
What to be on the lookout for:

Allium Leafminer

The Allium Leafminer (ALM) is an invasive pest, targeting allium crops like leeks, onions, garlic, and scallions. It has two generations per year, active in spring and fall, with the fall being more damaging. Adult flies emerge from the summer pupa beginning in early to mid-September through the end of October. ALM causes economic damage primarily in leeks and scallions by feeding on leaves and potentially introducing bacterial rot. Proper timing for control is critical during egg-laying periods.

Row covers are the most effective control, while conventional insecticides like Exirel and Radiant offer strong protection. For organic management of this pest, spinosad-based products like Entrust are effective. Neem-based insecticides (Azadirachtin) and pyrethrin-based sprays (e.g., PyGanic) offer some control but require more frequent applications.

Monitor the presence of adult flies using sticky traps or observe for feeding damage. Begin sprays when adult flies are active to target them before they lay eggs.

Reapply according to the product's label instructions to maintain protection during peak activity.



Oviposition marks from Allium leafminer on chives

For detailed management strategies, visit [Cornell's ALM factsheet](#).

Weeds going to seed - act now to prevent long-term issues!

It can be tempting to avoid spending extra hours in fields with poor crops or where you have finished harvesting. However, preventing weeds from reaching seed maturation is crucial for long-term success. Weeds like pigweed, lambsquarters, and ragweed produce large quantities of seeds that can remain viable in the soil for many years. Allowing these weeds to mature and shed seeds can lead to significant problems in the future, as the seeds contribute to the weed seed bank in the soil. Taking the time now to mow down or remove these weeds before they seed will save you considerable hours and effort in the coming years. Investing in weed control today is a proactive step toward more manageable and productive fields in the future.

Return any Dacthal you may have

The herbicide Dacthal has recently had its registration canceled due to health concerns and must not be used. AMVAC, the manufacturer, is accepting any remaining supplies for proper disposal. If you have Dacthal, contact your pesticide dealer as they will soon begin accepting grower stocks for return to the manufacturer.

Contact:

[American Vanguard Corporation](#)

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Do you need help identifying the cause of your crop loss?

If you've experienced crop loss and believe that my expertise as a Vegetable Specialist could assist you, please reach out to me. I can visit your farm to help identify the cause of the loss. For instance, if Phytophthora blight caused significant damage due to prolonged wet conditions, my evaluation might support your case with insurance adjusters, showing that there were limited preventative options. You can contact me at shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu.

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show December 17-19, 2024

The New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show will take place on December 17, 18, and 19 at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown in Manchester, NH. The event will feature 30 educational sessions over three days, focusing on key topics related to vegetable, berry, and tree fruit crops. Sessions will also cover special topics such as climate resiliency, winter growing, labor management, and cut flower production. The popular "Farmer-to-Farmer" information-sharing sessions will bring speakers and farmers together for informal, in-depth discussions on timely issues of interest to growers. The conference also includes an extensive Trade Show with over 150 exhibitors, a poster session showcasing student research, and social mixers to encourage networking among attendees.

The educational program runs across three days, with five concurrent sessions held each morning and afternoon.

- **Tuesday, December 17:** Sessions will cover sweet corn, strawberries, apples, cut flowers, cucurbits, stone fruit, organic production, equipment, and vegetable technology.
- **Wednesday, December 18:** Topics include climate resiliency, specialty fruits and vegetables, leafy greens, post-harvest handling, reduced tillage, and more.

- **Thursday, December 19:** Sessions will focus on tomatoes, winter growing, blueberries, protected culture, marketing, agricultural labor, and more.
- Special sessions include tax preparation for farmers, farm succession planning with Land For Good, WPS train-the-trainer certification, and fourteen farmer-to-farmer sessions.

The steering committee has curated a lineup of expert speakers from both the region and across the country to present the latest innovations and advancements in local fruit and vegetable production and sales. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with fellow growers, advisors, researchers, and industry representatives, and leave with new ideas and information that can positively impact their farms.

Registration Information

- **Pre-registration fee:** \$115 per person; \$50 for students (high school or college). Students must show a valid student ID when picking up their registration packet.
- **Deadline:** Pre-registration must be completed by November 30, 2024. After this date, the fee increases to \$145 (\$70 for students). Late or walk-in registration is \$160.
- **Accommodations:** Overnight stays at the Doubletree are available at \$142 per night. To book, call 603-625-1000 and mention the event, or visit [Accommodation Information](#). Additional local accommodation options at a variety of price points can be found [here](#).
- **Assistance:** For physical, language, or financial assistance, please contact Olivia Saunders at 603-447-3834 or Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu at least three weeks prior to the event, and every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. A block of rooms is reserved for attendees requiring on-site accommodations for mobility reasons.

For more details, including online and downloadable registration materials, visit [New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference](#) website.

Contacts:

- **Any technical issues with registration/payments:** University Events & Conference Services: conferences@uconn.edu; 860-486-1038
- **General questions:** Sue Scheufele, UMass (General Chair) 508-397-3361; sscheufele@umext.umass.edu; or Shuresh Ghimire (Registration Chair) UConn; shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu; 959-929-1031

Sponsors

The event is Sponsored by the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers' Association and the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association in conjunction with the Universities of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Cornell University, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

Farmer Grant Call for Proposals Open

The Call for 2025 Farmer Grant Proposals is Open. Proposals due Nov 12 at 5 p.m. EST

Northeast SARE Farmer Grant Administrator Candice Huber will be hosting a series of drop-in Q&A sessions from Noon to 1 p.m. EST on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October to answer any questions potential grantees have about their 2025 Farmer Grant proposals. Sessions will take place on: Oct 8, 16, 22, 30. from 12 to 1 EST.

The Farmer Grant program is open to all commercial farm business owners and farm employees in the Northeast region. This grant program accepts all types and scales of farms - large or small scale, organic or conventional, urban or rural, full- or part-time, etc.

Awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending upon a project's complexity and duration. Funds can be used to conduct the research project including paying farmers for their time, for project-related materials, for project costs like consulting fees or soil tests, and any communications or outreach expenses associated with telling others about project results. This grant program is **not** meant to help start or expand farm businesses. Farmer Grant funds cannot be used for capital costs associated with building a barn, greenhouse, or other major farm fixture, nor can funds be used to start a farm, purchase durable equipment like tractors or computers, or for any utility, telephone, or other costs that would be there in the absence of the project.

More information: <https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/>

CT DOAG 2024 Organic Certification Cost Share

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has received funding from the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) Grant through the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Through this grant, Connecticut certified organic growers and processors can seek partial reimbursement for the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification. The amount reimbursed will be 75%, up to \$750 per scope, of certification costs paid between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024.

More information:

<https://www.cognitofarms.com/CTDoAg/CTDOAG2024OrganicCertificationCostShare>

NEWS RELEASE

September 6, 2024

Contacts

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USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Agricultural Producers in Connecticut Impacted by Flooding and Hail

TOLLAND, Conn., Sept. 6, 2024 – Agricultural operations in Connecticut have been significantly impacted by recent flooding and hail. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these adverse weather events. Impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from cropland, infrastructure, and livestock losses and damages. Full news release:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/3b38021>



Thanks for reading!

This report was prepared by Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension. All photos in this publication are credited to UConn Extension Vegetable Program unless otherwise noted.

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Contact us with any vegetable production related questions!

Shuresh Ghimire

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