

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND

DECEMBER 21, 2012

Compiled for UMass Vegetable Notes subscribers.

TRI-STATE GREENHOUSE IPM WORKSHOPS

January 8, Manchester, ME; January 9, Durham, NH; January 10, Burlington, VT
Presented by Universities of Vermont, NH, and Maine

[Program and Registration.](#)

2013 will be our 16th year holding our annual Tri-State Greenhouse IPM Workshops in ME, NH and VT. From the written comments and personal conversations in the post-workshop evaluations, it is clear that these workshops are directly responsible for reducing grower reliance on chemical pesticides and increasing their use of IPM, especially biological controls and biorational compounds for pest management. These evaluations and the number of returning growers year after year show that we are having an impact on their practices that are good for the environment, human health and their businesses. This success would not be possible without our Tri-state collaboration involving growers, state Departments of Agriculture and Extension systems and exciting guest speakers that join us. Each year we include a variety of hands on and lecture style topics such as greenhouse scouting methods, proper sanitation and cultural management, nutrient deficiencies, diseases, pest and biological control identification, current research results in greenhouse IPM related topics, and beyond.

If you are interested in attending or being a presenter at this workshop, please contact Margaret Skinner at mskinner@uvm.edu

VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS JANUARY MEETING

FRIDAY, January 11, 2013

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 1 Atwood Drive, I-91 Exit 18, Northampton, MA 01060
Presented by New England Vegetable and Berry Growers' Association and New England Cooperative Extension

[Program and Registration.](#)

NOTE: This is the second Friday in January

We wish to thank the Risk Management Agency for helping to support this meeting.

9:30 Registration: There is a \$10.00 Registration Fee. This fee is waived for members of NEV&BGA.

PROGRAM

- 10:00 Disease Update: Phytophthora, Downy Mildew, Late Blight. M. Bess Dicklow, UMass Extension.
- 10:40 Fertility Recommendations from the UMass Soil Test Lab and a Discussion About Phosphorous Use. John Spargo, UMass Extension Soil Fertility Specialist
- 11:10 Strategies for Managing Risk. Thomas Smiarowski and Paul Russell, UMass Extension Risk Management Program
- 11:30 Nutrient Release From Decomposing Soil Organic Matter. John Spargo, UMass Extension

NOON Lunch buffet. \$22.00. To order lunch contact the Secretary by January 4, 2013. Use the enclosed card or call (413)665-3501 or email: howell@umext.umass.edu. If you order lunch and cannot attend, please call to cancel. We will have to bill you for unpaid meals.

- 1:00 NEV&BGA Announcements
- 1:10 Air-Blast Sprayer Calibration. George Hamilton, UNH Cooperative Extension.
- 2:10 Weather Stations: Range of Options and Disease Models. Jon Clements, UMass Extension
- 3:00 Adjourn

NOTE: There will be three hours of pesticide recertification credit for this meeting.

Next Meeting: SATURDAY, February 2, 2013 All day vegetable and berry grower's meeting and the Elks Lodge, Concord, MA. Information to follow

DIRECTIONS TO CLARION HOTEL: From the South on I-91, take Exit 18, turn right at the light at the end of the ramp and turn right onto Atwood Drive and into the parking lot for the Clarion. From the North on I-81, take Exit 18, turn right at the end of the ramp, go through the light and then turn right onto Atwood Drive and into the Clarion parking lot.

NOFA/MASS WINTER CONFERENCE

Saturday January 12, 2013

Presented by Natural Organic Farmers Association/Massachusetts

Worcester State University, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01602

[For more information](#)

Karen Washington will address the conference as a whole in her keynote speech, Hands across the Fields: Bridging the rural/ urban connections. What role do we each play in working towards a sustainable food system? Karen will also offer an all-day seminar on School Gardens 101, Feeducation: Bringing Agriculture Back in the Classroom. Sessions will run concurrently with other workshops; attendees must participate in all 3 sessions. [More on seminar.](#)
[Registration](#)

