



UMass
Extension

Vegetable Notes

For Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts since 1975



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CROP CONDITIONS

It's been a long, mild fall, but as the shortest days of winter approach there is some colder weather (and maybe even snow!) in the forecast. Folks have been able to leave many roots crops in the field, digging as much as they can sell or store and going back for more. Washing stored roots and harvesting winter greens is the name of the game now. And as the 2022 season comes to a close, folks are beginning to reflect on the past season and plan for next year. This summer was hot and dry – with many hours spent moving irrigation equipment, and hard decisions made about which crops to water. Labor continued to be a limiting factor. Despite these challenges, you all persevered. And the long, warm fall was a welcome respite, extending the late-season bounty.

Here at UMass Extension we are reflecting too. We are diving into our yearly reporting and getting ready to launch our annual fundraising campaign. Here is some of what we've been up to in the past year:

- >135 **farm visits** from Ipswich to Dartmouth and Lanesborough to Martha's Vineyard
- >150 **consultations** via phone, email and text
- 20 farms **monitored** for sweet corn and other pests
- 25 **issues of Vegetable Notes** published, including 5 new **articles**
- 15 **presentations** given to >900 attendees
- 10 **events** organized or co-organized with >400 attendees
- 6 **research trials** conducted on:
 - o OMRI-approved fungicides for Alternaria in brassicas and Cercospora in Swiss chard
 - o Cucumber, spinach, and basil varieties with resistance to downy mildews, and
 - o Evaluating a new adjuvant to improve spray coverage
- 2 **scientific articles** published and 1 published **research report**
- Wrote or co-wrote 3 new **grant proposals**
- Co-Edited the new edition of the **New England Vegetable Management Guide**, coming soon!
- Co-organized the upcoming **New England Veg and Fruit Conference** for >1,300 attendees across the region



The Extension Vegetable Program team at UMass Amherst's Cold Spring Orchard!

[Make a gift by check](#)

[Make a gift online](#)

[Become a sponsor!](#)

Thanks to those of you who have already donated or sponsored our program – we can't do it without you!

CONTACT US:

Contact the UMass Extension Vegetable Program with your farm-related questions, any time of the year. We always do our best to respond to all inquiries. **Office phone:** (413) 577-3976 *We are currently working remotely but checking these messages daily, so please leave us a message!* **Email:** umassveg@umass.edu

Home Gardeners: Please contact the UMass GreenInfo Help Line with home gardening and homesteading questions, at greeninfo@umext.umass.edu.

Because Massachusetts is a relatively urban state, UMass Extension does not receive a lot of federal or state funding, and our Vegetable Program relies heavily on grants to support staff salaries—see article this issue for more details. Veg Notes has no direct funding source – it is because of support from donors and sponsors that we are able to create this newsletter each week and deliver it to your inbox free of charge. You can donate or sign up to become a sponsor any time of year, all the info can be found on our fundraising page [here](#). Thank you in advance for your ongoing support!

PEST ALERTS

Allium leafminer is a relatively new pest in the Northeast and we're still learning about when and where it occurs. This week we saw pupae as well as active tunneling by larvae in harvested leeks and scallions. If you see tunneling maggots or small brown pupae between leaves of your fall leeks please let us know by emailing umassveg@umass.edu so that we can get a better sense of where this new pest is active!!

Last week, we identified a case of **Fusarium Root Rot** in storage sweet potato using the [Plant Diagnostic Lab](#) here at UMass Amherst.



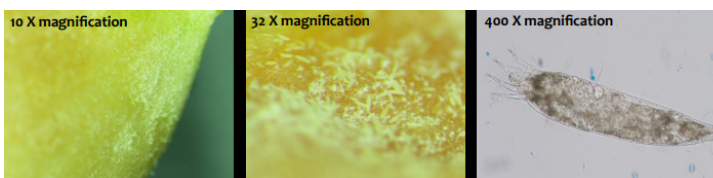
Fusarium lesion on surface of sweet potato (top); Cross-section of Fusarium root rot (bottom). Photos: Andrew Scruggs and Dr Lina Quesada of NC State Vegetable Pathology Lab

This rot is typically caused by the fungus *Fusarium solani*, which can result in circular lesions on the surface as well as dry, open cavities inside of the harvested tuber. White fuzz, or mycelia, may appear on the surface of the lesions. The damage may move from the ends towards the center. Avoid injuring harvested sweet potatoes before and during storage to reduce the incidence of Fusarium infection. *F. Solani* can survive on equipment, specifically harvest, packing and storage equipment, which can be another route of infection. Maintain sanitary harvest equipment, packing materials, and storage areas, and properly handle harvested roots in order to avoid infection.

