



CROP TALK

Volume 20, Issue IV — November 2024



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Proper training and pruning of apple trees helps to renovate tree structure, promoting healthy growth and improving both fruit production and quality. Photo courtesy of F. Champagne

Introducing the Farm Viability Service

Diane Dorfer

UConn Extension Farm Viability Coordinator

Do you have a farm management question, but not sure who to ask? Could you use guidance working through a new business or enterprise idea? [This form](#) will get you connected with the appropriate UConn expertise.

[Connect with us!](#)

CT farmers, do you have a research idea to share?

UConn researchers, do you need help making connections with farmers?

[Share your research needs](#)

The Farm Viability Service is a new program within Extension and the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR). If you are an agricultural producer in CT and would like to learn more about what UConn can offer farmers, the Farm Viability Service is a great place to start. We can guide you to resources, help you think through new ideas, and follow up to be sure your needs are met. UConn has a strong network of people and programs who are dedicated to farmers' success. Connecting with the Farm Viability Service can be your way to access this network, and grow into it becoming part of your own.

The Farm Viability Service helps farmers connect with CAHNR services and support. UConn Extension is within CAHNR, as are the Departments of Agricultural & Resource Economics, Animal Science, Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, and Natural Resources & the Environment, in addition to numerous other resources. We also help farmers make connections throughout the university.

The Farm Viability Service helps to identify and understand farmers' research needs, and to convey these needs to relevant faculty at UConn. We also work to recognize opportunities for collaboration between farmers and UConn, and within UConn on behalf of farmers.



Diane Dorfer, FVS Coordinator

In addition to her work at UConn, Diane is a small-scale vegetable farmer. Her experience building her own farm business, plus a strong network in our agricultural community, serves as an asset in connecting other farmers with CAHNR resources. Contact Diane directly at diane.dorfer@uconn.edu

Stay up to date with the Farm Viability Service!

[Sign up for our quarterly newsletter](#)

Mitigating Heat-induced Pre-harvest Potato Sprouting

Shuresh Ghimire

UConn Extension Vegetable Specialist

Potato sprouting in the field before harvest has become a notable concern for our farmers in Connecticut in the past couple of years (Fig. 1) as we have seen episodes of drought and heat during the growing season. This article explores the science behind pre-harvest sprouting of potato, also known as secondary growth, and discusses management techniques to mitigate sprouting, including chemical and cultural interventions.



Figure 1. Pre-harvest sprouting of potatoes. Photo courtesy: William Dellacamera, Ciccarelli's Harrison Hill Farm, Northford, CT

The science behind potato sprouting

Potato tuber dormancy is influenced by temperature, moisture, and variety. Normally, tubers remain dormant after formation to prevent sprouting. However, conditions such as soil temperatures above 82°F and alternating periods of drought and high soil moisture can disrupt this dormancy. Sprouting is triggered when hormonal changes (an increase in gibberellins and a decrease in abscisic acid) cause the tuber to “wake up” prematurely (Aksenova et al., 2013). Heat stress has been particularly linked to premature sprouting. Likewise, erratic soil moisture conditions can create stress signals, leading to early sprouting (Zhang et al., 2021). Sprouting increases respiration, resulting in weight and nutrition losses. Potato tuber physiological disorders associated with heat stress can take different shapes (Fig. 2).

