



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
UConn Extension

Year End Epistle - 2022

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Tis two days before Christmas and I am writing my final year end epistle,
When all over the farm the wind is whipping, and the rain is beneficial.

The stockings are hung above the fireplace with care and the Christmas tree is aglow
While Princess Jazmine and Peanut (yellow labs) hunt for mice and hope for snow.

The wood stove is roaring, and the log carts are full
to get through the frigid weather while thinking of the pool. Oh heck, a poet I am not.

Looking back on the growing season that was recently completed, or maybe not, my wishes for 2023 are similar to previous years. Rain but not too much (1-2 inches/week) – no more drought followed by monsoon followed by drought...

A terrific fruit set in all our crops and growing conditions for optimum quality and size. A warm sunny summer with day-time temperatures in the 80s with low to moderate humidity. Last summer's high temperatures combined with the humidity made it rough. Followed by a cool sunny fall with intermittent rain in the evenings. And throughout the entire year, plenty of friendly, helpful, trustworthy, and hard-working employees taking care of customers with numbers reminiscent of 2020 levels.

With visions of retirement (yes, it's true, really) dancing in my head of more time for family, time to play, and to master my farming skills – a lifelong learning process. While I will be teaching on campus one last time this spring, my successor will be taking over my extension role in February. Please welcome him – yes, this is the end of the feminine touch – as he gets his feet on the ground and makes his way around to meet you. (Once I know who he is I will do an e-introduction)

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a belated Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and Happy New Year. Here is to a wonderful 2023! And finally, **THANK YOU** for being so wonderful to work with during my time at UConn – I had a blast!!!

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