Eriophyid garlic mites are being seen in storage garlic in Middlesex and Hampshire counties. They are teeny tiny mites that can only be seen clearly under 32x magnification. However, their damage can be extensive. These mites can cause garlic to discolor and dry out faster than normal, resulting in overall poor storage quality. There are a few ways to control mites and reduce their damage: soak seed stock before planting, heat drying garlic to kill mite eggs, and store garlic in a cold environment. See this article about [eriophyid mites from Cornell Cooperative Extension](#) for more details on promising ways to reduce mite damage.



Allium leafminer larvae in harvested leek.



Mites under magnification. Photo: Frank Hay



Dull and discolored peeled garlic cloves. Photo: Frank Hay

GETTING STARTED USING NATURAL ENEMIES IN GREENHOUSES

Many growers in New England are successfully using natural enemies (beneficial insects, mites, nematodes and other organisms) as an alternative to pesticides to manage pests in greenhouses. If you are considering using natural enemies on your spring crops, prepare by taking some important steps a few months prior to releases. The success of any biological control program relies on patience and a commitment to detail such as sanitation, scouting and record-keeping.

Sanitation and Disinfecting: Greenhouse sanitation and disinfecting are steps that growers can take now to prepare for the spring growing season. Clean as early as possible to eliminate over-wintering sites for pests to reduce their populations prior to the growing season. Greenhouse pests will over-winter in weeds and protected areas in unheated greenhouses and especially during years with unseasonably warm temperatures. Remember that pests are much easier to prevent than to cure.

Floors: Begin by thoroughly cleaning the floor of soil, organic matter and weeds. Pay particular attention to areas around furnaces or alongside walls where small weeds may exist. Install physical weed mat barriers if floors are bare dirt or gravel and repair existing ones. Weed barriers not only prevent weeds, but also make it easier to manage algae. Avoid using stone on top of the weed mat that will trap soil and moisture, creating an ideal environment for weeds, diseases, insects and algae. Fix any low spots or poorly drained areas in the greenhouse that allow water to accumulate.

Benches, Hose Nozzles, Media Mixing Area: Benches, preferably made of wire, should be disinfected and pots, flats and trays should be either new or disinfected. Bench tops and work tables should be made of a non-porous surface such as a laminate that can be easily disinfected. Avoid using bare wood for these tasks. Disinfect hose nozzles, hang hoses to keep ends off the floor and provide a clean and covered area for growing media. Avoid holding plant material and contaminated pots, media or debris in the media mixing area.

Disinfectants: Disinfect the growing and plant handling areas, and irrigation system. There are several different types of disinfectants that are currently used in the greenhouse for plant pathogen and algae control. They are quaternary ammonium compounds (Green-Shield®, Phyan 20®, and KleenGrow™), hydrogen dioxide (ZeroTol®, Oxidate®) and chlorine dioxide (Selectrocide™). All these products have different properties, so read and follow label directions. Chlorine bleach may be used for pots or flats, as well as hard, non-porous surfaces, and food contact surfaces. It can be used on wood, but because wood surfaces are porous, results are variable and adequate sanitation is difficult to achieve. (See, e.g., the label for [Clorox brand regular bleach](#) for mixing instructions for different applications). Alcohol is flammable and therefore not used as a general disinfectant. However, it is useful as a dip or swipe treatment to disinfect propagation tools. If possible, disinfectants should be used on a routine basis both as part of a pre-crop clean-up program and during the cropping cycle.

Organic Options: Organic growers must utilize caution when using certain disinfectants. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Green-Shield®, Phyan 20®, KleenGrow™) are not listed by the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) for use in organic productions but are allowed for use on organic farms only if measures are taken to ensure the disinfectants or residues do not come into contact with a crop. Some hydrogen dioxide (e.g., Oxidate®, ZeroTol 2.0) and peroxyacetic acid compounds (e.g., Sanidate 5.0) are currently listed by OMRI and allowed for use on organic farms. Ethyl or isopropyl alcohol is also allowed under the organic standards. Organic growers should always check with their certifying organization before using any material new to their growing practices, and of course consult the product's label for specific mixing and use instructions. Rates will be different for food- and non-food-contact surfaces.

Outside Weeds: Check weeds around the greenhouse perimeter for aphids and other pests. When weather permits, use horticultural oil on weeds outside, around the greenhouse perimeter, to smother over-wintering pests such as aphids. Clean up the weeds in the fall to prevent pests next spring.

Fallow Greenhouses: Finally, pest populations will be reduced significantly with a fallow period of four weeks, but having an empty greenhouse for even two weeks can help.