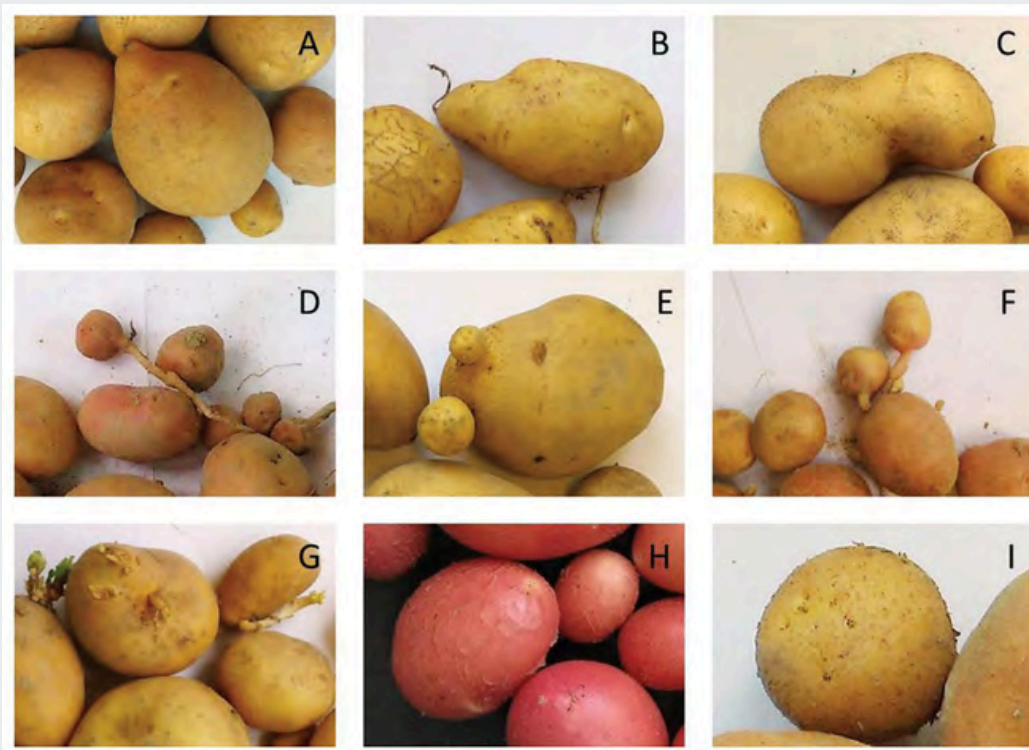


Figure 2. Potato tuber physiological disorders associated with heat stress: pear-shaped or bottleneck tubers (A, B), dumbbell-shaped tuber (C), chained tubers (D), secondary tubers on tuber eye (E) or stolons (F), pre-harvest sprouting of tubers (G), and skin netting and russeting (H, I) (Momčilović 2020).

Variety selection

Potato cultivars may differ in their response to heat sprouting and dormancy duration. However, to the best of my knowledge, no studies in our region have specifically tested varieties for heat sprouting. Nevertheless, selecting varieties that are tolerant to heat, or drought can help mitigate this issue. Keeping records of which varieties show signs of heat stress versus those that perform well under these conditions will assist farmers in making informed decisions for future planting and management. Some examples of potato varieties that exhibit some tolerance to heat and/or drought are Caribou Russet, Yukon Gold, Red LaSoda, Chieftan, and Superior. Consult the [New England Vegetable Management Guide](#) for recommended varieties for New England.

Research on chemical sprout inhibition

Research on chemical sprout inhibition has focused on identifying compounds and treatments that extend dormancy and prevent sprouting in potatoes, primarily in storage. One of the most widely used chemicals is maleic hydrazide (MH), which is typically applied as a foliar spray during late-stage plant growth. MH inhibits cell division in developing sprouts, effectively reducing sprouting both in the field and during storage. Studies have shown that MH can prolong dormancy by several weeks (Bhattacharya et al., 2021).

Apply 3 lb a.i. maleic hydrazide/A to healthy, green, non-water-stressed potato vines at least 2 weeks before application of any vine killer. Apply when most of the tubers are 1.5"-2" in diameter. If rain comes within 24 hours of application, effectiveness will be reduced. Do not apply at temperatures above 85°F. See label for additional information.

More recently, research has explored the use of plant growth regulators (PGRs), such as synthetic abscisic acid (ABA) analogs, which mimic natural dormancy hormones. These compounds show potential for maintaining dormancy under heat stress conditions by suppressing gibberellin activity and enhancing the levels of ABA in tubers (Wang et al., 2020). Additionally, compounds like chlorpropham (CIPC) have been extensively used in storage scenarios but are less studied for field applications. However, use of CIPC is restricted due to safety concerns, prompting interest in alternative solutions like ethylene or essential oils (e.g., spearmint, peppermint, clove, dill, and coriander), which show promise in inhibiting sprouting during storage but require further research for field-based applications (Boivin et al., 2020; Thoma et al., 2022).

Cultural practices to reduce sprouting risk

Farmers can adopt several cultural practices to minimize the risk of pre-harvest sprouting:

- Consistent irrigation to avoid water stress by maintaining 1 - 1.5 inches of water per week during tuber development.
- Mulching will help moderate the soil temperature, preventing overheating.
- Harvesting earlier or using early season varieties may avoid the period when environmental stress triggers sprouting.
- Avoid planting potatoes in the same area for consecutive years to reduce soilborne pathogens and other stress factors.

Conclusion

Field sprouting in potatoes is a multifaceted issue requiring integrated management strategies. Using heat resistant varieties, employing sprout-inhibiting sprays, and improving cultural practices can significantly mitigate sprouting. Continued research into new inhibitors and breeding programs will be critical as climate conditions evolve.

