

# **The Vegetable & Small Fruit Gazette**

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## **In This Issue**

**Comments from the Editor**

**Quote for Thought from Pete Ferretti**

**Schedule for Articles**

**2005 Pumpkin Variety Demonstration**

**Recommendations on Four 2006 AAS Winners**

**New High Tunnel Publication**

**Use of Poultry Manure for Vegetable Crop Production (Part 1)**

**2005 Sweet Spanish Onion Variety Trial**

**2006 Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show**

**Notes on New Berry Cultivars**

**The Organic Way – Coming Attractions**

**Upcoming Meetings**

## Comments from the Editor

Elsa Sánchez, Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

This issue is packed full with articles on topics ranging from experimental results to upcoming opportunities for attending meetings and conventions. I want to thank everyone who contributed articles to this issue and encourage others to join us in upcoming issues. As always, the Vegetable & Small Fruit Gazette Team encourages your feedback so that we can better serve your needs and address your concerns. Wishing you a happy and joyful holiday season!

## Quote for Thought from [Pete Ferretti](#)

*Speak to us of children  
They come through you but not from you  
And though they are with you they belong not to you  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth*

*-Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet*

## Schedule for Articles 2006

January – Tim Elkner	February – Shelby Fleischer
March – Eric Oesterling	April – George Perry
May – Lee Young	June – Jeff Mizer
July – Tom Butzler	August – Steve Bogash
September – Cheryl Bjornson	October – Scott Guiser
November – John Esslinger	December – Andy Muza

## **2005 Pumpkin Variety Demonstration**

[Tom Butzler](#), Penn State Cooperative – Clinton County and Dr. [Mike Orzolek](#), The Pennsylvania State University

Seeded: May 23, 2005

Transplanted: June 23, 2005 at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA

Lime: Hi Cal Lime was applied 2 tons/acre on November 4, 2004.

Fertility: Broadcast and incorporated 90 lbs of nitrogen/A, 105 lbs of phosphorus/A, and 150 lbs of potassium/A.

Weed Control: Command 4EC and Curbit EC applied on June 8, 2006.

Pest Management: Application of Asana XL on June 17, July 11, 26, August 4, 9, 19, and September 2; Endosulfan 3EC applied on June 28 and August 24; Bravo WS applied on July 7, 11, 26, August 9, 19, 24, September 2 and 9. Nova 40W applied on July 7 and August 19; Copper Sulfate applied on July 11; Phostrol applied on July 20; Quadris applied on July 20, August 24, and September 2; Procure 50WS applied on July 26; Sevin 80S applied on September 9.

Harvested: September 28, 2005

Table 1. The marketable yield of pumpkin varieties evaluated at the Horticulture Farm, PSU, Rock Springs, Centre County PA - 2005

Variety Name	Seed Source	Spacing/ plant (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Marketable Fruit Yield in Demonstration					Marketable Fruit Yield/Acre*		
			No. of plants	No. of Fruit	Wt lbs	Avg. fruit/plant	Avg. wt/pumpkin	No. of Plants/A	No. of Fruit/A	Wt lbs
XP 6899	OSC	81	20	44	450	2.20	10.23	538	1183	12100
XP 6888	OSC	81	16	68	358	4.25	5.26	538	2286	12033
XP6877	OSC	81	19	33	340	1.74	10.30	538	934	9623
XP6866	OSC	81	17	60	479	3.53	7.98	538	1898	15153
Harvest Time	AC	81	18	27	640	1.50	23.70	538	807	19121
Pro Gold 510	AC	81	20	33	620	1.65	18.79	538	887	16671
Expert	JSS	81	20	36	692	1.80	19.22	538	968	18607
RPX 771	RS	81	20	37	853	1.85	23.05	538	995	22936
RPX 768	RS	81	20	50	1115	2.50	22.30	538	1344	29981
RPX 764	RS	81	20	46	942	2.30	20.48	538	1237	25329
RPX 761	RS	81	20	33	477	1.65	14.45	538	887	12826
RPX 760	RS	81	20	28	405	1.40	14.46	538	753	10890
Gold Gem	RS	81	18	31	472	1.72	15.23	538	926	14102
Gold Medal	RS	81	19	33	679	1.74	20.58	538	934	19218
Super Herc	HM	81	16	14	372	0.88	26.57	538	471	12503
Gladiator	HM	81	20	33	450	1.65	13.64	538	887	12100
Charisma	JSS	32	20	39	481	1.95	12.33	1361	2654	32738
Racer	JSS	32	20	58	600	2.90	10.34	1361	3948	40838
Cotton Candy	RS	32	19	24	100	1.26	4.17	1361	1719	7164
RPX 763	RS	32	20	39	618	1.95	15.85	1361	2654	42063
Magician	HM	32	20	33	284	1.65	8.61	1361	2246	19330
Cannonball	HM	18	20	44	155	2.20	3.52	2420	5324	18755
Gold Dust	RS	18	19	143	88	7.53	0.62	2420	18214	11208
RPX 089	RS	18	20	40	135	2.00	3.38	2420	4840	16335
Ironman	HM	18	20	29	92	1.45	3.17	2420	3509	11132

