

News From CCE

By Barb Neal, Ag and Horticulture Educator for Tioga County

Hi folks—well, we made it through the worst of the winter months and it was memorable for all the snow! I still have nearly a foot of snow on the ground after several days of temperatures well above freezing. It was a challenge to go around on snowshoes to do the tapping of my small sugarbush.

More and more of you have received your first or second vaccination shot, so that gives us all hope for a more “normal” late spring and summer. All of us will welcome the warmer weather when we can once again gather more safely outside and enjoy the pleasures of farming and gardening.

Folks, there are SO MANY workshops out there right now—whether you are a farmer seeking information or a gardener who wants to learn about a new technique—there are online classes for you to participate in, and many of them are provided to you at no cost. I challenge you to take in at least one webinar and learn something new for the upcoming growing season.

If you are a farmer, pay particular attention to the periodic emails I send out to you. Farm Minute is my way to communicate important information to you in a timely manner. Recent topics include vaccination opportunities, getting the PPP loan for your small farm, ag assessments and more. We at CCE want you to be as profitable as possible—and we don’t want you to miss something that may mean money in your farm bank account.

So enjoy the coming of springtime, but take time to “sharpen the saw” and get better at your farming and your gardening through informative webinars. You will be glad you did.



Inside this issue:

- Flowers to help the good guy insects
- Mechanical damage to trees
- Naturalizing bulbs—when can you mow them down?
- Workshops — online of course
- And more!

Barb Neal, CCE Tioga Agriculture and Horticulture Educator, ban1@cornell.edu

Liz Alexander, CCE Chemung Agriculture Educator, ema228@cornell.edu

Jingjing Yin, CCE Chemung Horticulture Educator, jy578@cornell.edu

Mary Kate MacKenzie, SCNY Farm Business, mkw87@cornell.edu



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For more specific information about the Chemung County Master Gardener program, please contact Jingjing Yin at 607-734-4453 or jy578@cornell.edu.

For more information about the Tioga County Master Gardener program, please contact Barb Neal at 607-687-4020 or ban1@cornell.edu.



Webinar: Seed Starting

March 22, 2021; 2:00 – 3:00 PM. Starting your own seeds is a cost effective way to grow a greater variety of plants for your garden. Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County to learn how to start seeds successfully. The topics we will cover include techniques for starting seeds indoors, proper care, lighting and watering, and how to prepare your seedlings for transplant.

Speakers: Jingjing Yin, Horticulture Educator at CCE of Chemung County

Chris Gagliardo, Chemung County Master Gardener

Fee: Free.

Register here:

[https://
cornell.zoom.us/
meeting/register/
tJUld-](https://cornell.zoom.us/j/9123456789)



[rrT4tE9Uw0wIJNifEyBreuqKVVgVU](https://www.facebook.com/chemungcountymastergardener/)

The Zoom link to access the class is provided immediately upon completion of registration in your registration confirmation email.

Facebook event for sharing and posting: [https://fb.me/e/
CjybxkC5](https://fb.me/e/CjybxkC5)

Master Forest Owner Volunteer Training

Have you ever thought about using your knowledge and skill to help your neighbor woodland owners? Join the hundreds of woodland owners who have served their neighbors since 1994.

As a woodland owner you have a special set of skills that you could share with other woodland owners in your area. These skills are enhanced by educational resources available through Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell's [ForestConnect](#) program. Learn how to merge your skills with existing resources so you can be a volunteer that helps other woodland owners more thoroughly enjoy and manage their property. You are invited to the annual training for Cornell's Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers.

MFO volunteers work through Cornell Cooperative Extension to visit woodland owners in their county and direct them towards resources that help them manage their woodlands. This training is open for new volunteers and previously trained volunteers seeking a refresher.

Applicants invited to participate will join in 7 weekly online sessions via Zoom, and subsequently meet in person in early to mid-June for a one-day field session at locations around the state. Online sessions are 6:30 – 7:30PM starting on Tuesday April 13 at 6:30PM, and occur each Tuesday through May 25. In addition to 2 orientation sessions, 5 technical content sessions provide participants increased knowledge about: woodland ecology and health, wildlife and habitat, interfering vegetation management, silviculture, and agroforestry. Participants should plan to allocate 3-4 hours per week to learn the technical content via guided online learning and spend an hour per week in a live interactive discussion session.

All woodland owners in NY are welcome. Owners interested in becoming a volunteer should start the process [here](#). The fee is \$35 per person and \$50 per couple which includes the full training, and supplies and resources provided at the field session. Previously trained volunteers are also welcome at \$18/person and \$25/couple.

For consideration to participate in the training, follow these steps to be completed by April 6:

Complete registration application via the link above, and after reviewing other materials [here](#).

1. Be alert to an email from your regional director to meet via Zoom after completing your application.
2. Payment made via a secure online link provided to you after you talk with your regional director.

