

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News January 10, 2024
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 656-7534, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

2024 VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING

This event is on Tuesday January 30 at the DoubleTree Hotel in S. Burlington. The agenda includes a dozen presenters and is focused on crop production. We have 30 trade show exhibitors registered so far. To view the program, exhibitors, and registration details please visit go.uvm.edu/vvbga24. Pre-registration closes on January 26.

Thanks to our 7 sponsors who help keep the annual meeting fees low: Farm Credit East, Harnois Greenhouses, High Mowing Seeds, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, Rimol Greenhouse Systems, Vermont Compost Company, Vermont Economic Development Authority, and the Vermont Produce Program.

VVBGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To join or renew go to <https://vvbga.org/user/register>

January 17. What new tool/equipment/ device are you excited about this year? Casey Steinberg from Old Friends Farm in MA will share some of their favorite tools for efficiency. Diane Abruzzini and Christa Alexander from Jericho Settlers Farm will describe a high tunnel gantry system they co-developed. Trevor Hardy from Brookdale Fruit Farm will discuss stone buriers and direct seeders thru plastic. Hosted by Andy Chamberlin who will also share photos of new equipment.

January 24. Sourcing and selling pollinator plants. Commercial growers and plant sellers how to ensure transparency for pollinator safe products for our customers and how to know if varieties you source are not only visually attractive to pollinators, but also provide essential pollinator food resources, pollen and nectar. Speakers: Sarah Salatino, Spencer Hardy. Hosted by Laura Johnson.

NEW ENGLAND CROP MANAGEMENT GUIDES

Vegetable Management Guide. <https://nevegetable.org/>

Small Fruit Management Guide. <https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/ne-small-fruit-management-guide>

Updated Strawberry Production Guide. <https://scholars.unh.edu/extension/1670/>

Tree Fruit Management Guide. <https://netreefruit.org/>

Floriculture Management Guide. <https://greenhouseguide.cahnr.uconn.edu/> (older, free).
<https://www.negreenhouse.org/pest-guides.html> (\$43)

NEW GRANT PROGRAM FOR VERMONT PRODUCE FARMS

The new Meat and Produce Agriculture Development Grants program will make awards to farms between \$35,000 and \$300,000, 2024. This one-time funding from the State totals \$1.6 million. Eligible operations must be registered and operate in Vermont and conduct or be expanding into produce production or processing. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, infrastructure improvements, equipment and material upgrades, safety and quality improvements, staff and management training, and implementing improved operations management. For details see

HIGH TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION VIDEOS

A 6-part video series covering the intricacies of greenhouse or high tunnel construction. developed by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Filmed in collaboration with experts from academia, business, and government, these videos provide a complete guide to greenhouse construction, including best practices, tips and tricks, and the correct order of events to create a functional and lasting greenhouse.

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/constructing>

FRUIT GROWER WEBINARS

<https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/news-events/northeast-extension-fruit-consortium>