Seed Source Code: OCS = Outstanding Seed Company  
 HM = Harris Moran  
 RS = Rupp Seed  
 JSS = Johnny's Selected Seed  
 AC = Abbott & Cobb

\*based on spacing/plant in trial

Table 2. Nonmarketable yield of pumpkin varieties evaluated at the Horticulture Farm, PSU, Rock Springs, Centre County PA - 2005

<i>Unmarketable Fruit Yield in Demonstration</i>									
Variety Name	Seed Source	Spacing/ plant (ft <sup>2</sup> )	No. of plants	No. of Green/ Orange Pumpkins*	Weight (lbs) Green/ Orange Pumpkins*	No. of Green Pumpkins	Weight (lbs) Green Pumpkins	No. of others	Weight (lbs) others
XP 6899	OSC	81	20	8	92	4	28	0	0
XP 6888	OSC	81	16	6	43	3	17	1	7
XP6877	OSC	81	19	1	18	3	9	0	0
XP6866	OSC	81	17	16	192	3	27	1	4
Harvest Time	AC	81	18	10	137	1	10	0	0
Pro Gold 510	AC	81	20	12	153	1	10	0	0
Expert	JSS	81	20	9	118	0	0	0	0
RPX 771	RS	81	20	9	141	3	42	0	0
RPX 768	RS	81	20	2	18	1	5	2	33
RPX 764	RS	81	20	4	75	3	64	1	3
RPX 761	RS	81	20	9	107	7	51	1	11
RPX 760	RS	81	20	9	89	0	0	3	28
Gold Gem	RS	81	18	5	54	2	22	0	0
Gold Medal	RS	81	19	8	121	4	41	0	0
Super Herc	HM	81	16	4	79	6	76	0	0
Gladiator	HM	81	20	1	16	0	0	0	0
Charisma	JSS	32	20	0	0	5	38	0	0
Racer	JSS	32	20	0	0	0	0	1	7
Cotton Candy	RS	32	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
RPX 763	RS	32	20	3	30	5	42	0	0
Magician	HM	32	20	2	23	0	0	0	0
Cannonball	HM	18	20	5	17	0	0	0	0
Gold Dust	RS	18	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
RPX 089	RS	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ironman	HM	18	20	5	17	0	0	0	0

Seed Source Code: OCS = Outstanding Seed Company  
 HM = Harris Moran  
 RS = Rupp Seed  
 JSS = Johnny's Selected Seed  
 AC = Abbott & Cobb

\*Pumpkin was less than 75% orange

Table 3. Stem characteristics of pumpkin varieties evaluated at Horticulture Farm, PSU, Rock Springs, Centre County PA - 2005