References

Aksenova, N. P., Sergeeva, L. I., Konstantinova, T. N., et al. (2013). Regulation of potato tuber dormancy and sprouting. *Russian Journal of Plant Physiology*, 60(3), 301–312.

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Bhattacharya, E., Mandal Biswas, S., & Pramanik, P. (2021). Maleic and L-tartaric acids as new anti-sprouting agents for potatoes during storage in comparison to other efficient sprout suppressants. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 20029. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-99187-y>

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Momčilović, I. (2020). Effects of heat stress on potato productivity and nutritive quality. *Hrana I Ishrana*, 60(2), 43–53. <https://doi.org/10.5937/hralsh1902043M>

Thoma, J., & Zheljzakov, V. D. (2022). Sprout suppressants in potato storage: Conventional options and promising essential oils—A review. *Sustainability*, 14(11), 6382. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14116382>

Wang, Z., Ma, R., Zhao, M., Wang, F., Zhang, N., & Si, H. (2020). NO and ABA interaction regulates tuber dormancy and sprouting in potato. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 11, 311. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2020.00311>

Zhang, G., Tang, R., Niu, S., Si, H., Yang, Q., Rajora, O. P., & Li, X. Q. (2021). Heat-stress-induced sprouting and differential gene expression in growing potato tubers: Comparative transcriptomics with that induced by postharvest sprouting. *Horticulture Research*, 8(1), 226. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-021-00680-2>

How NRCS Programs Can Help Beginning Farmers Get Paid for Climate-Smart Practices

This December, UConn Extension's Solid Ground program is hosting two information sessions titled [Getting Paid for Your Climate-Smart Practices](#). These sessions are designed to help new and beginning farmers access valuable funding opportunities through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If you're looking to make your farm more sustainable while improving your bottom line, this is an excellent chance to learn how NRCS programs can support your goals.

The events will kick off with a farm walk, giving participants a firsthand look at climate-smart practices in action or that could be potentially added. Facilitated by soil health expert Kip Kolesinskas, these walks will explore techniques that enhance the resilience of a farm to climate change.

Following the walk, NRCS staff will lead an information session detailing how their programs can support on-farm conservation efforts. Farmers will learn about specific initiatives like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), both of which offer financial and technical assistance. These programs can help cover the cost of implementing practices such as installing high tunnels, planting windbreaks, and more.

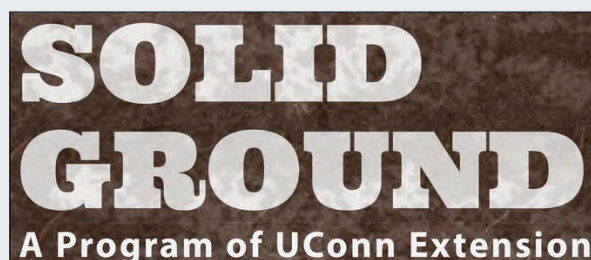
Participants will also learn about eligibility requirements and how to navigate the application process. Whether you're just starting out or looking to expand your conservation efforts, NRCS programs can provide the support you need to succeed. These sessions offer a unique opportunity to ask questions and connect directly with NRCS representatives.

Mark your calendars:

- **December 4th at Northwest Corner Farm, Winchester**
- **December 11th at Cold Spring Farm, Colchester**

Both sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and attendees can enjoy coffee and bagels while networking with fellow farmers. You can sign up for them here: [s.uconn.edu/climatesmartfunds](https://uconn.edu/climatesmartfunds)

Take advantage of this chance to explore how climate-smart farming can benefit your operation and the environment. For more information, contact megan.herbert@uconn.edu or visit the Solid Ground program's website for more resources at <https://solidground.extension.uconn.edu/>



With so many opportunities on the horizon, it can be hard to keep track! Stay updated by visiting our [Solid Ground Website](#), or sign up for our listserv [here](#) to get all the latest updates delivered straight to your inbox.

Blueberry Weed Control and Pre-emergent Herbicides

Evan Lentz

Assistant Extension Educator, UConn

Thoughtful weed management is essential to maintaining high yields and fruit quality in your blueberry operation. It also serves to reduce other pest issues. Growers continue to face challenges associated with weed management, including the development of herbicide resistance and challenges associated with climate change. Here you will find a brief overview of managing weeds in blueberries to help you plan for next year with a special emphasis on pre-emergent materials.

Preplant Measures (1-2 seasons prior)

Preplant weed management should primarily be focused on the reduction of perennial weeds. These will be the most challenging weeds to get rid of and it may take more than one year to effectively reduce the population. To accomplish this, it is likely that you'll utilize various materials and methods. Below are some methods to consider.

