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From The Editor's Desk

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)

Welcome to the *Vegetable Crops Hotline* (VCH), Purdue Extension's exclusive newsletter for people in the business of growing vegetables.

In this **last issue** of 2023, we highlight an overview of the Mechanical Weed Control field day, food safety and SARE news, and we look at winter educational events.

Very Important: Vegetable Crop Hotline Survey

We will launch a survey on **October 24, 2023,** to get your feedback. This is the first time that VCH is asking its subscribers to give us some feedback. Surveys will be sent via email and U.S. Mail to current subscribers and will also be available online for our local, national, and international audiences. The survey will help us improve our services to you. Thank you in advance for setting some time aside to help us improve our service to you. Read the article for more details.

Hardcopy Subscribers

Remember to renew your subscription for 2024.

Resources

This is a reminder that we have a page on the Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter webpage listing many resources available. If you don't have internet access, please get in touch with your local county Extension office and ask for their assistance. Resource links include ten Purdue Vegetable Websites, five Video Playlists, and several Social Media connections.

Website links

Frequently, we include links to websites or publications that are available online. If you can't access these resources or can't see the web address, don't hesitate to contact your local county Extension office or us to request a hard copy of the information.

Remember, we have a great Horticulture Team that can assist you. A complete list is available HERE.

All previous articles published in the VCH newsletter are available on the VCH website vegcropshotline.org. You can use the search function to access the relevant information quickly.

Do not hesitate to contact me, Petrus Langenhoven, at plangenh@purdue.edu if you have any questions or suggestions to improve the newsletter.

Enjoy reading this issue!

Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter Survey

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)

Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter Subscribers,

I am requesting your feedback on your experience with the Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter (VCH) and your input regarding 2024 content. Your responses will help us make decisions about what crops to feature and any vegetable crop issues that you may like us to focus on in the coming year.

This is the first time that VCH is asking its subscribers to give us some feedback. The survey will help us improve our services to you. Thank you in advance for setting some time aside to help us understand your needs.

The survey will launch on October 24, 2023, @ 1:30 p.m.

Digital Subscribers

An email will be sent to your inbox. If you do not receive the email, you may also follow this link to the Survey: https://puext.in/2023 VCH Website

Hardcopy subscribers

The survey will be sent out by U.S. Mail to all hardcopy subscribers. Please return the completed survey to:

Petrus Langenhoven

Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

625 Agriculture Mall Drive

West Lafayette IN, 47907

If you have questions, please get in touch with Petrus Langenhoven at plangenh@purdue.edu or call (765) 496-7955.

See Weeds Perish Up Close and In Person at the Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day!

(Ashley Adair, holmes9@purdue.edu)

September 25th began cloudy and gray, with a hint of autumn in the air and the bustle of field day preparation on Ohio State's Wooster campus. The Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day, an annual event by The Land Connection, partnered with Ohio State this year to bring mechanical weed control demonstrations to northeast Ohio.

There is no better place to see a huge variety of mechanical weed control equipment than this field day. The event serves both vegetable growers and grain producers at large and small scale – there is literally something for everyone. Hand tools, two-wheel tractors, large row crop cultivators, and autonomous tools showed off their capabilities in crops specifically planted for the field day. Farmers from across the US and Canada attended this year's event. It's a great place to meet other growers using a more "mixed methods" approach to weed control, or those that are farming fully organically.



Figure 1. Planet Jr. antique tractor cultivator demo by Staufer Farms in the event's Walk-Behind Alley session (Photo by Ashley Adair).

The Land Connection makes an effort to host this event in a different state each year. I attended this same event last year at Michigan State's Southwest Research and Extension Center near Benton Harbor, a site focused on vegetable research with profoundly sandy soil. I was enamored with the variety of tools

and opportunities to talk directly with equipment dealers and manufacturers. But I was still curious to see how the tools I saw would perform in less-forgiving soils. Luckily, Wooster's soils are just what I needed to see! Heavier-textured silty loams, with a few rocks here and there, gave the tools on display a bigger challenge.

