

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS IN WESTERN NY, CENTRAL NY, AND LONG ISLAND

As dramatic weather events increase, pest pressure intensifies, and local markets vitalize, New York berry growers are looking for ways to protect their crop and lengthen their season. Growers and educators are trialling techniques for growing berries under cover. Berry farmers across New York can attend one of three regional workshops offered by the New York State Berry Growers Association (NYSBGA) this winter to learn more about these innovations in berry growing. These day-long workshop will feature multiple short presentations, interactive activities, and words from growers discussing the newest research in tunnels and exclusion netting.

Many New York State farmers experimenting with growing berries undercover are having great successes. “I am so glad I listened to Marvin Pritts’ recommendation to grow my day neutral strawberries under low tunnels,” said Guinevere Panek, co-owner of Panek’s Pickin Patch. “There was much less water damage and disease pressure, resulting in more marketable berries. I picked two to three weeks longer than usual. I was able to supply my CSA members with strawberries right through the end of October. There was even ice on top of the tunnels one morning, but the berries underneath were beautiful!”

Presentations by Cornell researchers, Extension educators from PSU and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and experienced berry growers will address advances in growing under cover. These include: day-neutral strawberry cultivars for low tunnels, choosing and recycling tunnel plastic, using technological tools to predict weather events, disease and insect management, growing raspberries in high tunnels, and using exclusion netting to protect against Spotted Wing Drosophila. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities and those that register a week before the workshops will receive a take-home resource guide and supplies. Lunch is included at the Portland and Riverhead locations. DEC credits in categories 1A, 10 and 22 and 23 will be available.

Workshop registration is \$25 per person for NYSBGA Members, and \$50 per person for Non-Members. Participants can save on workshop registration by joining the NYS Berry Growers Association; 2017 Membership is \$125 and applies to two individuals per farm. Associate Membership is \$75 for non-profit agricultural professionals. Business members can join for \$250 and receive two advertisements in our newsletter which reaches berry growers throughout the state.

Regional dates and locations:

- **December 14, 2016:** CLEREL (Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab) 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY, 14769
- **January 17, 2017:** Oncenter Convention Center Syracuse, NY at the Empire State Producers EXPO *to attend this workshop, register at <https://nysvga.org/expo/information/>*
- **March 7, 2016:** Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Extension Education Center 423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100 Riverhead, New York 11901-3071

NYSBGA President, Dale Ila Riggs says, “Berries are one of the most sought after agricultural products grown in this state and enjoy only positive attributes. The ground-

breaking research on protected culture currently being done in NYS gives NYS growers an important “leg up” on competitors from other states by enabling berry production to occur five to even seven months a year.”

The workshops are sponsored by the NYS Berry Growers Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with funding support from the NYS Legislature

For workshop details and agendas visit: www.hort.cornell.edu/grower/nybga/ or contact: Cara Fraver, NYS Berry Growers Association, (646) 284-7762, nysbga@gmail.com



Cornell University

Protected Culture Winter Regional Workshop



Tuesday, December 14, 2016 Portland, NY

Session organized by Laura McDermott, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program, and Cara Fraver, NYS Berry Growers Assn.

Time		Title	Presenter
8:30	Registration	Sign in and register	
9:00 AM	Introduction	Welcome, Announcements and DEC credit sign-up	<i>Laura McDermott, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program</i>
9:10 AM	Introduction	Introduction of NYS Berry Growers Association sponsored workshops	<i>Dale Ila Riggs, NYSBGA president (5 min)</i>
9:15 AM	Strawberries	Growing strawberries in low tunnels	<i>Marvin Pritts, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell (15 min)</i>
9:30 AM	Strawberries	Strawberry cultivars for low tunnels and NYS day neutral breeding program	<i>Courtney Weber, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell (15 min)</i>
9:45 AM	Plastics	Continuing progress in plastics research	<i>Kathy Demchak, Plant Science, Penn State University, University Park, PA (20 min)</i>
10:05 AM	Plastics	Plastic recycling – the final consideration	<i>Lois Levitan, Recycling Ag Plastics Program, Cornell (20 min)</i>
10:25 AM	Plastics	Interactive demonstration of low tunnels and plastic light transmission	<i>Laura McDermott, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program (20 min)</i>
10:45 AM	Break		
11:00 AM	Climate Change	NEWA Weather apps - newa.cornell.edu	<i>Juliet Carroll, NYS IPM, Cornell (15 min)</i>
11:15 AM	Climate Change	Mitigation tools for climate smart farmers	<i>Luke Haggerty, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension (15 min)</i>
11:30 AM	Climate Change	NEWA and CICSS tools for farmers – interactive demo	<i>Juliet Carroll, NYS IPM, Cornell Luke Haggerty, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension (30 min)</i>
12:00 PM	Lunch		<i>(all hands on activities available during lunch)</i>

New York State Berry Growers Association Winter Regional Workshops



As dramatic weather events increase, pest pressure intensifies, and local markets vitalize, New York berry growers are looking for ways to protect their crop and lengthen their season. Growers and educators are trialling techniques for growing berries under cover. These day-long workshop will feature multiple short presentations, interactive activities, and words from growers discussing the newest research in tunnels and exclusion netting. The price for the workshop is only \$25 for NYSBGA members and \$50 for Non-Members. DEC Credits will be available. The workshops are offered in the following locations:

<p>WESTERN NEW YORK Wed., December 14, 2016 8:30 AM- 4 PM CLEREL (Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Lab) 6592 West Main Road Portland, NY, 14769 Return by Dec. 7 to ensure a resource guide</p>	<p>CENTRAL NEW YORK Tues., January 17, 2017 8:30 AM- 4 PM Oncenter Convention Center Syracuse, NY https://nysvga.org/expo/information/ to attend this workshop, register through the website above</p>	<p>LONG ISLAND Tues., March 7, 2016 8:30 AM- 4 PM Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Extension Education Center 423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100 Riverhead, New York 11901-3071 Return by Feb 28th for resource guide</p>
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Name:	
Farm/Org:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
Email:	
Which workshop will you attend? <input type="checkbox"/> Portland <input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse (register through NYSVGA website) <input type="checkbox"/> Riverhead	

Join the NYS Berry Growers Association & save on workshop registration fee!
 2017 Membership \$125 (Applies to 2 individuals, \$50 goes directly to research)
 Crops grown: Blueberries Raspberries Blackberries Strawberries
 Currants Gooseberries Other fruit Vegetables
 Marketing: (please indicate percent) _____ % U-Pick _____ % Retail _____ % Wholesale
 2017 Associate Member (Non-profit Ag Professional) \$75
 2017 Business Member (2 full color ads in our monthly newsletter) \$250

Item	Price Per
NYSBGA Member \$25	\$25
Non-Member \$50	\$50
Addition Attendee, Member	\$25
Additional Attendee, Non Member	\$50
2017 Membership	\$125
2017 Associate Member (Non-profit Ag Professional)	\$75
2017 Business Member	\$250
<i>Total Enclosed</i>	

Registrations MUST be received 7 days prior to workshop in order to ensure a resource guide

Please make check payable to **NYS Berry Growers Association** and mail to:
 Cara Fraver 755 Hoover Ave.
 Peekskill, NY 10566
 Questions? Call: (646) 284-7762 or email

Sponsored by: NYS Berry Growers Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and with funding support from NYS Legislature