Chemical: There are plenty of options for chemical control including organic and non-organic materials. Thoughtful selection of materials requires knowledge of the target species. Rotation is required.

Cultural: Addressing weed populations prior to planting allows for more freedom in the cultural management strategies employed. When the crop is not yet in place, the use of grazing animals, stale seedbed method, mechanical cultivation and cover cropping are more viable options. The soil environment's disturbance should also be kept to a minimum during planting.

First Year

The first year is the most critical time for control. The goal during the first year of your blueberry planting is to minimize competition as much as possible to allow for adequate establishment of the crop. Materials labeled for first-year blueberries must be used to avoid injuring the crop. All materials must be rotated. Utilize the pre-emergent herbicide charts below for quick reference (Table 1) and see the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#) for rate and further information.

First Year and Beyond

After the first year, post-emergent herbicides should be used to burn down winter annuals and perennials and pre-emergent materials should be applied before budbreak each year. Pre-emergent materials can be applied again 5-8 weeks later. Just be aware of the pre harvest intervals of all materials. Post-emergent materials can be used on an as needed basis, but extreme care needs to be taken to not hit any new shoot growth with these materials. Again, rotation is required. Other methods including mechanical cultivation, flame weeding, and hand cultivation should be utilized as needed. See Table 2 below for pre-emergent materials for established plantings.

Notes – It is highly recommended to mix 2 materials of varying modes of action or from two HRAC groups to avoid herbicide resistance. One-half inch of rainfall or irrigation is required within 7 days of pre-emergent application to move materials down into the soil.

Table 1. Pre-emergent herbicides registered for blueberries in the planting year.

| Herbicide | Mode of Action | Target Species | HRAC |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------|
| Callisto (mesotrione) | HPPD inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds | 27 |
| Chateau (flumioxazin) | PPO inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds; suppression of annual grasses | 14 |
| Devrinol (napropamide) | Mitosis inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 0 |
| Surflan (oryzalin) | Mitosis inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 3 |
| Dual Magnum (S-metolachor) | Long chain fatty acid inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 15 |
| Princep/Caliber (simazine) | PS II inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 5 |
| Gallery/Trellis (isoxaben) | Cellulose synthesis inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 29 |

Table 2. Pre-emergent herbicides registered for established blueberry plantings.

| Herbicide | Mode of Action | Target Species | HRAC |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------|
| Devrinol (napropamide) | Mitosis inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 0 |
| Surflan (oryzalin) | Mitosis inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 3 |
| Solicam (norflurazon) | PD inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 12 |
| Dual Magnum (S-metolachor) | Long chain fatty acid inhibitor | Annual grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds | 15 |
| Kerb (pronamide) | Mitosis inhibitor | Annual and perennial grasses | 3 |
| Callisto (mesotrione) | HPPD inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds | 27 |
| Sandea (halosulfuron) | AS inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds | 2 |
| Chateau (flumioxazin) | PPO inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds; suppression of annual grasses | 14 |
| Solida (rimsulfuron) | AS inhibitor | Annual broadleaf weeds; suppression of annual grasses | 2 |
| Princep/Caliber (simazine) | PS II inhibitor | Broadleaf weeds, some grasses; suppression of some perennial weeds | 5 |
| Sinbar (terbacil) | PS II inhibitor | Broadleaf weeds, some grasses; suppression of some perennial weeds | 5 |
| Velpar (hexazinone) | PS II inhibitor | Broadleaf weeds, some grasses; suppression of some perennial weeds | 5 |
| Casoron (dichlobenil) | Cellulose synthesis inhibitor | Broadleaf weeds, some grasses; suppression of some perennial weeds | 29 |
| Zeus (sulfentrazone) | PPO inhibitor | Broadleaf weeds, some grasses; suppression of some perennial weeds | 14 |

Other Considerations:

- Maintain grass cover between rows
- Wood chips/mulch for sandy/dry/well-drained sites
- Care should be taken with manures and/or compost as low-quality materials may contain viable weed seeds
- Read your labels, as each material may have different target species, PHI, etc.
- Check your spray equipment for adequate/even spray applications. Calibrate at the beginning of every season and periodically during the season.
- Consult the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#) for further information, including materials and rates for post-emergent control.

