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Extension

# Vegetable Notes

For Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts since 1975



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## CROP CONDITIONS

As we move into fall, we are switching to a reduced Veg Notes schedule—we'll publish two full issues this month and then one full issue per month from October through April, with occasional Pest Alerts or News & Events emails as needed. We don't have any specific Pest Alerts this week, as there are few new insects or diseases appearing at this point in the season, but unfortunately there's no shortage of diseased and devastated plants out in the field. July was the wettest year on record in Massachusetts, and most locations received another 3-6 inches of rain so far this August and another 2-4 inches just last night from remnants of Hurricane Ida. Fields are flooded or excessively wet now, diseases are rampant in brassica and tomato fields, and we are seeing a lot of weedy fields where growers haven't been able to cultivate or herbicides have been washed away. We've heard from several growers who are abandoning crops that require a lot of labor to harvest or grade, either because disease pressure is too high to harvest a marketable crop or because they simply don't have the employees available. On farms with enough labor, some fall crops are being harvested early to avoid having them rot in the field later on. Some pumpkins that were planted in May are ready to be harvested now, but later-planted crops are still behind schedule. But the farmers persist and folks are seeding fall greens, harvesting potatoes and early squash, digging carrots and beets, and pulling some early leeks. Around the corner will be sweet potato harvest. Some tunnel crops are coming down, a bit early due to diseases, and folks are getting ready to turn them over to winter greens. For those who missed our winter spinach workshop yesterday, there was some good discussion about varieties to plant, spacing, methods for planting and harvesting, and more—the recording will be posted on [our Youtube channel](#), along with all our other online workshops, be sure to check them out!



*One of our trials at the UMass Research Farm this year is looking at organic and bio-fungicide efficacy for Cercospora leaf spot in Swiss chard. Keep an eye out for trial results this winter!*

We are nearing the end of sweet corn season—all except for the very latest plantings are silking now and growers are getting on their last few rounds of spraying. [Corn earworm](#) trap counts were high this week, putting almost all locations on a 4-day spray schedule. With the colder weather this week, we might see

CEW numbers start to drop soon. [Fall armyworm](#) counts were also high, so if you have pre-silking corn that is not being protected by corn earworm sprays, scout and treat if more than 15% of ears are infested. We'll be collecting and publishing trap counts for another few weeks—see counts for this week on the next page.

## NEWS

### SWEET CORN GROWERS: SURVEY TO IMPACT CORN EARWORM MANAGEMENT RESEARCH IN THE NORTHEAST

Dr. Kelly Hamby, Associate Professor/Extension Specialist with the Department of Entomology at University of Maryland, is leading a team of researchers who have developed a survey to prioritize research and extension efforts for improving corn earworm management in sweet corn throughout the Northeast. We appreciate your participation in this survey and will use results to develop a grant proposal to try to get federal funding to address these needs.

Survey link: [https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9vRh1xHnDp4KEaa](https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9vRh1xHnDp4KEaa)

## 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](mailto:umassveg@umass.edu)

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

Location	GDD (base 50°F)	ECB NY	ECB IA	FAW	CEW	CEW Spray Interval
<b>Western MA</b>						
Deerfield	2383	0	0	100	78.5	4 days
Southwick	2315	0	0	3	21	4 days
Whately	2466	0	0	11	23	4 days
<b>Central MA</b>						
Leominster	2295	0	0	11	42	4 days
Northbridge	2172	1	0	4	47	4 days
Spencer	2263	0	0	9	11	4 days
<b>Eastern MA</b>						
Ipswich	2250	2	0	56	45	4 days
Concord	2294	0	0	12	29	4 days
Millis	-	4	3	N/A	6	5 days
North Easton	2420	1	0	N/A	15	4 days
Sharon		0	0	N/A	1	no spray
Seekonk	2622	1	0	13	45	4 days
- no numbers reported for this trap						
N/A this site does not trap for this pest						
*GDDs are reported from the nearest weather station to the trapping site						

Location	SVB
North Easton	0
Westhampton	1
Whately	0
Leominster	0

## IMPORTANT UPDATES TO PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR VEGETABLE & FRUIT PRODUCERS

USDA made two important announcements on August 24, 2021 for assistance to “sales commodity” producers. “Sales commodities” include fruits, vegetables, maple sap, honey, Christmas trees and tobacco.

Originally under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), payments were based upon 2019 calendar year sales of eligible “sales commodity” crops. USDA announced an amendment to the CFAP 2 payment calculation for “sales commodities” to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Producers are encouraged to take a look at their 2018 sales and to contact their [USDA FSA Office](#) to modify their CFAP 2 application if using the 2018 sales would result in a higher payment. Similarly if a producer hasn’t filed a CFAP 2 application for sales commodities, those producers now have the option of using either 2018 or 2019 sales.

USDA also announced the final deadline for filing a new or modified CFAP 2 application with the USDA-FSA as **October 12, 2021**.