Variety Name	Seed Source	Stem Length <sup>1</sup>	Stem Quality <sup>2</sup>	Notes on stems
XP 6899	OSC	3	4.5	Stem angle very attractive
XP 6888	OSC	2	4	
XP6877	OSC	3	3.5	
XP6866	OSC	3	4.5	Stem angle very attractive
Harvest Time	AC	2	3.5	
Pro Gold 510	AC	2	3	
Expert	JSS	2	3.5	
RPX 771	RS	2	3	
RPX 768	RS	2	3	
RPX 764	RS	2	4	
RPX 761	RS	2	4	
RPX 760	RS	2	3.5	
Gold Gem	RS	2	3	A lot of variation on stem length
Gold Medal	RS	2	4	
Super Herc	HM	2	4	
Gladiator	HM	2	2.5	stem quality very variable
Charisma	JSS	2	3.5	
Racer	JSS	3	4.5	
Cotton Candy	RS	1	1	
RPX 763	RS	3	4.5	
Magician	HM	1	1.5	
Cannonball	HM	1	3.5	
Gold Dust	RS	3	5	although stems are short, they are large compared to fruit size
RPX 089	RS	1	2	
Ironman	HM	2	3.5	although stems are short, they are large compared to fruit size

Seed Source Code: OCS = Outstanding Seed Company  
 HM = Harris Moran  
 RS = Rupp Seed  
 JSS = Johnny's Selected Seed  
 AC = Abbott & Cobb

**Stem Length<sup>1</sup>**  
 1 - short stem 1"-2"  
 2 - medium stem 2"-4"  
 3 - long stem < 4"

**Stem Quality<sup>2</sup>**  
 Stems were rated using a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 representing poor and 5 excellent

## Recommendations on Four 2006 AAS Winners

[Pete Ferretti](#), Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

I highly recommend three of the four 2006 AAS winners (with the appropriate reservations discussed for each below) for both direct market sales and for PA gardeners.

### **Carrot *Purple Haze*\***

*Purple Haze*\* is not recommended for PA for several reasons:

1. It is an Emperor type or at least it has a typical Emperor shape which does not perform well in almost all PA soils.
2. It was too variable in size, shape and color in our trial plots last year and this season.
3. Although the texture was very good, it was bland and not sweet.

For fresh eating our guides recommend the OP's *Coreless Amsterdam*, *Touchon Deluxe* and *Scarlet Nantes*. Even better are the recommended hybrids *Nelson*\*, *Ingot*\*, *Nevis*\* and *Bolero*\* which are some of the best tasting carrots on the market, deep orange in color and also quite high in carotene. All should look and taste far better than *Purple Haze*\* in PA.

### **Cilantro *Delfino***

*Delfino* is a new cilantro variety that branches more readily and has especially fine, fern-like foliage making it more ideal for salsas. The small white flowers appear to be more obvious and profuse and have the same flavor as the leaves. *Delfino* should yield more green foliage than most other cilantro types.

### **Pepper *Carmen*\***

*Carmen*\* is highly recommended for PA where a very sweet flavorful Italian elongated type of pepper is acceptable. Because it is extremely sweet and flavorful in the mature red stage, sweet corn borers may love them better than we do.

Two possible solutions in handling this great new variety in PA:

1. Keep as far away from corn fields as possible and/or have a good corn borer control program and maybe harvest at the green stage when field grown.
2. Sweet flavor, quality and mature red color is excellent (and early to red in 75 days), so consider growing it to red maturity only in high tunnels.
3. Protect against corn borers possibly with metalized plastic mulch (highly reflective) or use light weight floating row covers.

### **Pepper *Mariachi*\***

*Mariachi*\* looks like *Gypsy*\* or *Healthy*\* (2" wide x 4" long) but has a little heat (500 to 600 Scoville units when grown without stress). Since it has a complex fruity flavor already at the early creamy white stage, why not harvest at this stage? Then harvest *Gypsy*\* or *Healthy*\* only at the red stage. *Mariachi*\* has an exceptional flavor (to most) when fresh – which is further enhanced by roasting, broiling and grilling.