Wooster did not disappoint. Some tools performed better than I would have expected in the heavier soils on-site, including the whisker-weeding hand tools. Most tools called for different depth adjustments in heavy soils compared to sandy soils since there is a higher risk of burying small seedlings and creating compaction with stickier soil. Many tools have different setup suggestions for different soil textures and crop conditions – at this event, you can ask the equipment reps or your fellow farmer for suggestions on how to improve the tool's performance.

The higher-tech tools, like the Carbon Robotics laser weeder, are generating a lot of excitement but aren't practical or affordable... yet. But it sure is exciting to see a laser vaporizing palmer amaranth and barnyardgrass seedlings into thin air.

Tools on display included the following:

Vegetable crops

- BCS implements rototiller, power harrow, V-cultivator, plastic mulch layer, flail mower, rotary plow, sickle bar mower, utility trailer
- o Carbon Robotics autonomous laser weeder
- o Garford in-row camera-guided cultivator
- o Magic cultivator and whisker weeder wheel hoe
- Q-hoe whisker weeder
- o Planet Jr. antique walk-behind tractor and cultivator
- o Sutton Ag camera-guided cultivator
- Terrateck Cultitrack + KULT-Kress cut-away discs
- Terrateck edge-of-plastic brush weeder
- Thiessen rear-mounted steerable cultivator
- o Tilmor 520Y with basket weeder and Einböck tine weeder
- Tilmor Power OX 240 walk-behind tractor with tender plant hoe, finger weeders, spring hoe weeder, Thiessen tine weeder, and basket weeder

https://vegcropshotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Magic-whisker-weeder-wheel-hoe.mp4

Video 1. Magic whisker weeder wheel hoe demonstration during Walk-Behind Alley presentation (Video by Ashley Adair).

Row crops

- Accura Flow cultivator
- o Hatzenbichler Air Flow tine harrow
- o Henke Buffalo 6400 cultivator
- LEMKEN Rubin speed disc
- Einböck Chopstar camera-guided cultivator
- Einböck Aerostar Fusion tine harrow
- TH Fabrication Swinging Spider cultivator
- Treffler tine harrow
- Rotary hoe (with retrofitted Ho-Bits spoons)

https://vegcropshotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Treffler-tine-harrow.mp4

Video 2. Treffler tine harrow set to 7 to show how a more aggressive setup affects V2 corn seedlings (Video by Ashley Adair).

I think there is no better substitute for seeing how a tool works than getting in the field with it. If you're interested in attending the Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day, expect to see it scheduled in mid-to late-September. You can check back with The Land Connection in the summer of 2024 or keep an eye on your Purdue Extension newsletters for the program advertisement!

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) News

(Lais McCartney, Imccartn@purdue.edu)

Various Ways to be Involved with SARE

SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) has various ways to be involved beyond the grant opportunities that come out every year. One other way to be involved with SARE is to review grants that come in. If you have been wanting to learn more about the SARE grant process and would like to apply to be on the review committee, read more information and apply here.

An excellent way for folks to be alerted about grant program opportunities is to sign up for the NCR SARE mailing list.

Lastly, here are some ongoing opportunities with the National SARE Outreach office:

Publishing With SARE

Do you or a colleague have a book manuscript on sustainable agriculture but no publisher? Do you have an idea for a video on a particular sustainable ag topic—or perhaps for ag communications research—that would serve farmers, ranchers, and educators well? SARE Outreach wants to hear your ideas. If your idea meets the criteria below, use the educational resource and outreach initiative nomination form to submit it for consideration. Proposed resources should:

- Address a critical information gap for a nationwide or trans-regional audience of farmers, ranchers and/or agricultural educators.
- Extend SARE and/or SARE-funded research.
- Support SARE's mission to advance innovations that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life.

Free Materials for Nonprofits Working with Producers

SARE books, bulletins, and promotional materials are free to nonprofit organizations organizing workshops, conferences, tours, networks, or other sustainable agriculture educational programs for ten or more farmers, ranchers, or agricultural educators. A limit of 50 free books per organization per calendar year applies.