Pesticide Use: If planning to use biological control, it is important to phase out the use of pest control materials in the organophosphate, carbamate, and pyrethroid chemical classes prior to releasing natural enemies since many materials in these chemical classes can persist for up to four months in the greenhouse. Beneficials should not be released onto plants previously treated with incompatible pesticides because residue will be toxic to the natural enemies. For more information on the compatibility of pest control materials with natural enemies refer to on-line databases, such

as Koppert Biological Systems (<https://www.koppert.com>), or Biobest Sustainable Crop Management (<http://www.biobestgroup.com>). Check under “Side Effects.” Biobest also has a free smartphone app for pesticide side effects. Information is available on their website.

Plan to release beneficial predators and parasitoids early in the crop before pests build to outbreak levels. Read up on using biologicals from the lists of fact sheets (some with videos) on the UMass and UConn Extension websites: <http://extension.umass.edu/floriculture/fact-sheets/pest-management> and <https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/greenhouse/#>. UMass’ Greenhouse Pest Guide web-based app is another good resource with options for biological control. See: <http://greenhousepestguide.umass.edu>. If you plan to use [banker plants](#) to rear and distribute natural enemies, they also need to be started early.

Contact suppliers/distributors of biological control agents early, before the spring growing season. Most companies offer assistance either over the phone or through a regional technical representative to get you started and will help with release rates. Other considerations include having someone available when shipments arrive and checking shipments for viability (remember they are living organisms).

Here is a partial list of suppliers or distributors of natural enemies used by greenhouse growers in New England:

- IPM Laboratories, Inc., Locke NY, www.ipmlabs.com
Contact: ipminfo@ipmlabs.com, (315) 497-2063
- Griffin Greenhouse Supply, Tewksbury, MA, www.griffins.com
Contact: orders@griffinmail.com, (978) 851-4346
- Arbico Organics, AZ www.arbico-organics.com/
Contact: 800-827-2847 or (520) 825-9785
- Koppert Inc. MI, www.koppert.com
Contact: info@koppertonline.com, 1-800-928-8827
- Biobest Biological Systems. www.biobest.be
Contact: info@biobest.ca or info@biobest-usa.com, (519) 322-2178 or (855) 224-6237.
- Beneficial Insectary, CA, www.insectary.com, www.greenmethods.com
Contact: info@insectary.com, 1-800-447-3715

--From articles by Leanne Pundt, UConn Extension and Tina Smith, UMass Extension (retired). Updated for 2022 by Maggie Ng and Lisa McKeag, UMass Vegetable Program.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SURVEYS? AND, HOW WE FUND THE EXTENSION VEGETABLE PROGRAM

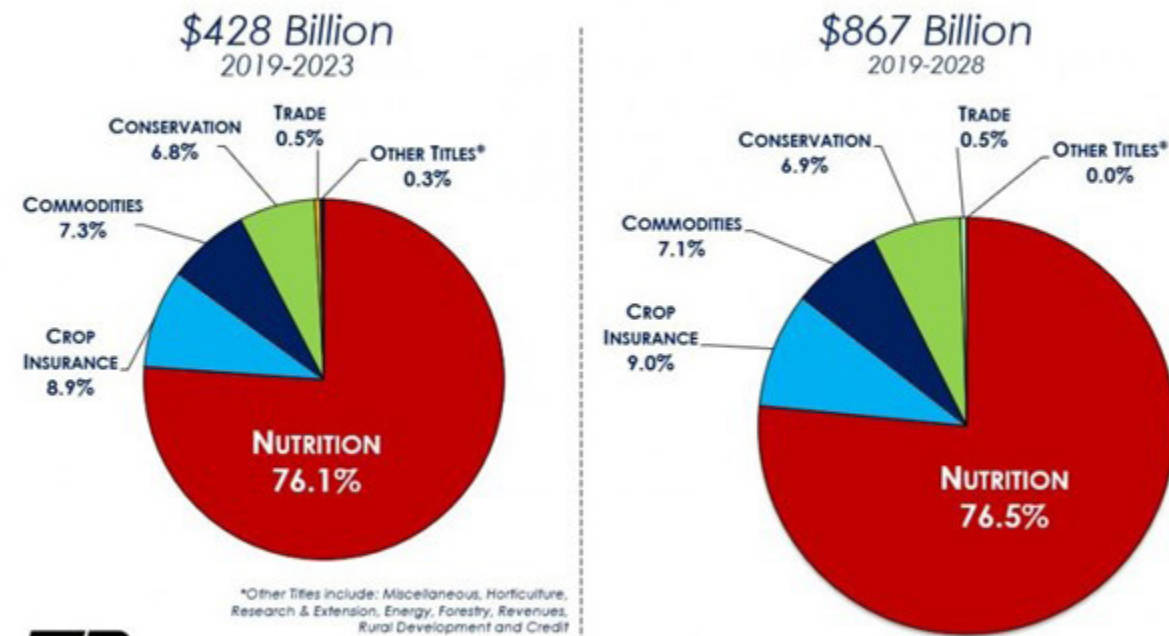
tldr; Our team relies on grant funding for 65% of our budget. In order to demonstrate need for a given project and document the impact of our work, we need to get your input frequently in the form of surveys. This is a way you can directly support Extension, help shape the types of research and education happening in the region, and have your voice heard.

