damage in the marketplace.

If you are **raising seedstock**, you are in a higher risk category and should probably plan to take preventative action, at a minimum.

If you are **selling seed garlic out-of-state**, you should obtain a nursery grower's/dealer's license from Ag & Markets and plan on treating for ALM if you see any signs of activity on your farm. need to obtain a nursery unless you are shipping seed garlic out of state (see below).

After these market and regulatory-based decision factors, make treatment decisions based on production and economic risk.

Step 2: Determine if You Have a Production Risk

When exactly the overwintering adults emerge is somewhat of a question. Penn State has found that the first "heavy emergence" (not first presence) can be predicted to occur around 350 degree days Celsius accumulated since January 1st, with the counter set at 1 degree Celsius. In the Hudson Valley, they've seen the spring flight as early as April 10. The adults will continue to emerge, fly, and lay eggs through most of May.

Because the timing of the spring generation shifts with weather conditions (warmer generally means earlier emergence) and because the adult activity period is extended, you'll really do best to scout for signs of ALM. You might try using sticky cards in your garlic patch to catch adults. You can look for egg-laying (oviposition) scars on the garlic, but they're not easy to find in garlic. Luckily, neat little rows of pen-tip sized, oval shaped, pale oviposition scars are very easy to spot on chives, onions, and scallions. Of these, chives seem to routinely attract the adults and make a good early indicator of adult activity. If you have chives on your property, scout those. You could also pick up some chives from a garden center, but be sure to inspect them for ALM damage prior to bringing them home. Do NOT plant the chives near your fields. They are remarkably resilient and you'll struggle to get rid of them. Keep them in a pot.

Step 3: Take Action

Preventative controls include planting on reflective silver mulch to reduce pressure, possibly by as much as one-third. This will not be effective control on its own against appreciable ALM pressure. Excellent control has been seen in fall leeks by using well-sealed insect exclusion netting mounted on tall hoops (row cover not quite as good) through the entire flight window. This of course causes logistical challenges related to weed control and other cropping needs.

The current best advice regarding spraying is as follows. Note the uncertainties listed above, and know this is adapted from other crops based on our current understanding.

- 2 applications of Radiant, Entrust (organic) or Exirel* (spray license required), spaced 2 weeks apart, applied with a penetrating surfactant *IF* the label lists one as an appropriate option. These are translaminar materials that kill larvae by diffusing from the outside to the inside of the leaf. Do not use a strong spreader-sticker adjuvant (like NuFilm-P) with Radiant or Entrust as you may experience decreased efficacy. M-Pede is an organic penetrating surfactant.
- Time the first application for approximately the 1st week of May. Adjust timing based on how warm spring has been, going a little sooner if it has been very warm.
- A better option is to time the 1st application to garlic about 10 days after you see first egg laying signs in chives or any other allium on/around your farm. ●

Cornell Ag Workforce Development Offers New 'Farm Labor Hotline'

Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

Do you have a question about labor laws and regulations or questions about how to handle a workplace situation and don't know where to start? Try the Farm Labor Hotline! This is a new service, funded by NYS Ag and Markets to provide a one-stop where employees and employers can go for help answering questions. This is a new program of the Cornell Ag Workforce Development Program.

This hotline does not respond to text messages. Please call and leave a detailed voicemail at 607-255-3978, or email us for assistance at farmlabor@cornell.edu.

Assistance is also provided in Spanish: La Línea Directa de Trabajo Agrícola es un servicio ofrecido por el Departamento de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola de Cornell para apoyar tanto a empleados como a empleadores del sector agrícola. Este número no responde a mensajes de texto. Por favor, llame y deje un mensaje de voz detallado al 607-255-3978 o envíe un correo electrónico a farmlabor@cornell.edu para recibir ayuda. ●

CLEANSWEEPNY Spring 2026 Collection



CleanSweepNY: Spring Collection of Pesticides, Fertilizers, Paints, Chemicals

May 5, 2026 (Tuesday): Depew (Erie Co.)

May 6, 2026 (Wednesday): Lockport (Niagara Co.)

May 7, 2026 (Thursday): Spencerport (Monroe Co.)

May 8, 2026 (Friday): Waterloo (Seneca Co.)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will be hosting a CleanSweepNY pesticide collection event. This chemical disposal service is open to farmers, owners of former farms, and all types of certified pesticide applicators and technicians. Please note that this program does not accept household chemicals from homeowners.

Participants from neighboring counties are welcome and encouraged to participate at one of these locations. This collection is targeting certain counties in NYSDEC's Regions 7, 8 and 9 (Cayuga, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates).

