

## NEW HAMPSHIRE VEGETABLE, BERRY & TREE FRUIT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2:8

November, 2006

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### INDAR REPORTING TIME

Attention blueberry growers: If you used the fungicide Indar this year to help control mummyberry, **please don't forget to send in the survey of how much you applied, when you applied it, and whether you lost any of your crop due to mummyberry!** We need to document how much was applied and whether it gave good control. This is critical so that we can apply for a Section 18 approval in 2007. If you prefer to email it, please send the information to [becky.grube@unh.edu](mailto:becky.grube@unh.edu). If you need another copy of the form, one is available at the following website: <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGFVC.htm>.

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### REMINDER- SARE FARMER GRANTS DUE SOON

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Farmer Grant program provides funds (up to \$10,000) to for you to develop, refine, and demonstrate new sustainable techniques and explore innovative ideas on your farms. To apply, you must be a farmer in the Northeast SARE region. You need not be farming full time, but your operation should have an established crop or animal product that you sell on a regular basis. Nonprofit farms may apply, but the primary activity of the farm must be to produce and sell food under the kinds of economic constraints that affect commercial growers. Many community-supported farms qualify, but farms where the primary mission is educational normally do not.

Applications for this program are now online at [www.uvm.edu/~nesare](http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare). Also available is a guide, "How to write a SARE farmer grant application". You can download both the guide and the application form from the web or request printed versions by calling 802-656-0471. Applications must be postmarked by **December 22, 2006**.

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### GRAFTING GREENHOUSE TOMATOES

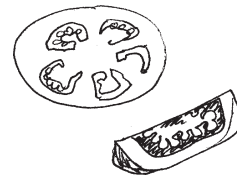
More and more greenhouse tomato growers are starting to use grafted plants to manage root diseases and increase plant vigor and yields. The grafting process entails splicing the tops of "scion" seedlings (*Buffalo* and *Trust* are common) onto "rootstock" seedlings (such as *Maxifort* or *Beaufort*) that have large root systems and tolerance to several soilborne diseases including Verticillium and Fusarium. Studies have shown that grafting increases yields when plants are grown in diseased soil. Even when soil is not diseased, grafting can improve yields for some varieties that do not have very vigorous root systems, because the rootstock allows the plant to access more nutrients and water. Rootstocks also increase tolerance to soluble salts, which can be an issue in tunnels, where rains do not leach excess fertilizers from the soil profile.

There are three basic methods of grafting – tongue approach grafting, cleft grafting and tube grafting. In most cases, young seedlings (4-5 leaf stage) are used. For cleft and tube grafting, the top of the scion variety is severed completely from its roots, and it is placed in direct contact with a rootstock seedling whose top has been removed. Success is improved by making sure the scion and rootstock stems are in complete contact, hardening the seedlings slightly before grafting, and by protecting the newly grafted seedlings from light and drying out while the graft union heals. The seedlings are held together with special clips; some are similar to clothespins, others are similar to little tubes.

If you want to learn more about this technique and give it a try, a great opportunity is coming up on November 29. UNH Cooperative Extension will be holding a grafting demonstration and discussion about greenhouse tomato growing from 1-3:30pm in Concord, NH. Dave Colson of New Leaf Farm in Durham, Maine has been successfully grafting greenhouse tomato plants for several seasons. In a hands-on demonstration, Dave will share his technique, experiences and tips for success. Participants will receive rootstock seeds and supplies to try their hand at grafting. The grafting demonstration will be followed by a discussion. This will be an opportunity for greenhouse tomato growers with varying levels of experience to network and learn how other growers cope with common issues. Topics might include varieties, yellow shoulders, fertilizers, rotations in other tunnels or greenhouses, disease management and any others you'd like to discuss.

The meeting will take place at the Society for Protection of NH Forests. A registration fee of \$25 per farm attending will cover the cost of materials and Dave's travel from Maine. For more information, please contact Becky Grube at (603) 862-3203 or [becky.grube@unh.edu](mailto:becky.grube@unh.edu) or Amy Ouellette at (603) 527-5475 or [amy.ouellette@unh.edu](mailto:amy.ouellette@unh.edu). If you require special accommodations to participate, please call Becky or Amy by November 22.

