

2026 Pesticide Training for Master Gardener Volunteers

(1/7/2026)

MGV Training Webinars:

- **Module 4, Section 4.2**
 - [Module 4, Section 4.2a: Part 1 of Basic Pesticide Training for Master Gardener Volunteers - YouTube](#)
 - [Module 4, Section 4.2b: Part 2 of Basic Pesticide Training for Master Gardener Volunteers](#)
 - [Module 4, Section 4.2c: Part 3 of Basic Pesticide Training for Master Gardener Volunteers](#)
 - [Module 4, Section 4.2d: Part 4 of Basic Pesticide Training for Master Gardener Volunteers - YouTube](#)

Efficacy: How do you choose an effective pesticide active ingredient?

- Updated organic vegetable guidelines (including updated pesticide efficacy information) will be available online in time for the 2026 growing season at the [Cornell IPM vegetable resources page](#).
- Organic Production & IPM Guides for vegetables (older, but can be found linked under each crop on this [page](#)); available for: Fresh & dry beans; Carrots; Cole crops (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts); Cucumbers & winter squash; Lettuce; Peas; Potatoes; Spinach
- The Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic maintains lists of [some pesticides that are registered in NYS and for use in home vegetable gardens](#). But it is not an all-inclusive list. *It does not include information on the relative efficacy of any of the products.*
- Organic Production & IPM Guides for Fruit
 - [Apples](#)
 - Blueberries, strawberries, raspberries & blackberries all linked from this [page](#), under “featured resources”
- [Apple IPM for Beginners](#) (targeted to beginning commercial farmers, but may be some overlap of pesticide active ingredients for gardeners; also IPM strategies)
- [Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners](#) (written for commercial farmers, but may be some overlap of pesticide active ingredients for gardeners; also IPM strategies)
- [Biopesticide efficacy spreadsheets](#) (tree fruit, berries, ornamentals; no veggies); large spreadsheets, but may be helpful)

- [Minimum-risk pesticide active ingredients](#) (also called 25 (b) products; profiles published in 2018 and chitosan has since been added; profiles are only for active ingredients, not formulated products). EPA also has a website dedicated to [minimum-risk pesticides](#).
- [Cornell's Crop and Pest Management Guidelines](#) can be purchased through the Cornell store and have good IPM information, in addition to lists of pesticides. Take note of the following:
 - Crop-specific Guidelines are written for commercial agricultural production, but can be a source of information on available and/or effective pesticide active ingredients for specific pests and crops.
 - For some crops the Guidelines list all pesticides/active ingredients that are registered in NY, but for others only pesticides/active ingredients that have been demonstrated to be effective are listed.
 - Not all active ingredients that are allowed in commercial agricultural production can be used in a home garden setting.
 - The Guidelines for Managing Pests around the Home is for home gardener audiences, but is old. If you're looking for the "Cornell-reviewed" resource on pesticide use in home settings, this is what we have right now.
- Extension systems in other states may have additional efficacy resources, but you need to confirm through PSEP that any recommended products are legal to use in NY if you use their resources.

Hazard and Risk: How do you assess human & environmental hazards and risks of active ingredient?

- [National Pesticide Information Center](#) (NPIC) – limited list of active ingredients, but great information; and you can call them with additional questions
- [Environmental Impact Quotient \(EIQ\)](#) – Available on the Cornell IPM website, and provides information in two different formats:
 - Field use calculator (considers application rate; need more info to get value, but gives better information for comparing products. Is limited in calculating field use for homeowner products not applied on an area basis.)
 - List of all EIQ values in a spreadsheet
- Pesticide labels – Available on [NYSPAD](#); look for signal word, hazards to humans, pets, the environment
- Hazard vs Risk (fact sheet from PSEP). [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).
- How to Select a Pesticide Product (fact sheet from PSEP). [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).
- Home Remedies to Control Pests (fact sheet from PSEP) [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).

- [Pollinator Protection Guides](#) from Cornell's Pollinator Network have info about the impacts of pesticide active ingredients on bees (alone and when mixed with other products); developed for commercial farmers, but some active ingredients are also in home garden products\

Other resources

- What is a Pesticide (fact sheet from PSEP). [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).
- Storing pesticides at home (fact sheet from PSEP) [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).
- [Cornell Guide to Growing Fruit at Home](#) – Does not have any pesticide recommendations, but has great information about cultural practices that help mitigate pest problems. Because of the limited pesticide options for fruit pests around the home (and because many home orchardists would prefer to use fewer pesticides), these cultural practices are even more important.
- Cornell IPM hosted a conference on [IPM for Fruit in the Home Garden and Landscape](#) in 2024. Resources and slides from the conference are available online.