As farmers you probably get the question “what do you do in the winter?” all the time. Well, we often get asked the same question, as people wonder what we might possibly be up to with very few crops in the ground. Many of you see us at winter meetings and know that a lot of our off-season time is spent working on educational outreach: compiling PowerPoint presentations, summarizing research results for newsletter articles, updating websites, writing new factsheets, working on the New England Vegetable Management Guide, and planning and presenting at educational programs around the region. But another big chunk of time is spent working on grants—writing new project proposals and reporting on activities completed for our current grants.

Why do we need grant funding? Federal funding for Cooperative Extension is distributed to each state based on a for-

mula that takes into account the state’s farm acreage and rural population. Federal funding for agricultural research and Extension is authorized under the farm bill—omnibus legislation passed every five years (or so) consisting of 12 “titles” (aka chapters, or topics) that cover all things food and farming. If you look at the pie charts in Figure 1, you can see that the total allocation of farm bill funds for “Research and Extension” (Title 7 in the bill) is part of a small sliver of pie called “other titles”. This “other titles” sliver also includes Horticulture, Energy, Forestry, Revenues, Rural Development, Credit, and Miscellaneous. It accounts for less than 0.3 percent—about \$1.3 billion—of the farm bill’s 5-year baseline budget of \$428 billion. The estimated budget for just Research and Extension in 2019 was only \$749 million dollars. That may sound like a lot, but remember that it is allocated among Extension programs in all subject areas across all 50 states. Each state then matches those federal funds, and that makes up the core funding for Extension.

Figure 1. 2018 Farm Bill Spending
5- and 10-Year Baseline



Source: Congressional Budget Office April 2018 Baseline, 2018 Farm Bill, Farm Bureau Analysis

Image source: <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/reviewing-the-2018-farm-bill-baseline>

For more information on the farm bill, visit these resources below. Congress is now in the process of writing the 2023 Farm Bill. For legislative texts and to submit your own ideas and feedback to Congress, see <https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/farm-bill>.

[Farm Bureau, Reviewing the 2018 Farm Bill Baseline](#)

[NSAC, 2018 Farm Bill Drilldown: Research and Plant Breeding](#)

[USDA, FY 2019 Budget Summary](#)

Because Massachusetts is a relatively small agricultural state, our Extension gets less funding than our more agriculture-heavy neighbors like New York. As with most other state Cooperative Extensions, UMass Extension’s state and federal funding has been flat or in decline since about the mid-1980’s when huge state budget cuts were announced, and we had to close most of our county-based Extension offices. We have come to depend on other sources of funding in order to continue to provide core services like farm visits, phone/email assistance, newsletters (like this one!), educational workshops and research on applied topics that are unlikely to be funded in academic settings. Those other funding sources include fees for services (like diagnostic testing, soil testing, and hot water seed treatment), honoraria for educational presentations, sponsorships/donations (from farmers, consumers, or industry partners), and external grant funding.

The UMass Extension Vegetable team uses all of these funding streams in order to support the activities and outreach we currently provide to farmers, gardeners, and consumers. Most of this external funding is used for staff salaries, covering their time to make farm visits, do research, plan workshops, write newsletters, give presentations, and attend trainings. External funds also allow us to purchase needed equipment and cover travel costs. The breakdown of annual funding for the Vegetable Program is about like this:

- 65% grant funding
- 20% core state and federal funding
- ~0% Service Fees (hot water, speaker fees, workshop registrations)
- 15% donations and sponsorships

You can see that our core state and federal funding covers only a portion of our activities, while grant funding covers two-thirds of the cost to run our programs and services. For a list of current grant-funded projects please see the “funding” page on our website: <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/funding>.