Within 6 months of the training:

1. Have a visit on your property conducted by an existing MFO volunteer
2. Shadow a visit to a woodland owner in your area with a local MFO volunteer.

If you have any questions about the MFO program, you can learn more at www.CornellMFO.info or from Program Director Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu or 607-592-3640.



NICH

NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR CONSUMER HORTICULTURE



#PlantsDoThat *Inside!* Where We Heal



GREENING THE GREAT INDOORS

Having plants in hospitals and clinics is an important component of creating a sustainable indoor ecology and healthy minds and bodies. Indoor plants remove air pollutants and stabilize CO₂, while decreasing our stress and helping us heal faster.

HOSPITAL HERO

Patients spend less time in recovery and go home sooner when their hospital rooms contain plants.



PAIN RELIEVER

Patients recovering from surgery took less pain relievers in rooms containing plants.



STRESS BUSTER

Plants used as part of room décor reduce the stress of hospital patients and lower their blood pressure.

New breast cancer patients were better able to tolerate life's disruptions caused by the diagnosis, surgery and treatments through interacting with nature.



BOOST PROFESSIONALISM

Having healthy plants promotes a professional image and a feeling of warmth and caring.



SEEING IS BELIEVING

Just looking at pots of flowers and plants make people more relaxed and aware. A study of EEG (electrical brain activity) measurements shows more relaxation when viewing greenery compared to looking at a concrete structure.

ENERGY BOOSTER

Hospital patients reported less fatigue in rooms containing plants.



Infographic produced by National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH).
Discover more about the power of plants in this series at ConsumerHort.org.

FINDING PLANTS THAT FEED FRIENDLY INSECTS



The prospect of growing cut flowers is so very appealing during February in upstate NY!

I don't know about you, but this time of year I start daydreaming of all the plants I can't wait to grow in my garden once it gets warm. The virtual and hard copy seed catalogs that fill my mailbox and my inbox are full of so many beautiful pictures and inviting suggestions. How to choose?

Well, if one of your goals for your 2021 garden is to provide good habitat for beneficial insects that eat pest insects (natural enemies of pests), here's some advice...

Look for pollen and nectar producers

Flowers that provide plenty of pollen and nectar make great habitat for natural enemies. This is because some natural enemies also eat pollen or nectar (or both). For example, this adult hover fly feeds on the pollen and nectar produced by this bachelor's button.



An appreciation for bachelor's button flowers is something I share with this hover fly.

Flowers that produce pollen and nectar also attract other in-

sects that natural enemies feed on (including lots of neutral insects, so the net effect is positive). This ambush bug is hanging out on a zinnia waiting for other insects to wander by and become lunch.

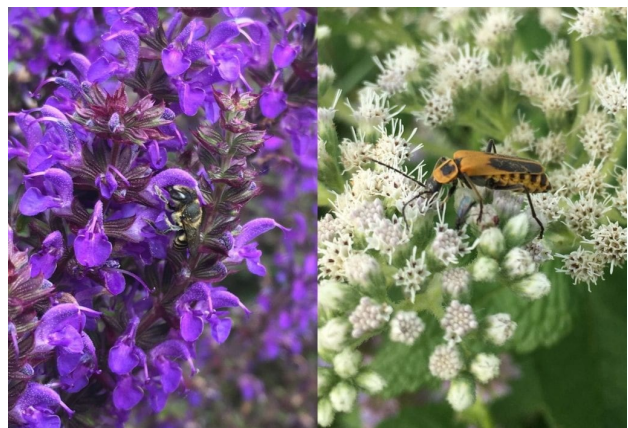


This ambush bug doesn't seem too well camouflaged to me, but hopefully its prey didn't notice it.

How do you know if a plant will produce flowers rich in pollen and nectar? Well, plants marketed as being good for pollinators are often a good bet, since bees, butterflies, and other pollinators also feed on pollen and nectar. Be aware that sometimes – but not always – “fancy” cultivars (with double blossoms or exotic colors) do not provide the same pollen and nectar resources as the “plain” cultivars or simply native species. You can read a bit more about this in [my post](#) from last spring.

Flower shape matters

While some bees have long tongues that help them reach into deep, tube-shaped flowers, lots of natural enemies (like flies, small wasps, and beetles) prefer small, shallow, and open flowers. The pollen and nectar are easier to access, and these flower shapes also give them a nice spot to land or sit.



The bee on the left has no problem reaching into these tubular flowers. The soldier beetle on the right is happy on the small boneset flowers.

Plan for season-long blooms

Natural enemies need food (whether it's pollen and nectar or other insects) from early in the spring until late in the fall. If you only have blooms in July and August, the natural enemies will be very hungry, and will find another spot to hang out. Of course, continuous blooms have aesthetic value, too.

While annuals tend to bloom for a longer period of time during the growing season (especially if you pick off dead blooms), it can be hard to find annuals that bloom early (at least in NY).