*For more information, see 'Grafting Techniques for Greenhouse Tomatoes' by Richard MacAvoy (Univ. of CT), at <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/greenhs/htmls/Tomgraft.htm>. Vern Grubinger offers a CD showing Mike Collins of Old Athens farm demonstrating both side and top grafting of tomatoes for \$10 including postage – contact him at [vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu](mailto:vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu) to place an order.*



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## GOT WEEDS?

When we surveyed NH Vegetable and Fruit Growers last year, the number one topic that growers wanted to learn more about was weeds! If you are one of these growers, you may want to attend one or more of the following Monday-night meetings. On three Mondays in November, George Hamilton is putting on a series of workshops on **Controlling Weeds: The Basics for Vegetable and Fruit Growers**. George will be presenting with Rich Bonanno from University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension. The cost is \$5 per meeting, per farm. At each meeting, preregistered farms will receive some terrific reference publications.

### **I. Introduction to Weed Management**

November 13, 6-9pm. First 48 farms to register will receive a copy of “*Weeds of the Northeast*” text book. 2.5 Pesticide Recertification Credits

### **II. Vegetables - Weeds & Weed Control**

November 20, 6-9 p.m. First 30 farms to register will receive a copy of “*2006-2007 New England Vegetable Guide*” 2.5 Pesticide Recertification Credits

### **III. Small and Tree Fruit - Weeds & Weed Control**

November 27, 6-9 p.m. First 50 farms to register will receive their choice of the 2006-7 New England Small Fruit Guide **or** the 2006 Cornell Tree Fruit Guide. 2.5 Pesticide Recertification Credits

All meetings will be held at the UNH CE Hillsborough County Office in Goffstown, NH. **To register or to get more information on any of these meetings, please contact Holly McKinney at 603-641-6060.**

## INITIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS... COMING SOON TO AN AREA NEAR YOU.

According to NH law, anyone who applies pesticides of any type (general *or* restricted use) to agricultural products that they sell must have a pesticide applicator permit or license. Those that employ *any* non-family members as workers must have a license, which requires a written test. This regulation is designed to ensure that only those who demonstrate competence and knowledge of safe and legal use of pesticides and worker protection standards can apply pesticides within the state. Every five years, licensed applicators must recertify by showing that they have attended educational seminars to remain up to date in pesticide knowledge. Licenses fall into the following categories:

Type of Permit/License	If you apply:	Testing requirement:
Private applicator permit	General use pesticides only, no employees	No written test required
Private applicator license	General use pesticides, if you have employees Restricted use pesticides	Must pass written test
Commercial applicator license	Any pesticides; if you apply as a part of your business	Must pass written test

This fall and winter, UNH Cooperative Extension is offering a series of 2-day workshops to prepare those who are not yet certified to take the pesticide applicator exam. Each workshop will run from 4-9pm on a Friday, and 9-noon on the next Saturday. Through funding from a grant from the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food - Division of Pesticide Control, the workshops are offered free of charge. In each workshop, we will review the information that you will need to know to pass the exam. This is a great way to study for the certification exam in a group setting with hands-on exercises. Retired fruit specialist Bill Lord will be teaming up with current UNHCE staff to cover the following material:

- ❖ Principles of Integrated Pest Management
- ❖ General Introduction to Pests
- ❖ Soil Management and the Relationship to Pest Management
- ❖ Spray Equipment
- ❖ Pesticide Safety for the Applicator and the Environment

### Who should consider attending one of these courses?

- ❖ Anyone who intends to use Restricted Use pesticides and is not presently certified to do so.
- ❖ Anyone intending to apply *any* pesticide in the course of employment.
- ❖ Anyone who *was* certified but has not earned the required re-certification credits and needs to re-test for certification

The dates and locations of each course are:

Nov 17, 4-9pm and Nov 18, 9am-noon: **Lancaster, NH**

Register online at: [https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event\\_id=2361](https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event_id=2361)

Dec 15, 4-9pm and Dec 16, 9am-noon: **Tamworth, NH**

Register online at: [https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event\\_id=2375](https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event_id=2375)

Jan 12, 4-9pm and Jan 13, 9am-noon: **Bradford, NH**

Register online at: [https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event\\_id=2376](https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event_id=2376)

Jan 26, 4-9pm and Jan 27, 9am-noon: **Peterboro, NH**

Register online at: [https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event\\_id=2379](https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event_id=2379)

Feb 9, 4-9pm and Feb 10, 9am-noon: **Brentwood, NH**

Register online at: [https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event\\_id=2383](https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml?event_id=2383)

**Note:** You will still need to purchase a Pesticide Safety Education manual, which contains all the written study material. The New Hampshire Rules and Regulations Manual was recently updated in August 2006. To purchase a new manual please contact UNHCE, Family, Home & Garden Education Center at 200 Bedford Street, Manchester, NH, 03101. Phone (603) 629-9494, Fax (603) 629-9998. For more information, please contact Rachel Maccini at the number or address above.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Mondays Nov. 13, 20, and 27. **Weed I.D. and Management Basics – a Three-Part Series.** Goffstown, NH. Contact: HollyMcKinney, 603-641-6060. **F, V, PAT.**

Tues Nov. 14. **MA – Brassica Twilight Series.** Sidehill Farm, Ashfield, MA. 2-5pm. Contact: Ruth Hazzard, 413-545-3696. **V.**

Fri Nov. 17. **2006 Northern New England Small & Beginning Farmers Conference.** Meredith Community Center, Meredith NH. Contact: Abby Holm, 603-786-2366. **V, F, O.**

Fri-Sat Nov. 17-18. **Training for Initial Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam.** 4-9pm on Fri, 9am-noon on Sat. North Country Resource Center, Lancaster, NH. Contact: Rachel Maccini, 603-629-9494. **AC, O.**

Wed Nov. 29 **Tomato Grafting Demonstration and Roundtable Discussion.** Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord, NH. 1-3:30pm. \$25 registration fee per farm. Contact: Becky Grube, 603-862-3203. **V.**

Sat. Dec. 2 **New England Vegetable and Berry Meeting.** Portsmouth, NH. Contact: John Howell, 413-665-3501. **V, F, PAT.**

Wed. Dec. 6 **Organic Vegetable & Small Fruit Meeting.** Goffstown, NH. Contact: George Hamilton, 603-641-6060. **V, F, O, PAT.**

Fri-Sat Dec.15-16. **Training for Initial Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam.** 4-9pm on Fri, 9am-noon on Sat. Tamworth, NH. Contact: Rachel Maccini, 603-629-9494. **AC, O.**

Fri. Jan. 5 **New England Vegetable and Berry Meeting.** Chicopee, MA. Contact: John Howell, 413-259-1203. **V, F, PAT.**

Fri-Sat Jan.12-13. **Training for Initial Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam.** 4-9pm on Fri, 9am-noon on Sat. Bradford, NH. Contact: Rachel Maccini, 603-629-9494. **AC, O.**

Fri. Jan 19. **Organic Vegetable & Small Fruit Meeting.** Laconia, NH. Contact: Amy Ouellette, 603-527-5475. **V, F, O, PAT.**

Fri-Sat Jan. 26-27. **Training for Initial Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam.** 4-9pm on Fri, 9am-noon on Sat. Peterboro, NH. Contact: Rachel Maccini, 603-629-9494. **AC, O.**

Fri-Sat Feb 2-3. **New Hampshire Farm and Forest Expo.** Manchester, NH. For more info, see <http://www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/>. **AC, H, PAT.**

**Meeting topics:** F = flower, O = certified organic, SF = small fruit, TF = tree fruit, V = vegetable, AC = all crops, H = homeowner. PAT = pesticide applicator recertification credits available.

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