So, what does this mean for you? Lots of surveys!! In order to prioritize which proposals to pursue, and to be successful in getting the grant funding required to support our program, we need to first prove that there is a need for the research or education project we are proposing—survey #1. Then, if the proposal is funded, we often need to conduct additional surveys to show the funding agency that we are meeting all of our goals along the way (survey #2 (or more)), and at the end of the project we need to show that all of our efforts had some impact (survey #3, sometimes we call these evaluations). Multiply this by the total number of grants we have (9), and you’re up to 27 surveys! Okay, not all the grants we have require this kind of regular surveying, but many do. Then add to that all the proposals being submitted by other Extension colleagues around the region that we think are interesting and that you would benefit from, and you begin to see why your email inbox is full of surveys in the winter (and all year, really). We do try to be very conscientious of your time, to only conduct surveys when truly necessary, and to be judicious about what questions we ask and how - but they do still seem to add up.

So we hope that next time you get a survey in your inbox, you will consider this to be **your chance to weigh in on what projects happen in our region**. This is a **practical way you can help support the work we do** (along with, of course, considering clicking on the ‘**Make A Gift**’ button on our website). More survey responses means more projects funded, and that means more resources (money for educational workshops, research on topics YOU think are important, and sometimes even new staff!) coming into our region. While we wish that we could rely on more permanent and stable sources of funding to support our research and education efforts without having to bombard you with surveys, this is the situation for the foreseeable future, across our region and across the country. Plus, these surveys can be very valuable in informing our education and research programs – helping us to keep them relevant for you.

Thanks always for your attention and time, and for working with us to get the resources we need to serve you better! If you have questions, comments, or ideas for how we can improve our survey design and delivery please write us at umass-vegetable@umext.umass.edu.

Written by S.B. Scheufele

NEWS

CISA CLIMATE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION MINI-GRANTS

CISA offers grants of up to \$3,000 on a rolling-application basis to support farms and farm-related businesses implementing or expanding practices that foster adaptation to climate change and contribute to the resilience of the local food system. Funds can be used for consultations with experts, project design and planning, grant writing, and general advice and mentorship from CISA’s technical assistance providers and other farmers.

Those interested in improving and/or implementing climate change adaptation practices and who demonstrate a commitment to building an inclusive and resilient food system are encouraged to apply now. Grants are open to Massachusetts farmers in Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin Counties.

To learn more, click [HERE](#). To apply for a loan, complete the [Climate Change Adaptation Grant Application Form](#) or contact [Stephen Taranto](#) at 413-665-7100, ext. 17.

PESTICIDE LICENSE RENEWAL TIME

Please be reminded that Massachusetts Pesticide Licenses expire each calendar year. MDAR uses the publicly accessible online system known as the EEA ePLACE Portal and no longer sends the hardcopy renewal forms via U.S. Mail. Please renew your license online using this system. You should have received an email reminder on Sunday, October 2nd asking you to renew your pesticide license. If you have not done so, please visit the EEA ePLACE Portal, log into your account, and complete your renewal. If you forgot your password or security questions or otherwise need help logging into your account, please contact the ePLACE Help Desk at (844) 733-7522. If you have questions or issues renewing your pesticide license, please send email to pestexamlicense@mass.gov. You may also leave a voice message at on the Pesticide Examination and License Hotline at (508) 281-6787.

New pesticide license applicants will need to create an EEA ePLACE Portal Account and register for their exam. Creating an account in the Portal is a simple process. Each account is specific to the individual applicant. While companies may sponsor their employees, they CANNOT create a company account on behalf of their employees. Follow the instructions in [this presentation](#) to register. Please visit MDAR's [Examination and Licensing website](#) to find helpful step-by-step guides and information for all your pesticide examination and licensing needs.

EEA ePLACE Portal - <https://eplace.eea.mass.gov>

UMASS EXTENSION 2023 GARDEN CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Each month features an inspiring garden image, daily gardening tips for Northeast growing conditions, sunrise and sunset times, phases of the moon, and room for notes. Cost: \$14.50, with special pricing available on order of 10 copies or more. For best chance of delivery by Christmas, order by December 14!

[Click here for images in the calendar, details, and ordering info.](#)

FOOD SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (FSIG) PROGRAM EXPERIENCE SURVEY

The Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture is conducting an online survey in order to increase their understanding of the impact of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) and identify areas for program improvement.

Since the program's inception, the Legislature has appropriated \$100,570,000 in funds for its operation. Throughout two application rounds since June 2020, the FSIG program has awarded over \$62 million to over 500 applicants from nearly every municipality in the Commonwealth. Your responses will help us assess the program.

All information collected will be confidential and individual answers will not be linked with any name in any reports. Participation is voluntary. If there's a question you would rather not answer, please skip it and move on to the next question.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#) -- This survey will close end of day Friday, December 16, 2022.