Recent Changes in Home-Based Vendors Regulations

(Tari Gary)

Home-based vendors (HBV) in Indiana must follow certain regulations to sell food products made in a non-inspected space, like a home kitchen. HBV regulations require vendors to obtain a food handler certificate and restrict where HBVs may sell their products. Until recently, whole, uncut produce was subject to HBV regulations and requirements. As of July 1, 2023, whole, uncut produce is no longer covered under HBV laws in Indiana.

This means that vendors only selling whole, uncut produce no longer need to obtain a food handler certificate or meet other HBV regulations. This was the only product removed from the list of products subject to these rules. For more information about home-based vendor regulations, visit our HBV webpage.

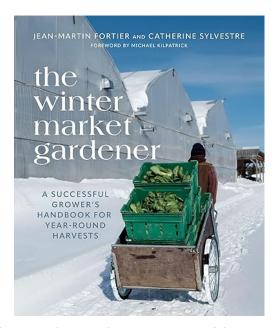


Cherry tomatoes for sale at Farmers Market (Photo copyright 2016 Purdue University, College of Agriculture).

If produce growers are interested in food safety education, we recommend that growers take the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. This 8-hour course is geared specifically toward fruit and vegetable growers and focuses on Good Agricultural Practices to prevent the contamination of fresh produce. Trainers from Purdue Extension's Safe Produce Indiana team will cover topics including agricultural water quality, worker hygiene, soil amendments, postharvest sanitation, and more. The Safe Produce Indiana team is in the process of scheduling in-person and remote training courses for the upcoming fall/winter. Some training will be offered at no cost, thanks to a grant awarded to the Indiana Farmers Market Community of Practice. Check out the Safe Produce Indiana website, where upcoming training dates and locations will be posted in the coming weeks!

New Book - The Winter Market Gardener

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)



The Winter Market Gardener: A Successful Grower's Handbook for Year-Round Harvests.

By Jean-Martin Fortier (Author), Catherine Sylvestre (Author), and Laurie Bennett (Translator). Publication date: October 10, 2023

An exciting new book about winter farming is now available. This might be great reading material for the fall/winter. I am including a video that gives you some background about the book.

Video 1. My New Book On Winter Farming Is Out! Let's Talk About It (YouTube)

The following description of the book was extracted from the Amazon page.

Many small farms shut down during the dark winter months. Yet with the right techniques, equipment, and cultivars, year-round growing can produce the highest quality and tastiest fresh local vegetables while banking a profit.

Building on years of research, experimentation, and collaboration, The Winter Market Gardener is a beautifully illustrated practical guide to winter vegetable production for small farmers growing in northern climates. Coverage includes:

- Unique aspects of year-round vegetable production, including superior flavor and the promotion of seasonality in eating
- Dozens of detailed vegetable profiles featuring recommended cultivars and crop-specific tips and techniques for bountiful winter harvests
- Details for calculating optimal seeding dates, crop spacing, care, pest management, weed control, and harvesting
- Selecting shelters for your crops and climate, including row covers, low tunnels, caterpillar tunnels, and high tunnels
- The costs and benefits of heated versus unheated greenhouses
- Tool selection and use for efficiency

- Winter storage crops and successful autumn growing
- Crop planning details for winter-season production.

Whether you are an experienced farmer or market grower, enthusiastic amateur, or committed consumer, The Winter Market Gardener will excite, inspire, and empower you to embrace the seasons and work with nature to produce and enjoy superior-quality local vegetables all year.

Save the Date: Indiana Horticulture Conference & Expo - Jan. 22-23, 2024

(Stephen Meyers, slmeyers@purdue.edu, (765) 496-6540)



Educational Tracks

The event will include educational tracks in fresh vegetables; processing tomatoes; small and tree fruits; business, marketing, succession planning; food safety; and controlled environment agriculture.

Credits will be available for Certified Crop Advisors (CEUs) as well as Indiana-licensed private (PARP) and commercial pesticide applicators (CCH). PARP can be earned on both days.