Golden alexanders is an early-blooming perennial. I took this picture in the middle of May.

Including some early-blooming perennials will feed your natural enemies before your annuals take off. This [site](#) lets you search for plants by a variety of characteristics, including when they bloom.

Put away those pesticides!

Or at least pause and assess whether you really need them and what impact they might have on natural enemies and other non-pests before you use them. Of course, you must always read and follow the label on any pesticide, no matter where you plan to use it. The label is the law!

Plants that don't bloom are still useful

For example, bunching grasses not only provide some visual contrast to blooming plants, but they make great shelter for predatory beetles, spiders, and other insects.



Grass that grows in clumps like this little bluestem provides shelter for ground-dwelling natural enemies.

If you love spreadsheets like me...

While looking for pollinator-friendly plants is an easy way to choose plants that will probably support natural enemies, sometimes I am asked “yes, but if I want to attract *this specific* natural enemy, what should I plant?” So I reviewed university research and extension resources from around the United States to see which plants have been documented to support specific natural enemies. Here's the link to that [spreadsheet](#). If you want the “cliffs notes”, here are the plant families that had the largest number of species documented as supporting natural enemies:

Aster (same as the daisy or composite family)

Carrot (same as the parsley family)

Mint



Lots of members of the aster (daisy, composite) family produce plenty of easily-accessible pollen to feed natural enemies like this lady beetle.

Got a pest and you're wondering which natural enemies will eat it? There's a [chart](#) for that, too!

So, what will you be growing in 2021? I already placed my first seed order (hint: it included a few different kinds of both zinnias and sunflowers), but I can't promise I won't place a second one.

This post was written by [Amara Dunn](#), Biocontrol Specialist with the [NYSIPM program](#). All images are hers, unless otherwise noted.

When can you Safely Mow in-grass Spring Bulbs Without Harming Future Flower Display?

Mass plantings of spring bulbs, facilitated by in-grass bulb planting machines have been popular in Europe for many years and thanks to recent efforts by the Flower Bulb Research Program, are gaining in popularity in the USA.

In-grass plantings offer a number of unique features and advantages, the most obvious is greatly reduced labor costs for planting large quantities of bulbs versus installation in traditional beds. Dutch companies have taken this to a high art with beautiful promotional materials for plantings that attract bees and butterflies, have monochromatic or mixed color schemes, long flowering periods and so on.

Possibilities and benefits of massed in-grass bulb plantings:

- Spread of bloom time by mixing species and cultivars.
- Mono-chromatic and massed monoculture plantings or vivid mixed displays varying in color, height and time of bloom.
- Excellent potential for attracting pollinators and improving habitat for bees and butterflies.
- Increased diversity of landscapes to improve resilience.
- Ability to use deer-resistance species and cultivars that are excellent perennials.
- Due to the need to withhold mowing to allow bulbs to grow after flowering, mowing time, cost and exhaust emissions from mowers are reduced.
- No extra weeding.
- Greatly reduced labor and time commitment for planting making bulb planting much easier on installation staff. Reports from the City of Detroit state the machine reduced worker fatigue, and improved staff attitude toward bulb planting season.
- Opportunities to educate visitors on relationships of grass, mowing, emissions and sustainable landscapes.

For example Cornell places small instructional “Tall grass, small gas” signs in areas of reduced turf mowing. In the fall of 2017, Cornell received an in-grass Geerlings planter from Anthos along with several pallets of bulbs.

We installed a number of demonstration plantings in the fall of 2017 and several more in the 2018 and 2019 planting seasons. Installations were primarily made in Ithaca NY

(upstate NY, zone 5b-6a) and on Long Island (zone 6b). The majority were on institutional or public grounds properties and the plantings represented a diversity of style, formatting and complexity.

The objective of these plantings was to stoke awareness and interest in the equipment and to highlight possibilities for its use. In addition, videos of the process have been posted online and are easily accessible by Googling “Cornell bulb planter”.

Everyone who sees these in-grass, massed bulb plantings are impressed with their beauty and impact. But there is a lingering question, and that is “how early can you mow” in-grass bulbs? Most landscape managers like their turfgrass to be uniformly mowed and take pride in perfectly manicured and well-groomed turf. A patch looking like a wild grassland is not usually their intent! Of course, this is something of a “cultural” issue, as many people can appreciate the “wild” nature of less-mowed in grass bulbs and attribute ecosystem services to such plantings (for example insect refuge). A manicured grass strip alongside the more wild bulb area improves appearance and gives a sense of proper maintenance.

It is common knowledge that bulb foliage should be allowed to die back completely and should not be tied up or removed until it is completely yellow or brown. This is because after flowering, the leaves continue to produce food (through photosynthesis) that is critical to building up the bulb for the next season. Therefore, the bulb optimally needs to have functional leaves as long as possible and this can conflict with the landscape manager wants to mow the grass and bulb leaves to improve appearance after flowering.