Questions:

Shannon Emmett, Research Director, Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture
State House Room 473F | Boston, MA 02133

shannon.emmett@mahouse.gov (O): 617-722-2210

FREE SOILBORNE DISEASE TESTING FOR HIGH TUNNEL VEGETABLE GROWERS

If you grow high tunnel veggies and have been experiencing disease issues or are wondering if there are soilborne pathogens present, here's an opportunity to find out for free! Samples are wanted for a multi-state USDA funded project on soilborne diseases occurring in high tunnel vegetable crops. Samples accepted through February 2023. [Click here for instructions.](#)

Questions? Contact Anna Testen (Plant Pathologist, USDA ARS) at Anna.Testen@usda.gov or 330-641-2862.

SEEKING COMMERCIAL FARMERS TO TRIAL ADVANCED KIWIBERRY SELECTIONS

The University of New Hampshire Kiwiberry Research and Breeding Program is now 10 years old, and we have nearly 20 advanced breeding lines ready for multi-locational testing. We're looking for 25 farmers across the northeast who are interested in participating in a grant-funded project that will support participatory evaluation of these potential new varieties, starting Spring 2023. If you are a current or aspiring kiwiberry producer, have an interest in new varieties, wish to receive more technical training, and have room for at least 12 vines, please complete this short questionnaire*.

To be eligible to participate, you must be a commercial producer, either with kiwiberries currently as one of your enterprises or as an enterprise you are interested in integrating into your system. Specific experience with kiwiberries is not required, as one of the goals of the program is to train farmers in their production. Participating growers will be compensated for their time.

If you would like to learn more about kiwiberry, a production guide developed by our program is available online at: <http://www.noreastkiwiberries.com/>

* Questionnaire link: https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aSbLzVNjJ1R3Se

EVENTS

[NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE 2022](#) - REGISTRATION OPEN!

When: December 13, 14 & 15, 2022

Where: DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire

The New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Steering Committee is excited to announce that the conference will return **in person** this December! The NEVF Conference includes more than 25 educational sessions over three days, covering major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops as well as various special topics. A Farmer to Farmer meeting after each morning and afternoon session will bring speakers and farmers together for informal, in-depth discussion on certain issues.

For more information on session, accommodations, and registration: <https://newenglandvfc.org/>

UPCOMING NEVBGA GROWER MEETINGS

The New England Vegetable & Berry Growers' Association (NEVBGA) is the oldest vegetable growers' association in the United States. Through educational programs, industry promotion and advocacy, and networking opportunities, and the funding of Extension research, the NEVBGA supports and promotes the vegetable and berry industry in New England. The NEVBGA and New England state Cooperative Extensions have a long history of presenting educational programs together, including the New England Fruit & Vegetable Conference.

Non-members are welcome to attend NEVBGA grower meetings and are invited to [join the Association](#) as members.

- NEVBGA & COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 604TH GROWERS' MEETING

When: Friday, January 6, 2023, 9am - 3:15pm

Where: Blue Bonnet Diner, Northampton MA

Registration: There is a \$20 registration fee, which is waived for members of NEV&BGA. Lunch buffet is an additional \$25. *To register, please RSVP to 978-423-6694 or secretary@nevbga.org by January 3rd*

The New England Vegetable and Berry Growers' Association and New England Cooperative Extension present this all-day meeting. Talks include:

- **18 Years of Sweet Corn IPM-** *George Hamilton, Extension Educator Emeritus from UNH Cooperative Extension*
- **Strawberry Diseases-** *Dr. Angie Madeiras, diagnostician for floriculture, vegetable crops, and turf, in the UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab*

- **Cucurbit Weed Control** – *Chuck Bornt, Team Leader and Extension Vegetable Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Rensselaer County*
- **Focus on Berry Crops – An Overview of Pest of Significance** – *Laura McDermott, Team Leader and Small Fruit Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension for Washington County*
- **Food Safety: Cleaners, Disinfectants, and Sanitizers-** *Lisa McKeag, UMass Vegetable Team*
- **Free-living nematodes in New England Agroecosystems-** *Alexa Smychkovich, graduate student in Plant, Soil, & Insect Science in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture*

More info and schedule available [HERE](#). 4.5 Pesticide recertification credits have been approved for this meeting.

- SAVE THE DATE! NEVBGA & COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 605TH GROWERS' MEETING

When: Saturday, February 25, 2023

Where: Wilson Farm, 10 Pleasant St., Lexington, MA 02421

More info coming soon!