Additional Resources:

- MSU Extension – Blueberry Weed Control
 - https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/better_blueberry_weed_control_for_2015
- Rutgers – Highbush Weed Control
 - <https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/2023-update-on-weed-control-with-residual-herbicides-for-new-jersey-highbush-blueberry/>
- University of Maryland Extension – Stale Seedbed Method
 - <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/stale-seedbed-technique-relatively-underused-alternative-weed-management-tactic-vegetable-production>



Announcements

Grants, Finances and Business



- **How to Use Enterprise Budgeting**

- Dec. 5th, 9AM-1PM

With instructor Jessie Wright from UNH Extension, this class teaches farmers how to create an

enterprise budget from their existing financial records. The course requires farmers to already know how to create a Balance Sheet, Net Income Statement and Cash Flow Statement for their business and assumes that farmers are already using these. In this class, farmers will learn how to use an Enterprise Budget to help determine whether a particular farm enterprise/crop is profitable, and how best to increase income and profitability for the enterprise. Farmers will participate in small group exercises creating and evaluating enterprise budgets and financial statements to help with decisions about their business. For those that complete the course, they have the opportunity to apply for a free consultation with Erin Pirro from Farm Credit East.

solidground.extension.uconn.edu/trainings

- **The Business of Farming Online Course**

- Launching both Jan 2 and Feb 12

A hybrid course where participants will complete 7 modules that include **both** virtual and in-person meetings. It is designed to develop and strengthen the business and technical skills for beginning farmers with 0 - 3 years of experience. Participate in this learning experience with farmer peers and develop new networks in a safe environment to foster informal interactions, knowledge sharing, and relationship building. It is never too early to acquire some of the fundamental skills and habits in farm business management, such as How to Write a Business Plan, Statements for Financial Management, Grant Opportunities, Marketing/Branding, Tax Filing and more.



Getting Paid for Climate Smart Practices

This December, Solid Ground is proud to offer Getting Paid for Your Climate Smart Practices, two info sessions designed specifically to connect new and beginning farmers to available funding through NRCS programs. The sessions will start with a farm walk, discussing what climate smart practices are happening on the farm as well as what practices are possible. The farm walks will be facilitated by soil health extraordinaire Kip Kolesinskas, sharing his own insight and wisdom on multiple climate smart farm practices. NRCS staff will lead the info session through what on-farm practices fit within each program, the requirements and farm eligibility. Coffee and bagels will be provided. Two options are available:

- **Wednesday, December 4th**

- Northwest Corner Farm, Winchester

- **Wednesday, December 11th**

- Cold Spring Farm, Colchester

Ag Mechanics Trainings

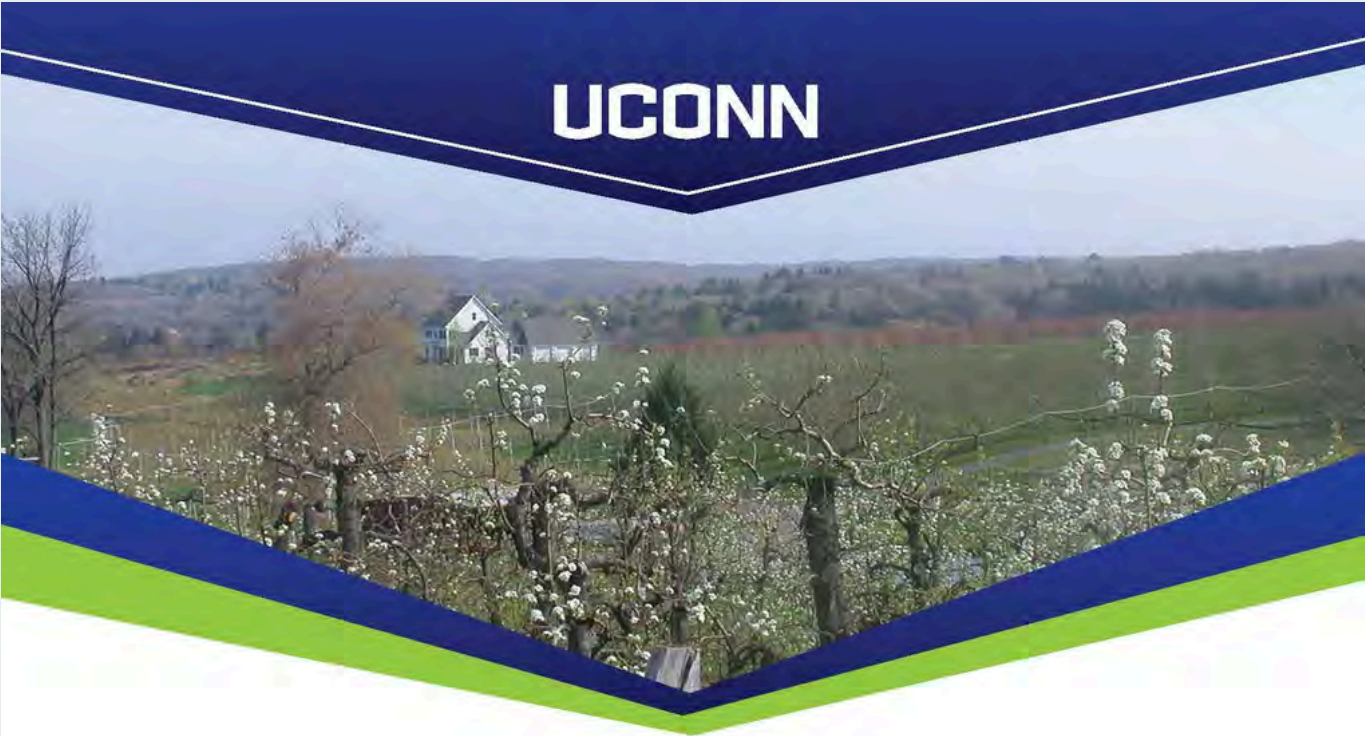
- **Power Tool Safety & Carpentry Basics Training**

