



# Cornell University Cooperative Extension Monroe County

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## CCE Monroe County Horticulture Program Update January 2026

### **Program Highlights:**

#### **Master Gardeners:**

- Blocks in Bloom Program has recruited an intern to develop a social media campaign through Empire State University.
- Seed to Supper program was awarded a grant to collaborate with Rochester Deaf Kitchen, expanding the SLF (South Lawn Farm) to build out an area for an education garden. The second Seed 2 Supper program will be offered in Spanish, working out details and seeking partnerships to ensure success.
- Master Gardeners celebrated with our annual holiday potluck. It was a huge success with lots of raffle donations and great food.

#### **Natural Resources**

- Sent the IPM grant application (2026 Northeastern Regional IPM Partnerships Grants Program Administered by the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center) to improve sanitary conditions at South Lawn Farm and prevent rodent presence.
- Worked on writing the 30-Hour Pesticide Course FAQ.
- Attended the monthly Cornell Climate Stewards Educator check-in to share updates and connect with peers.
- **Canopy Tree Project:**
  - Participated in the EHSC Community Advisory Board, connecting with key partners.
  - Met with Evan Lowenstein to seek expert guidance on project implementation strategies and Stakeholders.
  - Developing the Rochester Forestry Plan to align community needs, tree planting goals, and program outcomes, ensuring grant objectives can be achieved in 2026.
- **Natural Resources Programs:** Creating and designing programs to offer at community locations throughout Rochester, engaging residents in environmental education and urban forestry initiatives
- **Garden Outreach:**
  - Acquired SEAC Tool Shed membership for CCE Monroe staff use.
  - Had successful closing meeting with ARPA funders re-capping the use of funds for 2025.
  - Rachel completed the OSHA-10 online course.
    - Scheduled and began planning two workshops with co-presenter Lori Koenick from the Cornell Vegetable Program. (winecap mushrooms 5/7, soil health and cover cropping 7/9)

- South Lawn Farm greenhouse schedule and ground schedule close to completion! Seeds ordered and arrived from Johnny's Seeds.

### **Strategic Plan Update:**

- **MGV:**
  - We have developed a new relationship with Rochester Deaf Kitchen (RDK), we are currently working on getting a draft MOU to continue to develop our relationship.
  - New intern to assist us with a marketing campaign for Blocks in Bloom will ensure that we are reaching our social media goals.
- **Natural Resources:**
  1. Canopy Tree Project & Rochester Forestry Plan:
    - Establish the Rochester Forestry Plan to align community needs, tree planting goals, and program outcomes, ensuring grant objectives can be achieved in 2026.
    - Connecting strategic partners and collaborators to support implementation and expand project impact.
  2. Natural Resources Programs:
    - Establish programs to be offered at various community locations throughout Rochester.
    - Engaging community in environmental education, urban forestry, and hands-on activities to foster stewardship and awareness.
  3. Community Outreach & PRISM Event Promotion:
    - Supporting the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program Workshop through promotion via social media, newsletters, tabling events, and CCE Monroe website.
- **Garden Outreach:** [5.2 Ensure the flow of information through formal and informal channels thereby strengthening the representation and value of the organization to the community.]
  - Outreach to several partners to begin planning 2026 workshops for the public.
  - On the UAWG Content Committee planning the 2026 Urban Ag Conference.

### **BOD Engagement Opportunity:**

- **Master Gardeners:** Lilac Festival - looking for those who are interested in helping with transporting master gardeners on a golf cart, from parking to tent and other tasks while there.
- **Natural Resources:** *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive insect that feeds on hemlock trees, weakening and often killing them within a few years.* Natural Resources CCE Monroe is supporting the event Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program Workshop, Friday, February 20, 2026, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Participants will:
  - Learn how to identify HWA and understand its impact on local forests.
  - Take part in a hands-on survey in a hemlock stand at Alasa Farms to help monitor and protect these important trees.

This is a great chance to gain field experience, contribute to forest health, and connect with local natural resource efforts. More info [here](#) & [Registration here](#).

- **Garden Outreach:** 2026 GROWS curriculum – do you want to teach a skill to our 2026 GROWS participants? Looking for engaging and relevant lessons on soft work skill topics: ex. Home budgeting, interviews, professionalism and preparedness, communications (proper letter/email writing, how to conduct a phone call professionally), etc.

#### **Story of Celebration or Success**



Group of Master Gardeners at the Holiday Celebration Potluck! Location was the club house in Durand Park.



Master Gardeners Suzanne Feather (on left) and Laura Harder (on right)

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive insect that feeds on hemlock trees, weakening and often killing them within a few years. The loss of hemlocks harms wildlife habitat, changes stream temperatures, and increases erosion, threatening forest health, biodiversity, and water quality.**



## Join the Finger Lakes PRISM for a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program Workshop

in partnership with Genesee Land Trust and  
Monroe CCE



**When: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 2pm**

**Where: Alasa Farms**

6450 Shaker Rd, North Rose, NY 14516

**What to Expect:** Learn how to identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, understand its impact on our forests, and then join us in a hemlock stand at Alasa Farms to conduct a hands-on HWA survey.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program Workshop Flyer.