Schedule

7:30 – 9am Registration (coffee, tea and snacks): Student Center

9am – 5pm Children’s Program (during workshops & keynote)
9 – 10:30am Seminar 1/Workshop Session 1: Sullivan
11 – 12:15pm Keynote Address and NOFA/Mass Annual Meeting: Sullivan
11:30 – 1:30pm Lunch: Ballroom
1:30 – 3pm Seminar 2/Workshop Session 2: Sullivan
3 – 3:30pm Teacup Raffle Drawing: Student Center
3:30 – 5pm Seminar 3/Workshop Session 3: Sullivan
5:30pm Exhibits Close: Student Center

Contact:

Coordinator: Cathleen O’Keefe (413) 387-2316 wc@nofamass.org
Exhibits/Sponsorships: Bob Minnocci (617) 236-4893 bob@nofamass.org
Registration: Christine Rainville (413) 362-2143 wcregistration@nofamass.org
Workshops: Wendy Mainardi (973) 224-4321 wendy@nofamass.org

CONNECTICUT VEGETABLE & SMALL FRUIT GROWER’S CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Tolland County Extension Center, 24 Hyde Avenue (Route 30), Vernon, CT, 06066

Sponsored by: University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System & USDA
UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

[For more information](#)

8:00—9:00 Registration \$30 at the door—Trade Show/Lunch/Coffee/Donuts (included in registration)

PROGRAM: Morning Moderator—Mary Concklin, UConn CES

9:00 *Welcome*—Mike O’Neill, Associate Dean of Extension, UConn CANR

9:05 Effects of Fungicide Timing and Tillage on Resistant Pumpkins—Jude Boucher, UConn

9:30 Management of Basil Downy Mildew for Organic Growers—Joan Allen, UConn

10:00 Effects of Plant Density and Tillage on ‘Montauk’ Sweet Corn—Rob Durgy, CAES and Jude Boucher

10:30—10:45 Break (Trade Show/Coffee and Donuts)

10:45 Lessons Learned: First-Year CSA, ***Volunteer grower presentation**,
Michele Collins, Fair Weather Acres, Rocky Hill, CT

11:15 Spotted Wing Drosophila Update—Mary Concklin, UConn

11:45 The GAP Audit: Explained—Mark Zotti, CT DOA & Diane Hirsch, UConn

12:15—1:15 Lunch Break/Trade Show (**Lunch included in registration fee as a 4-H club benefit**)

Afternoon Moderator—Donna Ellis, UConn Plant Science

1:15 Selection Criteria and Modification of Backpack Sprayers for Small-Scale Farmers—
John Grande, Rutgers University

2:00 Low-Cost Hydroponic System for Vegetables and Herbs ***Volunteer grower presentation**,
Bruce Gresczyk, Jr., Gresczyk Farms, New Hartford, CT

2:30 Using Multiple Cover Crop Strategies to Improve Soil Health and Reduce Weed Pressure—
Eero Ruuttila, ***Mentor Grower**/UConn

3:00 Re-certification Credits: 3.75 hours

Directions: Take Exit 67 off I-84. Take Route 31 north to junction of Route 30 at first traffic light. Turn right on to Route 30. Tolland County Ag Center is on right just after Rockville Savings Bank. Contact: Jude Boucher 860-875-3331.

The University of Connecticut is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Please call three weeks prior to this event if special accommodations are needed.

Trade Show Exhibitors

Farm Credit East

OESCO INC.

Applied Agricultural Technology

Johnny's Selected Seeds Globe Bag Company Harris Seeds

Brookdale Farm Irrigation Supplies

Seedway

Arthur Carol Insurance Co. Specialty Ag Products Stanton Equipment

USDA Risk Management Agency

Bloat Nematode on Garlic, CAES

2013 MID-ATLANTIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONVENTION

January 29 to 31, 2013

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA

[For more information: program, registration and lodging](#)

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention combines three days of six or more concurrent educational sessions with a large industry trade show and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. About 2,200 persons from throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond gather each year at the Hershey Lodge and Convention

Center for the Convention. Registration is open to all interested commercial fruit, vegetable and berry growers, direct marketers and allied industry personnel.