- AAS = All-America Selections
- \* = hybrid variety
- OP = open pollinated

## New High Tunnel Publication

[Mike Orzolek](#), Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

A new publication on “Implementation of a BioControl Program for Insect Control in High Tunnels” has been published by the Center for Plasticulture, Department of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. The table of contents include: 1) Introduction, 2) What is biological control, 3) Pests – aphids, whitefly, spider mites and thrips, 4) Product review, 5) Predator release rates, 6) Economics of bio-control, 7) Management challenges in high tunnels, 8) Biological control research overview, and 9) Keys to successful Bio-Control program. This publication is available from the Center for Plasticulture, Department of Horticulture, 103 Tyson Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802 for \$9.45 plus tax - **\$10.00**.

## Use of Poultry Manure for Vegetable Crop Production (Part 1)

[Mike Orzolek](#) and [Pete Ferretti](#), Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

The plant nutrient content of poultry manure varies greatly depending on the age, moisture, and litter content of the manure, the age and type of bird, and the ration fed. Also large losses of plant nutrients can occur through heat drying or leaching. Table 1 below lists the average total primary, secondary and minor plant nutrient contents of poultry manure in various moisture conditions, assuming no losses and no litter.

Table 1. Total average plant nutrient content of poultry manure, means of various sources.

Condition	% Solids	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
		N	as P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	as K <sub>2</sub> O
----- lb/ton -----				
Liquid	5	10	7	3
Fresh, wet, sticky and caked	25	30	20	10
Moist, crumbly to sticky	50	40	40	20
Crumbly	70	60	55	30
Dry	85	90	70	40
Ashed	95	None	135	100

Estimated ash value for manures from all bird types except layers which are 6 pounds.

Secondary and minor plant nutrient content of poultry manure, means of various sources.

Condition	% Solids	Ca	Mg	Na	S	Fe	Mn	Zn	Cu	B
		----- lb/ton -----								
Moist, crumbly to sticky	50	70	5	1.5	5	0.9	0.3	0.3	.03	.04
Dry	85	140	20	7.0	NA	2.0	0.5	0.6	.08	.08
Ashed	95	500	45	0.3	NA	6.0	1.5	1.5	0.24	2.5

(NA - data not available)

A bushel of poultry manure weighs about 70 pounds when fresh. It will dry to six-tenths of a bushel by volume. Thus, a bushel of air-dried manure weighs about 33 pounds. A bushel of water weighs 78 pounds which makes wet manure heavy and expensive to haul. A 200-bushel capacity spreader will hold 3 to 7 tons of poultry manure, depending upon moisture content and compaction.

Most poultry manure is neutral to alkaline with laying hen manure ranging up to a pH of 8.6. Broiler manure is often much lower in calcium content and pH. However, if poultry manure is mixed with wood shavings, it may cause soils to turn acid as the cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin is digested by microorganisms utilizing free nitrogen in the soil. A soil test for vegetable crops will give the pH and indicate whether a calcitic or high magnesium limestone is needed.

*The second part of this article, including precautions and considerations for using poultry manure and application rates and timing of application for various vegetable and fruit crops, will appear in the Jan, 2006 issue of the Gazette.*

## **2005 Sweet Spanish Onion Variety Trial**

[Mike Orzolek](#), Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

**Plot size:** Four rows/bed 5.0' long x 6" apart – 40 plants/rep.

**Transplanting Date:** May 6, 2005

**Production system:** Raised bed with black plastic mulch and 2 rows of drip tape – high flow 0.45 gal./min./100 ft at 12 orifice spacing.

**Herbicide Application:** One post-emergence applications of Goal at 3.0 oz./A.

**Fungicide:** One applications of Copper at 1.0 lb./A.

**Insecticide:** Two applications of Warrior at 3.0 oz./A.

**Fertility:** Broadcast and incorporated 60 lbs./A-N, 60 lbs./A-P, and 120 lbs./A-K and two applications of calcium nitrate injected in the drip system for a total of 14 lbs./A N.

**Harvest Date:** August 25 and 26, 2005.

**Drying:** Bulbs from individual plots were placed in potato 100 lb. Burlap bags and placed in a 17' x 96' high tunnel for 7 days.