In addition to pesticides, CleanSweepNY will also collect the following types of chemicals from eligible participants at no charge:

- Fertilizers
- Paints and all related coatings (stain, varnish, shellac, etc.)
- Mercury and mercury-containing devices
- Motor oil
- Antifreeze/coolant
- Cleaners, sanitizers, degreasers, etc.
- Old or spoiled gasoline, kerosene, or diesel
- Epoxies, tars, driveway sealers, etc.
- Fluorescent light tubes and ballasts

Pre-registration is required to participate in this program. A registration form can be obtained by email (cleansweep@dec.ny.gov) or phone 518-225-8146. **The deadline for registration is April 27, 2026.** Full appointment details, including the address of the drop-off, are provided once a participant has been registered.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

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. NOTE: This is NOT a FSMA Grower Training Course; this is a basic GAPs Workshop. See full meeting agenda online at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

- 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 BASF Ag Solutions, Bejo Seeds, Carolina Eastern-Crocker, Growmark FS, KWS Vegetables, Monroe Tractor, Nichino America, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Rovensa Next, Sakata Seed, TIMAC Agro, and VM Agritech. Thank you!

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

Asparagus School

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

Join us to dive deep on growing asparagus! Bringing together experts from the Cornell Vegetable Program, Michigan State University, OMAFA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness), and industry, featuring seed companies and a pair of experienced growers. See the [full agenda](#) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU.

DEC recertification credits available: 1.25 in categories 1a, 10, and 23.

COST: \$20 per farm. [Register online](#) to receive the Zoom link. 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

Farming Under Pressure

March 19, 2026 (Thursday) | 8:30 AM
CCE Orleans County, Harrington Classroom, 12690 St Rt 31, Albion, NY 14411

"Farming Under Pressure," a stress management and suicide prevention workshop, is open to growers, farm families, agriculture professionals and members of the public. This educational session will feature speakers from FarmNet and GOW Pathway to Hope. Together, they will address the unique pressures facing those in agriculture and provide practical tools to support mental wellness in farming communities. Topics will include:

- Common stressors in agriculture and how they impact mental health
- Practical stress management tools participants can use immediately
- Warning signs of suicide risk
- How to start conversations and support someone who may be struggling
- Available local and regional resources for farmers

Farming is demanding work. Long hours, financial pressure, isolation, and unpredictable conditions can take a toll. This workshop is designed to provide practical guidance in a respectful, stigma free environment and to strengthen support networks within the agricultural community.

There is no cost to attend. Pre-registration is not required.

For more information, contact Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-798-4265, orleans@cornell.edu.

2026 NYS Dry Bean Meeting and Cutting Event

March 20, 2026 (Friday) | 10:30 am - noon (Cutting), lunch, and 1:00 - 4:00 pm (Meeting)
Cornell AgriTech, Jordan Hall 2nd floor auditorium, 630 W North St, Geneva, NY 14456

The Cutting Event will be held in the morning, followed by lunch, and the NYS Dry Bean Meeting in the afternoon. See the [full meeting agenda](#) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU.

DEC recertification credits available for the NYS Dry Bean Meeting portion of the day: 2.0 in categories 1a, 10, 21, and 23.

COST: FREE! Pre-registration requested. [Register online](#)! At-the-door registrations accepted but lunch cannot be guaranteed.

This meeting is sponsored by Genesee Valley Bean Company and New York Bean. Sponsor support allows us to make this event FREE for growers! Thank you!

Questions? Contact Margie Lund, mel296@cornell.edu, 607-377-9109.

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Upcoming Events

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!](#)

2026 Rochester Urban Agriculture Conference

March 21, 2026 (Saturday) | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
East High School, 1801 East Main St, Rochester, NY 14609

The annual Rochester Urban Agriculture Conference is a day of learning and connections featuring interactive workshops, community knowledge sharing, Fruition's Gift of Seed Experience, horticulture tables and displays, and more!

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration required. [Register today!](#)

COST: Pay-what-you-can model for tickets (\$0 - \$10).

This conference is brought to you by the Rochester Urban Agriculture Working Group, with support from Rochester Food Policy Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District, Taproot Collective, and Wegmans.

QUESTIONS? Please reach out to Mallory Hohl mdh286@cornell.edu or Lori Koenick lbk75@cornell.edu

Virtual Farm Food Safety Training

March 30, 2026 (Monday) | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
via Zoom

Learn about food safety on the farm! This online event hosted by the Cornell Vegetable Program, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture, CCE Broome County, and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, will cover good agricultural practices (GAPs) for produce growers to help reduce the risk of microbial contamination on the farm, keeping food and consumers safe. See the [goals of the workshop](#) at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU

COST: \$10. [Pre-register by March 25 to receive the Zoom link.](#)

QUESTIONS? Reach out to Robert Hadad at 585-739-4065, rgh26@cornell.edu.

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VegEdge is the highly regarded newsletter produced by the Cornell Vegetable Program. It provides readers with information on upcoming meetings, pesticide updates, pest management strategies, cultural practices, marketing ideas, and research results from Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. VegEdge is produced every few weeks, with increased frequency leading up to and during the growing season.

Contact Us

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processing crops (table beets, carrots, peas, snap beans, sweet corn)

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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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