Producers are encouraged to contact the FSA Office that serves their farming operation with questions they have along with procedures to file a new or modified application and related paperwork. Producers should call their FSA Office before visiting the FSA Office since FSA may have restrictions in place for in-person office visits. Sales records are not required at the time of signup but producers will have to provide evidence of total sales if the application is selected for a later spot-check. As of August 22, 2021, 1,260 approved CFAP 2 “Sales Commodities” applicants in Massachusetts have received \$27,698,404 in payments. Don’t miss out on this opportunity!

Detailed information also can be found at: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/cfap2>

## EPA ISSUES FINAL RULE REVOKING ALL CHLORPYRIFOS TOLERANCES FOR FOOD CROPS

In response to an April 2021 Ninth Circuit Court decision, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this month that it has revoked all tolerances for chlorpyrifos on food crops. “Tolerances” establish the amount of a pesticide that is allowed on food. With this revocation, chlorpyrifos applications to food will result in the food being considered adulterated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and unlawful to distribute. A revised human health risk assessment conducted in 2020 determined that risk of exposure to the chemical in drinking water exceeded safe levels when combined with food and residential exposures from all currently registered users. The chemical was widely used for many years under the trade name Lorsban, though Corteva, the company that produced Lorsban, announced in 2020 that it would stop production this year. Some states, including California and New York had already banned the pesticide. Chlorpyrifos remains available under other trade names and is still allowed for use by the EPA on some non-food crops.

### **WE’D STILL LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!**

#### **Let us know how you use the New England Vegetable Management Guide**

Do you use the New England Vegetable Management Guide as a resource? If so, we want to hear from you!

The authors of the New England Vegetable Management Guide want to learn more about how the guide is used, so that we can make it as useful as possible. While we are revising the guide, we have designed a short survey to better understand what YOU value in the guide. Please consider taking 5 minutes to provide your feedback and suggestions.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

## USDA TO INVEST \$50 MILLION IN NEW COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities for two year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers.

[Click here to see the full USDA press release.](#)

[For more details and information on how to apply, click here.](#)

## GUIDANCE FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED FOOD CROPS

With the excessive amount of rain we’ve received recently, there are many farms that have experienced flooding, particularly in the western end of the state. If your farm is susceptible to flooding, please read the FDA’s **Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption**, found [here](#).

Per the guidance: “If the edible portion of a crop is exposed to flood waters, it is considered adulterated under section 402(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 342(a)(4)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and should not enter human food channels. There is no practical method of reconditioning the edible portion of a crop that will provide a reasonable assurance of human food safety. Therefore, the FDA recommends that these crops be disposed of in a manner that ensures they are kept separate from crops that have not been flood damaged to avoid adulterating “clean” crops (Ref. 1, 2, 3).”

The guidance also addresses potential microbial, chemical and fungal contamination, the safety of food crops when flood waters did NOT contact the edible portion of the crop, as well as flooding vs. pooled water.

Please contact MDAR’s Produce Safety Division if you have any questions regarding the safety of your crops: Kate Bailey, Produce Safety Inspector, Phone: 857-315-7478, [Kate.Bailey@Mass.Gov](mailto:Kate.Bailey@Mass.Gov)

## **SNAP PROCESSING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS AND FARMERS MARKETS: APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 24**

Free mobile SNAP processing equipment from Novo Dia Group is now available to direct-marketing farms and farmers' markets through the Department of Transitional Assistance, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Resources, and with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Eligibility is limited to SNAP-authorized farms and markets that do not currently have working equipment received through previous federal grants. Equipment will not process credit/debit. For complete program details and a link to the application, go [here](#).

Are you looking for SNAP processing equipment but not eligible for this program? Learn about other options, [here](#).

**Questions?** Contact David Webber, 617-626-1754 or [David.Webber@mass.gov](mailto:David.Webber@mass.gov) or [DTA.HIP@mass.gov](mailto:DTA.HIP@mass.gov).

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## **USDA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO HELP COVER COSTS FOR ORGANIC CERTIFICATION**

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency.

## **EVENTS**

### **UVM EXTENSION AG ENGINEERING: VIRTUAL SCRUB TWILIGHT MEETINGS**

The UVM Extension Ag Engineering Program is holding a series of virtual twilight meetings on a range of postharvest efficiencies and best practices. See the series page, [here](#), for details about each session and registration links.

**When:** Wednesdays, September 1 - October 6, 6:30-8pm

**Where:** online

**Registration:** <https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/scrub-events/>

#### **Session Dates and Topics:**

- September 1: Bin Blitz
- September 8: Doing more with less (Low cost, high value)
- September 15: Wash/Pack Floors
- September 22: Wash Water Management
- September 29: Tools for Employee Management and Empowerment
- October 6: Bubblers/Aerators for Greens Washing

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