LEARN ABOUT SIGNIFICANT H-2A PROGRAM REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2023 (PENN STATE EXTENSION)

When: Tuesday, December 13, 12:00pm-1:15pm EST

Where: Online (zoom)

Registration: This event is being offered at no charge to participants. Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinar. Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recording. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

On October 6, 2022, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced a final rule to amend the H-2A non-immigrant agricultural worker program visa regulations. Every agricultural employer using or wishing to use H-2A workers needs to become aware of the program changes because they will impact planning for the 2023 growing season.

Whether you are new to the process or you have used H-2A workers in the past, Significant H-2A Program Regulation Changes for 2023 will identify key changes to the program for the coming year.

Who is this for?

- Farming Operations H-2A program users
- Stakeholders
- Members of the public

What will you learn?

- New electronic filing, notices, and signature process
- The latest on minimum wage rates
- Housing standards and new documentation
- Multiple-employer “joint” employment

LANGUAGE JUSTICE: A WEBINAR ON THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE, JUSTICE, AND AGRICULTURE OFFERING PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR CROSS-LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION

When: Wednesday, December 14, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Eastern

Where: Virtual (zoom)

Registration: Free and open to the public; registration required. For more info, and to register, click [HERE](#).

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center is partnering with the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy to host a webinar on language justice basics. At the core of language justice is the understanding that language is never neutral. The ways in which we communicate, the languages we communicate in, who is heard, and who is not heard are all questions influenced by different histories, contexts, and relations to power. More than 75% of farm-

workers in the U.S. identify as Hispanic and 77% of them report Spanish as the language they feel most comfortable using. Language justice seeks to honor all languages and increase the presence of multilingual educational spaces in the food system.

In this workshop, participants will learn about language access and language justice, why it is relevant to agriculture, and what are some tools and approaches to consider when planning a multilingual event. Participants will also hear from an agricultural services colleague who will share his experience and learnings transitioning from offering monolingual English programming to multilingual English-Spanish programming.

NOFA/MASS WINTER CONFERENCE - REGISTER NOW!

When: January 14 & 15, 2023

Where: Hybrid - Worcester State University (WSU) and online

Registration: Learn more and register [HERE](#)

Join your peers in the organic, regenerative, sustainable living movement at the NOFA/Mass Winter Conference this January. This year, the NOFA/Mass Winter Conference will be held in person at Worcester State University (WSU) in **Worcester, MA and online on Saturday**, January 14 and **online only on Sunday**, January 15. *Find more info about speakers and agenda [HERE](#).*

2022-2023 UPDATE ON HONEY BEE HEALTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Join MDAR's Crop and Pest Services (CPS) Division, Apiary and Forest Pest Education and Outreach Team, to get an update on honey bee health in the Commonwealth. Each event will include 1-2 presentations consisting of 90 minutes of content and 30 minutes of Q&A for attendees. Presentations will cover information and data focused on regulations, honey bee health, beekeeping practices and invasive pests. Events will be held virtually via Zoom on Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm and are free and open to the public.

- December 6, 2022 - State of the State: Annual Review of the Apiary Program Activities and Inspection Data
- December 13, 2022 - Dive Into Disease: Summary of the Molecular Analysis of Bee Samples
- March 7, 2023 - MA Beekeeping Laws and Regulations – Including the NEW Regulations, and Spring Into Beekeeping
- March 14, 2023 - Massachusetts Bee Aware Annual Honey Bee Health Survey, and USDA-APHIS Annual Honey Bee Health Survey
- March 21, 2023 - Spotted Lanternfly, and Northern Giant Hornet (formerly know as Asian Giant Hornet)

Pre-Register for the [Zoom Webinar](#) and a link will be automatically sent for the presentations.

THREE AG BUSINESS TRAINING COURSES FROM MDAR

Applications for Growing Your Farm Business and Exploring the Small Farm Dream will be accepted until December 8, or until each course is full. Applications for Farm Succession School will be accepted until January 6, or until the course is filled. *Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with course session locations selected based on interest from those on the waitlist. If you are interested, but unable to attend the current session, please consider submitting an application in order to be placed on the waitlist for an upcoming session.

- FARM SUCCESSION SCHOOL

When: Thursdays January 26, March 2, and March 30, 2023 - 9:30am – 3:30pm

Where: Fiske Public Library, Wrentham

MDAR is hosting Land For Good's Farm Succession School for Massachusetts farmers again this winter! This is an opportunity for senior generation farmers to talk with peers, learn from advisors, and get support on the challenging process of farm succession and transfer planning.