So, just how early can you mow bulb foliage without adversely affecting future years’ bloom?

Aside from the standard wisdom of leaving the leaves on as long as possible, it is not easy to find any actual research that shows this...it is just common sense based on the bulb’s life cycle. In a bulb production scenario in a field, this is acceptable as there is no competing aesthetic issue. We thought it likely that mowing can happen earlier than the moment of full dead leaves on the basis that with many plants leaves lose a lot of photosynthetic capacity well before complete leaf death. Thus, we felt there is probably a “safe moment” when mowing can happen without reducing future flower display.

What we did To address this question

We installed “mowing date” experiments at Cornell in the fall of 2017 and 2018. Using 4 kinds of bulbs: *Crocus tommasinianus* ‘Ruby Giant’, *Crocus* ‘Pickwick’, *Scilla sibirica* and *Narcissus* ‘Tete-a-Tete’. We used the bulb planter in a normal manner, but without any bulbs...allowing us to “roll back” the grass slices and place bulbs by hand so as to

plant exactly 24 bulbs in each plot. Each plot (mow date) was replicated 4 times. After planting bulbs, the grass was rolled back and left for the winter.

In the spring, plants were allowed to develop and flower normally and data was collected on flower numbers per plot. After flowering, plots were mowed on a schedule thought to span a time frame from mowing too early through to mowing only after all foliage was dead.

Simply put, the cultivars showed differences in response to mow date, but none of them required the leaves to remain until fully yellowed. For example, ‘Ruby Giant’ crocus, the earliest flowering species, showed very little response to mow date, showing it can be mowed in upstate New York at any point starting from the last week of May without reducing future flower response.

Interestingly, the much later flowering *Scilla sibirica* showed a similar response...there was no effect of 2 years of different mow dates on its flowering. *Scilla* plots mowed in July were no more vigorous than plots mowed in mid-late May.

This goes against conventional wisdom and at this point we really do not have a good explanation for this finding. *Crocus* ‘Remembrance’ required more time after flowering for its first mowing. The earliest two mowing dates (ca. May 16 and May 27) had somewhat fewer flowers than the three later dates such that mowing anytime 8 June or later did not diminish flower numbers in subsequent years even though functional foliage was still present on those dates.

‘Tete-a-Tete’ was similar and the experiment thus far suggests mowing as early as June 8-10 is acceptable and will not adversely affect future flowering. Perhaps in future years, mowing in early June would show an effect, it is important to keep in mind this is just the results after two mowing seasons. Weather differs each year and some seasons are slow and others fast. But in any case, Tete-a-Tete leaves are still quite green on June 8-10 in Ithaca.

What does this mean?

The experiment so far suggests that these cultivars can be mowed significantly earlier than the “fully yellow or dead leaves” stage. We expect these trends to continue, but will need to wait for spring 2021 (with the mowing schedule maintained in spring 2020) for complete data. A follow-up experiment, planted in fall 2018, which was mowed for the first time in 2019 and currently flowering in spring 2020 suggests that Tete-a-Tete is showing a very similar response completely in line with the earlier experiment.

These experiments are necessarily long-term and progress comes slowly. The results from this experiment are easily applied in upstate New York and much of the northern US in zones 5 to 6a. Presumably in warmer locales (Long Island, southern New Jersey or southern

Actual mow date per year and two-year average.

Treatment	2018	2019	Average
1	16 May	16 May	16 May
2	24 May	30 May	27 May
3	7 June	10 June	8 June
4	14 June	24 June	19 June
5	1 July	8 July	4 July

Pennsylvania), safe mow dates would be somewhat earlier owing to the earlier flowering of plants in those areas, but we cannot be sure. Additional experiments would need to be done in those and more southern areas.

However, we can say with confidence that landscape managers do not need to routinely withhold mowing until mid-summer (e.g. early July) when leaves are fully dead.



Examples of demonstration plantings on the Cornell campus. Location is the “bioswale” at Cornell Botanical Gardens, spring (left) and the same planting in early summer with *Allium* and *Camassia* (right).

Beauty Marks

By Paul Hetzler, formerly of CCE St. Lawrence

In the world of forestry (urban and otherwise), ugliness is not pathological. Arborists live with it, and so do trees. Tar spot, for example, which can make your tree look like a roofing contractor has vandalized its leaves in the night, is a benign affliction.

Across the region this year, leafcutter moth larvae have excised near-perfect circles of tissue from maple leaves, making it seem as though someone went berserk with a hole-punch. Even though maple leaves end up brown and bedraggled, leafcutter damage occurs late enough in the season that it does no real harm. Trees may be embarrassed by their looks now but they'll be fine come spring.

Beauty, on the other hand, can be beastly. Take the practice of piling up mulch against the trunks of trees to make tidy and color-coordinated perimeters. Apparently in some quarters these "mulch volcanoes" are considered attractive, and I have to admit they go well with white-painted rock borders and pink plastic flamingos. Sadly, this volcanic loveliness comes at a cost to trees, leading to insect infestations, diseases, and root problems.