WINTER FLOWER GROWERS MEETING

Wed. January 30, 2013, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Volante Farm, 292 Forest St., Needham, MA

Sponsored by Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association and University of Massachusetts Extension Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture Program

[For more information see UMass Floriculture Program website](#)

Event date/time: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 -

CISA WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

CISA will hold a seven-workshop series entitled Financial Management and Business Decision Making starting in January 2013. The series will help farmers learn to use financial management tools to support business decision making and implement these skills to evaluate new market opportunities and major investment decisions. To be eligible for the one-on-one support you must attend a minimum of three workshops including the first session plus one of the working group sessions. Dinner will be served in each session.

Cost to attend the series is \$60 for Local Hero Members, or \$12 per workshop. The non-member fee is \$75 for the series or \$15 per workshop. See the flyer for details. A registration form can be found [here](#).

[For more information](#)

URBAN FARMING CONFERENCE - "CULTIVATING LANDS, NOURISHING COMMUNITIES, BUILDING BUSINESSES

Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Roxbury Community College Reggie Lewis Center, Boston, MA

Presented by City Growers, Urban Farming Institute and MA Dept of Agricultural Resources.

[For more information](#)

The annual Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference (UFC) is designed to advance the opportunities and address the barriers involved in cultivating a thriving urban farming sector. The UFC is a forum to share information regarding what is currently happening in Boston and other local urban communities and to map out a vision for urban farming in Massachusetts.

The UFC brings together participants representing all aspects of urban farming including, but not limited to, farmers (including roof top, chicken, bees, etc.), commercial buyers, policy makers, and investors. The UFC conference is being convened to foster best urban farming practices, sustainable networks and business relationships. This will be achieved with following interactive panels and roundtable discussions:

- Open Field Farming and Season Extension Techniques
- Organic Farming and Its Importance
- Lessons from Successful CSA Strategies
- Composting: Policy, Practice and Viable Business Enterprise
- Roof Top Techniques
- Food System Investors Meeting
- Urban Farming Thought Leaders: A Panel Discussion
- Land: Strategy, Community Control, Zoning and Policy
- Viable Enterprises Other Than Fruits and Vegetables
- Investing in Workforce Training
- Marketing Options

Registration \$25. Register here. Limited Seating. Register Early. Limited Scholarships are available. For Inquiries and Sponsorship Details, Please Contact: Crystal Johnson at Crystal@isesplanning.com, 617-416-4915.

2013 HARVEST NEW ENGLAND AG MARKETING CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

'Making "Cents" in Today's Marketplace'

Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 February 27-28

Presented by Harvest New England

[Early Registration is Now Open!](#) Join hundreds of farmers on February 27 and 28 from across the region at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center for New England's largest agricultural marketing conference. Twenty-six workshops, covering agri-tourism, strategic

marketing, using social media, financial planning, value added processing, and lots more, will provide growers with tools to increase their sales in today's competitive marketplace.

Keynote speakers include Roberta MacDonald, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Cabot Creamery who will share some marketing tips and ways to grow customers when you have little time and money. Retail marketing expert Bob Burke will speak on "The Dynamics of Food Trends in the Northeast." A general session will feature a facilitated discussion with the agricultural chiefs/commissioners from New England. [See complete program.](#)

The conference will also include a New England Farmers' Market Managers workshop on Wednesday, February 27.

Participants can meet with dozens of agricultural service providers in conjunction with the conference. Attendees will have full access to the trade show. Trade show hours are 3:15 pm to 7:00 pm on February 27, allowing nearly 4 hours to walk the show. A reception will also be held in the trade show hall during this time. On February 28, the trade show will be open from 7:30 am – 3:15 pm.

A wide range of companies will exhibit, including representatives of farm equipment, fertilizer, seed, insurance, packaging, federal, state and non-profit agencies, specialty food companies, co-packers and more. A complete list of exhibitors to date can be found on the conference website. For complete conference details and to register, click here or go to www.harvestnewengland.org.

A full early conference registration includes all general and breakout sessions, 2 lunches, the trade show and reception – all for \$90! Additional representatives from the same farm pay only \$75! The Harvest New England Ag Marketing Conference and Trade Show is a program sponsored by the six New England Departments of Agriculture.

*COMPILED FOR UMASS VEGETABLE NOTES BY R. HAZZARD
DECEMBER 21, 2012*