Registration

Registration will begin in October. Past attendees will receive a link to the registration webpage by email. New attendees can find the link at the Indiana Horticulture Conference webpage: Indiana Horticulture Conference and Expo (indianahortconference.org). Standard registration will be \$125 and include access to educational tracks and a light breakfast, lunch, and welcome reception.

Vendor Booths and Sponsorships

Tradeshow vendor booth spaces are available for commercial (\$325) and non-profit (\$200) organizations. When registration opens, booths can be reserved using the registration link at the Indiana Horticulture Conference website: Indiana Horticulture Conference and Expo (indianahortconference.org). Booths include one standard conference registration. Have questions about participating in the tradeshow? Contact Nathan Deppe at ndeppe@purdue.edu or (765) 494-7265.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit Sponsorship

- Indiana Horticulture Conference and Expo

(indianahortconference.org) or contact Lori Jolly-Brown at ljollybr@purdue.edu or (765) 494-1296.

We look forward to seeing YOU at the 2024 Indiana Horticulture Conference & Expo.



Annual 2-day Indiana Horticulture Conference and Exposition event held at Beck Center and hosted by the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department.



Figure 2. Attendees at 2023 IHC (Photo by Tom Campbell).

Indiana Vegetable Growers' Evening Meeting Highlighting Melon Variety Trial Results

The Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA) will host an evening meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at the Vincennes University Agricultural Center, 4207 North Purdue Road, Vincennes, IN. Registration starts at 5 pm. Purdue researchers will be onsite to discuss production issues. We will also discuss presentation topics for the upcoming winter meetings. Dinner will be served at 6 pm. The melon variety trial presentation by Dr. Wenjing Guan will begin immediately after dinner. All are invited to attend. Membership is NOT required. The cost of the event is \$15 and includes dinner. RSVP is not necessary but appreciated if possible. Please contact John Young at (317) 752-0559 or email him at jmyoungco@yahoo.com if you have questions about the meeting.

Save the Date: Purdue Small Farms Conference

(Petrus Langenhoven, plangenh@purdue.edu, (765) 496-7955)



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Editor: Petrus Langenhoven | Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 625 Agriculture Mall Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47907 | (765) 496-7955



Hard Copy and Email Subscription Form

The Vegetable Crops Hotline newsletter provides the commercial vegetable grower with timely information about farm management, business planning, disease, insect and weed pests, fertility practices, post-harvest problems, pesticide label changes, meetings, and much more. Each year, the Hotline is published 12 times during the growing season (April - September), with an additional four issues in February, March, and October.

In addition to the scheduled issues of the newsletter, subscribers will receive alerts about hot topic articles published between issues. Growers may also use this form to sign-up for Veggie Texts. These texts, which will be 160 characters or less, will deliver critical information to mobile phone numbers or email addresses.

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October 24, 2023

Dear Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter Subscribers,

I am writing to ask for your feedback on your experience with the Vegetable Crops Hotline (VCH) and request your input regarding 2024 content. Your responses will help us make decisions about what crops to feature and any vegetable crop issues that you may like us to focus on in the coming year.

This is the first time that VCH is asking its subscribers to give us some feedback. The enclosed survey will help us improve our services to you. Thank you in advance for setting some time aside to help us understand your needs.

Please return completed surveys to:

Petrus Langenhoven Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture 625 Agriculture Mall Drive, West Lafayette, IN, 47907

If you have questions, please get in touch with Petrus Langenhoven at plangenh@purdue.edu or call at 765-496-7955.

Sincerely,

Dr. Petrus Langenhoven

Petrus Langenhoven

Horticulture and Hydroponic Crop Specialist,

Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter, Editor



Thank you for being a subscriber to the Vegetable Crops Hotline Newsletter. We would like to know more about our readers and how we can continue to best serve you in the future. Please take a few moments to tell us about yourself and what topics you are interested in for 2024.

	AST ITEMS Which Vegetable Crops Hotline to From the Editor's Desk Research Reports Event Promotion	☐ Hot	s/sections t topics/emer lustry news st/Disease em	ging issues	oically read	☐ Pricir☐ Weat	all that apply) g Updates her Outlook r, please specify:		
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○ 60+ years old ○ Prefer not to answer