- December 5th and December 12th

- **Small Gas Engine Basics**

- December 10th, 2024

UConn



FARM RISK MANAGEMENT

In-Depth Strategies for Effective Farm Risk Management

This unique program from UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources focuses on critical topics for the agriculture industry, farm risk management. Farm risk management involves understanding and mitigating factors that can impact agricultural operations, such as climate change, pest management, and financial uncertainties. Through this grant-funded 12-module course, you will gain knowledge and strategies to enhance the resilience and sustainability of your farm. Knowledge is the key.

ONLINE COURSE MODULES

Climate Mitigation Strategies - Pest Management Strategies for Vegetable Growers

Climate Mitigation Strategies - Pest Management Strategies for Fruit Growers
Financing & Benchmarking

Farm Financial Statements
Whole Farm & Micro Farm Crop Insurance
Multi-Peril Crop Insurance
Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
Climate Change Risks & Impacts to CT Agriculture

Climate Change Mitigation - Adaptation Strategies & Practices

Impacts, Tools & Strategies to Minimize Risk & Adapt to Climate Change
Agency Programs
Farm Insurance & Retirement Options

If you'd like more information scan the QR code to the right.



If you'd like to register scan the QR code to the left.

UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

For more information, contact:
Joseph Bonelli - joseph.bonelli@uconn.edu
Mary Concklin - mary.concklin@uconn.edu



This program is funded in partnership with USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award numbers RMA23CPT0013448 and RMA24CPT0013928.

[click here or on above flyer to enlarge and access links](#)

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy's (NCLC) final round of implementation grants is still open!



Founded in 1965, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is the state's largest land trust. As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 13,300 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

The maximum award for this grant is \$50,000. The minimum award is \$1,000. NCLC will prioritize funding opportunities within the range of \$5,000-\$20,000.

**The submission deadline is
November 30th.**

Eligible applicants must operate working farmland or a farm business in NCLC's service area, which includes all of Litchfield County and Brookfield, Newtown, and Sherman in Fairfield County.

The following individuals and entities are eligible for funding:

- Agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives
- Land trusts
- Municipalities
- Non-profit organizations

The application form and program guidance can be found at <https://ctland.org/climate-smart-grant/implementation-grant/>

The Connecticut Pomological Society

Finer Fruits Through Co-operative Efforts Since 1891

Mary Concklin
President

Greg Parzych
Vice-President

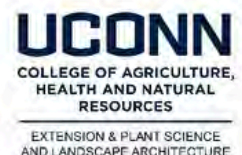
Erica Teveris
Secretary-Treasurer

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Middletown Elks Lodge
44 Maynard St, Middletown, CT

- 8:00 Registration, Socialize, coffee, pastries, **Visit with vendors**
- 9:00-9:45 **New Insights on the Biology and Control of Fireblight.** Dr. Quan Zeng, CAES
- 9:45-10:15 **New Thinning and Apple Scab Control Products from Valent USA.** Jim Wargo, Valent
- 10:15-10:30 Break – Visit with Vendors
- 10:30-11:00 **Optimizing Insect Pest Management Strategies in Tree Fruit Production.**
Peter Jentsch, PomaTech Inc
- 11:00-11:30 **Creating a Marketing Plan.** Brian Moyer, Penn State University
- 11:30-12:00 **Apple Cold Hardiness, Climate Change and Tree Decline.** Dr. Jason Londo, Cornell
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:30 **Business meeting, Award presentations**
Apple marketing board update: Erin Windham, CT Department of Agriculture
Financial report: Erica Teveris
Award of Merit: Mary Concklin - presenter
Award of Distinction: Ryan Bishop - presenter
- 1:30-2:00 **Investing in Your Success: Fundamentals of Pricing for Farm Markets.** Brian Moyer
- 2:00-2:15 **Crop Insurance Update.** Colleen Kisselburgh, Arthur Carroll Insurance
- 2:15-3:00 **Herbicide Alternatives: Grower panel.** Trevor Hardy – Brookdale Fruit Farms, Eric Henry – Blue Hills Orchard, Peter Rogers – Rogers Orchards
- 3:00-3:30 **Spotted Wing Drosophila Parasitoid Project Update.** Dr. Claire Rutledge, CAES
- 3:30 **Pesticide Credits and Socialize**