But the worst kind of beauty-related damage affects only young trees. The trouble with young landscape trees is that they're planted. What I mean is, they're stuck in the location we choose for them, and can't run away from hazards such as dogs, drought and deicing salt. Even if they could just flinch they might be able to dodge certain lethal beauty marks.

Injury to the lower trunk reduces the vigor of a young tree, slowing its growth and making it more susceptible to disease and insect damage. Most landscape trees are grafted cultivars, and damage to bark near the graft union can cause the graft to fail. Many times, repeated hits by lawn mowers will cause enough decay that a tree will snap off at ground level even though it still has a live crown.

The most virulent strain of this beauty-related disease is "string-trimmer blight." A string trimmer, or "weed eater," is deadly because the string will reach around the trunk, girdling it entirely. When this happens the tree is doomed because the cambium tissue just beneath the bark is removed. Sugars produced through photosynthesis flow down through the cambium to the roots.

A girdled tree may actually leaf out for one or two years following a lethal injury because water and nutrients are pulled up the xylem tissue, or sap wood, which is below the cambium.

You can help prevent mower and string trimmer blight by replacing sod around your tree with a ring (not a volcano) of mulch 4" deep and extending to the drip line. You'll keep the mower away and make your tree happier in the process because it won't have to compete as much with the grass. Installing plastic trunk guards around the lower 12-16 inches of trunk should keep string trimmers at bay.

Of course you can always just leave some long grass near the trunk to clip by hand later on. That might not look perfect, but beauty isn't all it's cracked up to be.

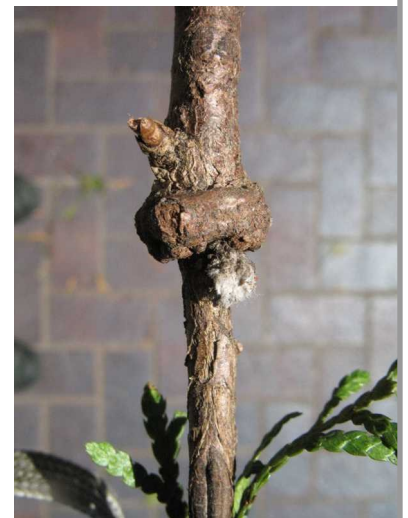


"Lawn mower blight" can occur any time the obsession with a perfect lawn meets up with powerful equipment in the vicinity of a young tree. Contributing factors are zero-turn mowers that can hit Mach 2 in half a block, and youthful operators. If an MP3 player and ear buds are in the picture, lawn mower blight is almost certain.

Want to learn more about mechanical damage to trees?

Check out this webpage from the Missouri Botanical Garden:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/environmental/mechanical.aspx>



Support Local Farms and Local Farmers

Some websites to explore:

Buy Local Food—a searchable website with farmers who sell direct to consumers. You can narrow your search for product and location: <https://buylocalfoodny.org/>

Finger Lakes Farm Country—an agritourism website, but includes maple, honey, and other products available for sale: <https://fingerlakesfarmcountry.com/>

Meat Suite: buy quantities of meat from local suppliers: <https://www.meatsuite.com/>



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Lure is Developed

A team of ARS scientists from the [Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory](#) in Beltsville, MD, and the [Appalachian Fruit Research Station](#) in Kearneysville, WV, is looking into “attractive” ways to kill brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB). As well as being household pests, these invasive bugs from Asia have a voracious appetite for fruit and vegetable crops and can cause significant destruction. In 2010, they caused \$37 million in damage to apples alone because there are few, if any, natural enemies here to keep the pests under control.

The ARS team identified the BMSB pheromone and a “synergist,” which enhances attraction of the pheromone, and with university collaborators around the country, they developed lures that are now commercially available. The lures can be used with crop-compatible trap designs to measure BMSB presence, relative abundance, and seasonal activity. The biological information generated by these baited traps enables growers to better manage BMSB on their farms. These pheromone lures are also part of an attract-and-kill system that ARS researchers at Kearneysville are developing. When paired with a BMSB host plant, like an apple tree, these lures attract and trap the bugs. This enables growers to treat only the baited trees rather than the entire orchard – reducing the area treated by over 90 percent.



Support scientist Starker Wright (left) and entomologist Tracy Leskey inspect traps baited with experimental pheromone lures. The lures are being tested for brown marmorated stink bug attraction.

Photo by Stephen Ausmus.

Low-Interest Loans Available for New York Producers Affected by Natural Disasters

Emergency Support to Producers in Surrounding Counties/ Border States Also Available

SYRACUSE, New York. February 22, 2021 — New York agricultural producers who lost property due to recent natural disasters may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) physical loss loans. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers these low-interest loans to agricultural producers in Broome, Otsego, Saratoga, Tioga and Washington counties who incurred losses caused by excessive snow that occurred Dec. 16 to Dec. 17, 2020. Approval is limited to applicants who suffered severe physical losses only, including the loss of buildings and livestock. Applications are due by Oct. 18, 2021.