- *Are you unsure who will take over your farm?*

- *Feel like your family needs to start talking, but you don't know where to start?*
- *Have questions about retiring that you don't know how to answer?*
- *Can the farm support two generations?*

Succession planning is a process of exploring how to transfer the farm business and assets to a future owner. Succession School provides farmers and farming partners with the structured and sustained support to make decisions, engage their families, and organize the legal and financial mechanics. In-person three-session program in Wrentham between 9:30am – 3:30pm on the following Thursdays 1/26; 3/2; and 3/30 (snow dates on each Friday of the same weeks). The fee, subsidized by MDAR, is \$100 per farm.

If interested, please sign up for the course on Land For Good's [registration page](#). Registrations will be accepted until January 6th or until course is filled. For more information, see Land For Good's [events and trainings webpage](#). Contact Shemariah at Land For Good shemariah@landforgood.org or 603-357-1600 with any questions.

- GROWING YOUR FARM BUSINESS PLANNING COURSE

When: January 17th – March 14th, 2023 - Tuesday evenings 5:30 – 8:30pm

Where: MDAR office in Southborough, MA

A hands-on course to help established farmers develop a business plan and financial projections for their farm business. This course covers topics including resource assessment, marketing strategy, financial management, risk management, quality of life, and goal setting. The course is taught by a professional business planner with years of experience working with Massachusetts farms and guest speakers on topics such as succession planning and online marketing. Enrollment is open to farmers who have been operating a farm business in Massachusetts for at least the two prior years. Eight weekly classes will be held in person in Southborough on Tuesday evenings starting January 17th and ending March 14th, (no class February 21st). The course fee, subsidized by MDAR, is \$150 per farm. The Growing Your Farm business planning course has been approved as a certified USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower training for financial management.

If interested, please complete the brief Growing Your Farm [application](#) and email it to Diego.Irizarry-Gerould@mass.gov, or mail a hard copy to: MDAR, Attn: Diego Irizarry-Gerould, 138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089. For more information, see [ABTP program webpage](#) or contact Diego Irizarry-Gerould at 857-248-1671.

- EXPLORING THE SMALL FARM DREAM COURSE

When: January 12 – February 9, 2023 - Thursday evenings 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: MDAR office in Southborough, MA

This [5-session course](#) provides guidance to aspiring farmers through the decision-making process of whether to start a farm business. Participants will learn about the many aspects of starting a farm business, assess their own skills and knowledge, and get help finding resources for support, including marketing, financing, and regulations. The course utilizes the Exploring the Small Farm Dream curriculum and workbook developed by the New England Small Farm Institute. Through four guided group sessions and a farmer panel session, participants will analyze the feasibility of their small farm dream and clarify their vision together with other class participants. This course is sponsored and financially supported by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and is intended for new agricultural entrepreneurs planning to start their farm business in Massachusetts. The course fee is \$100 for up to two participants per enterprise, as space allows.

If interested, please complete the brief application found here: [Exploring the Small Farm Dream](#) and email it to Jessica.Camp@mass.gov, or mail a hard copy to: MDAR, Attn: Jessica Camp, 138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089. For more information, see [ABTP program webpage](#) or contact Jess Camp at 617-823-0871.

When: Wednesdays from 9:00am-11:45pm: January 25, February 8 and February 22

Where: Online

Registration: Free! Please register in advance for each workshop. To register and find more information about individual sessions and pesticide credits, click [HERE](#).

Join UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program and UMass Extension's Fruit Program presents for this series of FREE webinars focusing on the impact, monitoring, and management of invasive insects in Massachusetts and the nation! Topics to include spotted lanternfly updates, management, and entomopathogens; forest pest risk re. climate change; the beech leaf disease nematode; and invasive forest insects. Please note: while participants from anywhere are invited to attend, much of the material presented will be specific to Massachusetts and New England.

AG DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE SET FOR APRIL 12, 2023!

Agriculture Day at the State House will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 10AM to 2PM. MDAR is excited to have the opportunity for farmers and growers to return to Beacon Hill to meet with lawmakers to promote and discuss all the issues impacting the agricultural industry in Massachusetts. Thanks to those who have already replied expressing interest in serving on the planning committee. If you would like to be involved in the planning of Ag Day, please email Phu Mai at Phu.Mai@mass.gov with your contact information and agricultural affiliation. MDAR hopes to convene a meeting of the committee sometime this month before Thanksgiving. As one of the marquee days of the year at the State House, MDAR is looking forward to working with stakeholder groups to make Ag Day 2023 one to remember!

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Vegetable Notes. Genevieve Higgins, Lisa McKeag, Susan Scheufele, Hannah Whitehead, Maggie Ng co-editors. All photos in this publication are credited to the UMass Extension Vegetable Program unless otherwise noted.

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