Directions to the Middletown Elks Lodge are below
3.5 pesticide re-certification credits have been applied for.

This Program is a cooperative effort of The CT Pomological Society, UConn Extension
and UConn Dept of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture



(Click/tap to view and access application link and directions)

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show

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.



NEVVF

New England Fruit and Vegetable Conference

December 17, 18 & 19

DoubleTree Hotel,
Manchester, NH

- 150 Workshops
- 120+ Tradeshow Vendors
- Farmer to Farmer Sessions each day

Join us for 3 days of networking and learning with other farmers and growers!

REGISTER TODAY!
newenglandvfc.org



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.

| See next page for registration information |

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show

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.

UConn Extension's 2025 Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Conference



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Join us at our annual UConn Extension Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference for an educational day of learning, regulations, and updates on the latest trends in vegetable and small fruit production. **The event is Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at the UConn Student Union Ballroom, Room 330, Storrs CT.** There will be trade show held in Room 304 throughout conference.

Regular Registration: \$50.00 (ends 12/ 29/24)

Late Registration: \$70.00 (starting 12/30/24)

Student Registration: \$35.00

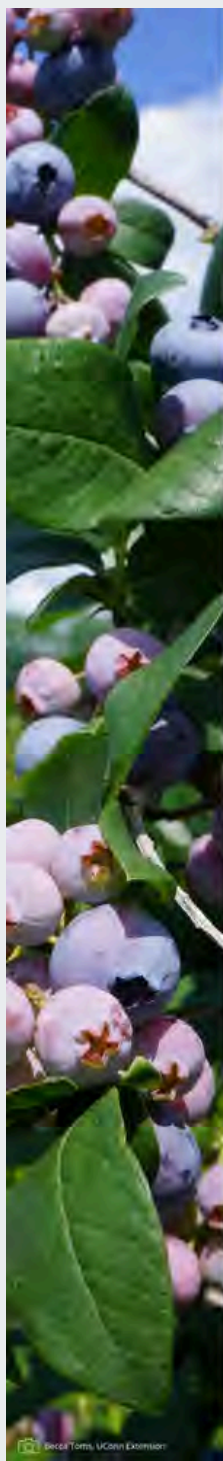
Online registration will be open until January 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Walk-in registration may be available but space is not guaranteed.

Lunch and Parking is included in the registration price. Prior to the day of the conference, you will be sent an event parking link to register for validated parking. You must pre register by January 5, 2025 in order to receive free parking.

We can only accommodate those with dietary restrictions who register prior to December 29th. For those with severe food allergies, while we will make every effort to accommodate, we cannot fully guarantee the prevention of cross-contamination. If needed, you may consider bringing your own lunch for added peace of mind.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER DECEMBER 29, 2024

Pesticide recertification credits and socializing hour; 4 CEU confirmed.



AGENDA

- 8:00 AM **Registration, refreshments, socialize, visit trade show**
- 8:55 AM **Welcome**
- 9:00 AM **Ag Trends for Vegetable & Fruit Growers**
Chris Laughton, Farm Credit East
- 9:50 AM **High tunnels for winter growing: techniques and tips from farmers**
Susan Mitchell, Cloverleigh Farm, Columbia
Steve Munno, Massaro Community Farm, Woodbridge
- 10:20 AM **Announcements**
- 10:25 AM **Break**
- 10:50 AM **Weed Management Strategies for Strawberries**
David T. Handley, Extension Vegetable & Small Fruit Specialist &
Cooperating Professor of Horticulture for the University of Maine
- 11:25 AM **Value Added Product Development**
- 11:55 PM **Lunch break/trade show**
- 1:00 PM **Sweet Corn Farmer Panel**
Bruce Gresczyk Jr., Gresczyk Farm, New Hartford, CT
Other Speakers to be announced
- 1:45 PM **Growing in Freight (shipping container) Farm**
Jeremy Whipple, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Mashantucket, CT
- 2:05 PM **Break/Poster Presentation**
- 2:30 PM **Managing Anthracnose Crown Rot and Other Invasive Strawberry Pathogens in the Northeast**
Nathan Westrick, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT
- 3:00 PM **Pesticide recertification credits and socialize. 4 CEU PA, 1A categories approved**