“New York’s hardworking ag producers feed our neighbors, the nation, and the world,” said Acting State Executive Director Mark Dennis. “When they suffer losses because of extreme weather, helping them get back on their feet is important. We encourage those affected to reach out to their local USDA Service Center to apply for these emergency loans.”

Producers in the contiguous counties listed below are also eligible to apply for emergency loans:

- New York: Albany, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie,

Tompkins and Warren.

- Pennsylvania: Bradford, Susquehanna and Wayne

Vermont: Addison, Bennington and Rutland.

Physical loss loans can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees and harvested or stored crops and hay.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs or to find your local USDA Service Center visit farmers.gov/recover.

Round Three of PPP Open!

Starting February 24th for a 14-day period, ordered by the Biden administration, during which only businesses with fewer than 20 employees can apply for a PPP loan. Round 3 funding of \$284 billion expands on the original PPP goals of providing loans to businesses for payroll and other costs to help those businesses remain viable and allow their workers to pay their bills. The table below outlines all three rounds of PPP loan funding to date. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) extends the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through **March 31, 2021**, or until funds are depleted. The amount of funds currently available is \$284 billion. Maximum loans of \$10 million will be available to first-draw borrowers and loans up to \$2 million are being offered to second-draw, small business owners.

How to Apply for a Round 3 PPP Loan

New first- and second-draw loans will follow a pattern similar to that followed with previous PPP loans. Start by downloading and filling out a loan application from the SBA website. The first-draw application is five pages long, including instructions and the second-draw application is six pages, including instructions. Click [here](#) for more information.

So You Want to Be a Farmers' Market Vendor

Tuesday March 16th , 7pm Virtual via Zoom

Have you been considering becoming a vendor at your local farmers market but aren't sure the first



place to start? Do you think the rules and regulations are too strict to sell your products? Maybe you aren't sure if your product would be a good fit. Or perhaps you have been looking for an additional stream of income and believe that farmers markets are the optimal market channel for you! Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, in partnership with the Markets of Broome County, for a webinar on Tuesday March 16th at 7pm focused on everything you will need to know in order to sell at a farmers market in Broome County, and the region.

This workshop will focus on all aspects of selling at a Farmers' Market, including permits and insurance, marketing and farmers market incentive programs (such as SNAP, EBT, WIC and FreshConnect) which are a largely growing opportunity for farmers market income. We'll also cover basic food safety, and products needed to fill niches at the various farmers' markets in Broome County. There are farmers markets which operate three days a week in Broome County so there are many opportunities to participate in a farmers market. We'll end with a panel of farmers markets from the region, including the Downtown Courtyard Market (Binghamton), Windsor Farmers Market & Daisy Farmers Market (Whitney Point). The cost will be \$10/farm or family. Please register by visiting this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2021sellingatfarmersmks-2_203. Upon receipt of payment your registration will be complete and you will receive a zoom link the morning of March 16th. Questions can be directed to Laura Biasillo at lw257@cornell.edu.

USDA Offering Two Webinars in March for Beginning Farmers in New York State

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will present two webinars for beginning farmers in March 2021.

The webinars are free however pre-registration is required to get a link to each webinar. Please register at these links or by emailing lynette.wright@usda.gov.

USDA Resources for Beginning Farmers in New York State: USDA's Beginning Farmer Team in New York will offer this webinar on March 4 from 12 – 2 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Understanding Eligibility Requirements for NRCS and FSA Programs: USDA's Urban Agriculture Team in New York will offer this webinar for urban producers on March 24 from 12 – 1 p.m. The webinar will be useful to all beginning farmers. [Register here.](#)

Safely Raise Leafy Greens

Join the CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County on Thursday March 18th, 2021 for a virtual training on how to Assess and Prevent

Food Safety Risks in Leafy Greens Production. E. coli outbreaks in lettuce grown in the Southwest have made headlines numerous times over the last several growing seasons. In many instances, these outbreaks have led to recalls from coast to coast. Ultimately, the health and financial impacts of these outbreaks have resulted in more attention being paid by buyers and regulators on the leafy greens industry.

What do the problems in the Southwest have to do with growers in NY? As leafy greens are a highly susceptible crop to contamination, precautionary lessons can be learned. This training will provide an overview of possible sources of contamination related to soil amendments, wildlife, water, post-harvest handling, transportation and more.

This training will emphasize specific risks that leafy greens growers may experience, identify tangible corrective actions that can be taken, and provide participants the opportunity to work through example scenarios as a group. Leafy greens growers, with the exclusion of those growing sprouts and microgreens, who sell through any of the following market channels: farmers market, CSA, produce auction, or wholesale, will find this workshop informative in offering real world examples and solutions to all aspects of growing, harvesting and storage of leafy greens grown in NYS.