Trade Show will be open from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Research Posters will be displayed throughout conference

During the afternoon break the presenters will be available to answer any questions regarding posters

UCONN | EXTENSION

The University of Connecticut complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Extension program participants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations to address limitations resulting from a disability. For more information, please contact the UConn Extension Civil Rights Liaison at extensionovrights@uconn.edu.

Pesticide recertification credits and socializing hour; 4 credits in PA, 1A categories confirmed.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

or visit

s.uconn.edu/vfcregistration

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HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
EXTENSION & PLANT SCIENCE
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Contact tolland@uconn.edu,
(860) 875-3331 if you have any questions!

The University of Connecticut and CT Agricultural Experiment Station are equal opportunity program providers and employers. Please call three weeks prior to this event if special accommodations are needed.



UConn | EXTENSION

VEGETABLE & SMALL FRUIT GROWERS CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW & SPONSOR REGISTRATION

January 7, 2025

UConn Student Union | Storrs, Connecticut

Trade Show Registration: \$195.00

Includes a 6 six-foot table space and one attendant registration

Silver Sponsor: \$100.00

Includes business card size advertisement in conference program

Gold Sponsor: \$250.00

Includes 1 regular registration & 1/4 page advertisement in conference program

Platinum Sponsor: \$500.00

Includes 1 trade show registration, 1 regular registration (2 people total) & 1/2 page advertisement in conference program

Any business, farm, organization or individual can be a conference sponsor.
Sponsors do not have attend the conference.


REGISTER AT:

s.uconn.edu/fvctradesponsorreg

Questions? Email tolland@uconn.edu or call 860-875-3331

UConn Extension

2025 Online Vegetable Production Certificate Course



UConn
EXTENSION

ONLINE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE COURSE

COURSE MODULES INCLUDE...

- 1. Farm business planning:** Developing a farm business plan and enterprise budgeting
- 2. Plan and prepare for vegetable farm:** Site selection, soil test, and cover crops
- 3. Warm-season vegetables:** Crop selection, planting to harvesting and post-harvest management
- 4. Cool-season vegetables:** Crop selection, planting to harvesting and post-harvest management
- 5. Identification of pests and abiotic problems:** Identification of diseases, insects, nutritional and other issues
- 6. Season extension:** Differences among low, caterpillar, and high tunnel; Opportunities and challenges in high tunnel growing; Micro-environment management
- 7. Marketing:** Different strategies, resources, options, and models for direct-to-consumer retail

COURSE BEGINS JANUARY 27!

REGISTER BY JAN 20


Registration: \$149

"GLAD THIS COURSE EXISTS!"

"I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT VEGETABLE FARMS."

"The course went really smoothly, was easy to navigate, and the presentations covered a range of topics while also giving good details on each topic."

FOR MORE INFO, SCAN THIS:



s.uconn.edu/vegprodcourse

This is a fully online course for new and beginning farmers who have 0-3 years of vegetable growing experience or no formal training in agriculture. The participants will learn answers to the basic questions about farm business planning, planning and preparing for a vegetable farm, warm- and cool-season vegetable production techniques, season extension, identification of biotic and abiotic issues, and marketing.

The price of the course is \$149

[Register Here](https://s.uconn.edu/vegprodcourse)

For more information, visit s.uconn.edu/vegprodcourse

Please contact the course coordinator, Shuresh Ghimire (Shuresh.Ghimire@uconn.edu, 860-870-6933) with any questions about this course.

Crop Talk Editors/Contributors



Shuresh Ghimire, Commercial Vegetable Crops, UConn Extension, 860-875-3331, shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu

Evan Lentz, Fruit Production and IPM, UConn, 860-486-6449, evan.lentz@uconn.edu, [ipm.cahnр.uconn.edu](http://ipm.cahnر.uconn.edu)

Frances Champagne, Program Assistant, UConn Extension, 860-875-3331, frances.champagne@uconn.edu

Administrative Officers

Indrajeet Chaubey, Dean, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources

Amy Harder, Associate Dean and Associate Director, UConn Extension

Bonnie E. Burr, Assistant Director & Department Head, UConn Extension

Sydney Everhart, Department Head, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

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