A basic knowledge of food safety is recommended, but not required, for participation in this remote training opportunity. The cost to attend this virtual training is \$10/ farm and payment is required at the time of registration. The zoom link will be sent the morning of March 18th to the email used in the registration. Registration is required by March 16th. Any questions can be directly to Laura Biasillo at lw257@cornell.edu.

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/leafygreensfoodsafetyrisks_203.

Organic SWD Management Webinar

Join eOrganic for a webinar all about the latest research on **organic management approaches for SWD!** This **webinar** is hosted by Oregon State University. It will take place Tuesday, **March 9, 2021**, at **2 PM** Eastern Time.

Register at https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xVLF9Wn5Qx6I8FXnNwkCcw



You know that spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) is a devastating pest of berries and stone fruits — **worldwide**. **Losses due to SWD can be as high as 100% and have been valued at more than \$718 million annually in the U.S.** The zero tolerance for SWD in fresh and processed fruit has led growers to make preventative insecticide applications when fruit are ripe — essentially on a weekly schedule. For growers that don't want to spray that much or at all, they simply shut down when SWD infestation hits.

Organic management of SWD is even more challenging due to the low number of effective OMRI-approved insecticides. Our limited understanding of the biology of SWD hasn't yet translated into non-chemical management tactics. This US research team was funded by USDA-NIFA through OREI Award No. 2018-51300-28434 to develop, evaluate, and implement systems-based organic management programs for SWD.

This [Organic Management of SWD 2021 Webinar](#) will provide a comprehensive update on organic management of spotted-wing drosophila. **The webinar presentations will summarize findings of the research conducted by the project team on organically approved strategies including behavioral, cultural, biological, and chemical tactics to manage SWD.**

Presenters include:

Ash Sial (University of Georgia): Ash is the blueberry entomologist at the UGA and the Project Director for the SWD Organic Management USDA-NIFA OREI grant.

Kent Daane (University of California Berkeley): Kent is an Extension Specialist at UC Berkeley focusing on biological control of SWD.

Elena Rhodes (University of Florida): Elena is a fruit entomologist and works on behavioral management techniques to control SWD.

Gabriella Tait (Oregon State University): Gabriella is a fruit entomologist and works on cultural control strategies for SWD.

Steve Van Timmeren (Michigan State University): Steve is a fruit entomologist and works on chemical control and resistance management strategies for SWD.

Leah English (University of Arkansas): Leah is an agricultural economist and develops interactive tools to aid farmers with pest management decisions.

Kay Kelsey (University of Georgia): Kay is an impact evaluation specialist and works with extension and research to evaluate the impact of their projects.

Learn More Here: <https://eorganic.org/node/34578>



Don't miss this information-packed webinar! Learn the latest, emerging concepts in organic SWD management. Learn what the up-and-coming non-chemical tactics are that anyone can use on their farm to reduce the risk of SWD infestation in fruits.

Register at https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xVLF9Wn5Qx6I8FXnNwkCcw



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Workshops to Attend

Pruning Your Home Orchard Online Class via Zoom Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30pm

Roger Ort from CCE Schuyler County will present on pruning fruit trees. One of the prime reasons for annual pruning is to encourage lots of productive fruiting wood. How you prune your trees affects how they grow as well as how much they fruit. Learn how to manage your home orchard to keep your trees producing. The fee for the class is \$10.00 per email address. This class will be held via Zoom, a link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you via e-mail on the day of the event. For more information contact: Dan Cargill at dec24@cornell.edu To register and pay online please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y4urk5rj>

Growing Hydrangeas Online Class via Zoom Thursday, March 25 at 6:30pm

Broome County Master Gardener Tony Antes will present on these popular ornamental shrubs; the different species and cultivars commonly available and the care and maintenance they need, including pruning, propagation by cuttings, drying, and changing bloom color in most hydrangeas. The fee for the class is \$10.00 per email address. This class will be held via Zoom, a link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you via e-mail on the day of the event. For more information contact: Dan Cargill at dec24@cornell.edu To register and pay online please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y69z38bd>

Growing Culinary Herbs Online Class via Zoom Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30p

Broome County Master Gardener and herb enthusiast Elaine Gregory will take you through the basics of growing, harvesting and preserving some of our most popular culinary herbs and some less common herbs to expand your palette. The fee for the class is \$10.00 per email. This class will be held via Zoom, a link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you via e-mail on the day of the event. For more information contact: Dan Cargill at dec24@cornell.edu To register please visit: <https://cornell-cooperative-extension-of-broome-county.myshopify.com/products/growing-culinary-herbs-online-class>

Creating a Butterfly Garden Online Class via Zoom Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30p

Would you like to see more butterflies in your garden? Broome County Master Gardener Tony Antes will take you through some basic guidelines with step-by-step pictures to plan and plant a garden that will attract an array of butterflies and other pollinators. The fee for the class is \$10.00 per

email. This class will be held via Zoom, a link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you via e-mail on the day of the event. For more information contact: Dan Cargill at dec24@cornell.edu

To register please visit: <https://cornell-cooperative-extension-of-broome-county.myshopify.com/products/creating-a-butterfly-garden-online-class>

Weed Identification and Management Online Class via Zoom

Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30p

Weeds getting the best of your gardens? There are ways to prevent them. Learn identification strategies and management tactics to help control weeds in your landscapes. The fee for the class is \$10.00 per email. This class will be held via Zoom, a link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you via e-mail on the day of the event. For more information contact: Dan Cargill at dec24@cornell.edu

To register please visit: <https://cornell-cooperative-extension-of-broome-county.myshopify.com/products/weed-identification-and-management-online-class>

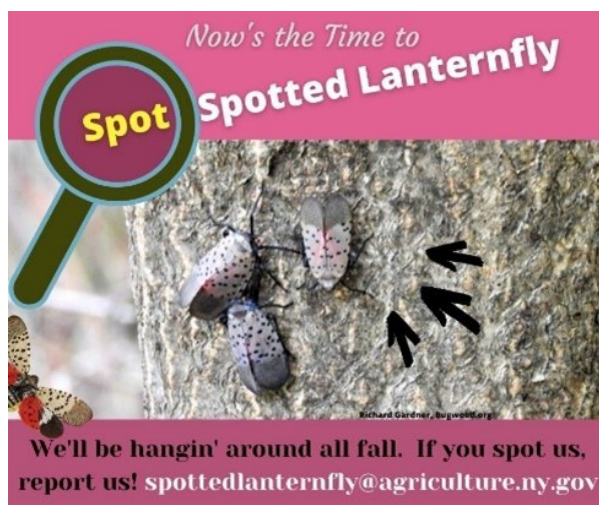
Spotted Lanternfly in New York State – Presented by Hilary Mosher, Finger Lakes PRISM; Michael Giambalvo, NYS Ag & Markets

Tuesday, March 9th 10am-12pm via Zoom

Join Broome County MGVs to learn about Spotted Lanternfly biology and identification, its presence in NYS and what you can do to help monitor for and report this new invasive pest and one of its favorite hosts Tree-of-Heaven.

Pre-registration is required: <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvdeippzIpEtwliWHHGti5UWy8yT54fbRr>

After registering you will be provided with the Zoom invite.



Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and that provides equal program and employment opportunities.



ZOOM CLASS: Master Gardeners' Favorite Perennials to Know and Grow

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 6-8 p.m.

Join CCE-Tompkins' own Mila Fournier and some of our very experienced Master Gardener Volunteers to learn about their favorite perennials to grow at home. They will introduce you to their favorite easy to grow perennial plants for sunny spots, shady areas, deer-ridden areas, and wildlife habitat.

Mila Fournier is a landscape designer and educator with two decades of design experience that started with guerilla gardening in Brooklyn and has moved her through designing some of the most sophisticated gardens in NYC, including Washington Square Park, Union Square Park, the Cooper Hewitt Museum, and Lincoln Center. Mila has worked as an educator, designer, and horticultural consultant, including managing Ithaca Children's Garden and helping large developers create habitats to offset new construction. She holds a horticulture certificate from Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a Design Certificate from NY Botanical Garden, and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry.

Fee: \$0-\$30 sliding scale, pay what you can

REGISTER HERE: <https://ccetompkins.mahaplatform.com/events/perennials>

Join us for our upcoming classes here: <http://ccetompkins.org/gardening/gardening-classes>

Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate Training

The Farm Disaster Preparation program will help farm owners plan for and manage disasters that might occur. This program focuses on practical pre-disaster education and preparedness, regarding farm equipment safety on the road, fire or structure collapse, storm and wind damage, criminal activity, farm chemical risks and biosecurity. Farms that complete the Farm Disaster Preparation training will receive a certificate to provide to their insurer and may be eligible for a credit or discount toward the farm's annual insurance premium. The value of the credit or discount will vary according to individual policies and policyholder circumstances but can be up to a 10 percent discount.

The Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate is directed to all sizes of farms and all types of products. Dairy and livestock farms are especially encouraged to participate in the program due to their additional concerns regarding animal agriculture. The person representing a farm should be the insurance policyholder; other key farm personnel are welcome.

Certificate program will be held on Tuesday March 16 and Thursday, March 18th, 2021 from 6:30-9:00 PM via Zoom. [You must attend both sessions for certificate.](#) Space is limited and pre-registration is requested by March 10th to allow time for mailing resource materials. There is a \$35 fee per farm for this program. For more information or to pre-register contact Lynn Bliven at 585-268-7644 ext. 18 or email at lao3@cornell.edu.