**Date Graded:** September 6, 2005

**Design:** Randomized Complete Block with 3 replications

Varieties	Seed Source	Bulb color
1. Eagle*	American Takii	yellow
2. Candor	American Takii	yellow
3. EM 398*	Emerald	yellow
4. EM 311*	Emerald	yellow
4. Renegade	Nunhems	yellow
5. Cimarron	Nunhems	yellow
6. Denali	Nunhems	yellow
7. Sequoia	Nunhems	yellow
8. Candy	Seedway	yellow
9. Expression*	Bejo	yellow
10. Hildago*	Bejo	yellow
11. Milaga*	Bejo	yellow
12. Recorra*	Bejo	yellow
13. Perfection	Bejo	yellow
14. NuMex Arthur	NMSU	yellow
15. BGS 178	Bejo	pink

The three varieties below were planted as an observational trial

16. King Fisher	Seminis	yellow
17. Cavalier	Seminis	yellow
18. Exacta	Seminis	yellow

\* - Indicates Hybrid variety.

## Results

Growing conditions in 2005 were more ideal than 2004 - even for sweet Spanish onions grown on raised beds with plastic mulch and two rows of drip tape. It was fortunate to find a period of time in mid-April when the soil was dry enough to make beds and lay plastic mulch plus the drip tape. We were also fortunate in 2005 to be able to broadcast the 10-10-20 prior to making the raised beds with plastic mulch. Fourteen pounds of nitrogen was injected into the drip irrigation tape over a 7-8 week period after transplanting. Use of greenhouse grown plug plants helped to accelerate the transplanting of the onion varieties in 2005 compared to 2004. Transplanting the tray or greenhouse grown transplants was much quicker, efficient and uniform compared to field grown transplants. While weed control was good to excellent the first 6 to 8 weeks after transplanting, late summer rain resulted in significant weed populations (both grass and broadleaf weeds) in and between the onion rows. The single application of Goal was not as effective in controlling broadleaf weeds as the application of Poast was effectively controlling grasses and increasing harvesting efficiency of onion bulbs.

The highest marketable onion bulb yield was obtained from EM 398, Expression, Condor and NuMex Centric compared to Candy (current sweet Spanish onion standard Table 1). The marketable yield and average bulb size of Eagle was similar to Candy, but Eagle had a lower percent of non-marketable bulbs than Candy (Table 1). EM 398 produced 81.6% of bulbs that were 3.0 in diameter or larger which was 50% more than Candy (Table 2). Rosita, the only pink onion in the trial, produced 16.3 T/A of

marketable bulbs with at least 50% of the bulbs greater than 3.0 inches in diameter and minimum non-marketable bulbs and no sprouting in storage (3 months).

For the first time since growing onions at the Horticulture Research Farm, pink root disease was observed in the onion variety trial. Some onion varieties did have some tolerance to pink root but none were totally resistant to this disease. Only 4 varieties had less than 26% infection rate including; Eagle, Condor, EM 311 and Rosita. Candy, the standard sweet Spanish variety in this trial, had a pink root infection rate of 68%.

Table 1. The marketable yield of fourteen onion varieties evaluated at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA – 2005.

Variety	Percent <sup>X</sup> Harvest	Total MKT <sup>Y</sup> Yield T/A	Avg. bulb <sup>Z</sup> wt. lbs.	% non-MKT
Candy	98.5	15.6	0.62	11.9
Eagle	92.5	16.4	0.63	2.7
Condor	98.3	18.2	0.68	5.9
Renegade	98.5	16.6	0.70	17.0
Expression	100.0	18.7	0.70	10.0
Cimarron	99.3	16.3	0.64	25.1
Denali	94.0	15.2	0.56	6.8
Sequoia	95.0	15.4	0.56	6.8
EM 311	99.3	16.8	0.58	0.0
EM 398	95.0	21.4	0.78	1.8
Malaga	91.0	15.2	0.58	15.3
Rosita	98.0	16.3	0.58	0.0
NuMex Centrix	83.0	18.6	0.77	14.3
NuMex Arthur	76.5	14.4	0.65	18.3
NM Freedom	65.8	8.6	0.45	31.8
NM Sweetpak	78.3	6.6	0.29	11.8
NuMex Dulce	77.5	8.3	0.37	17.5
NuMex Juan	77.5	14.1	0.63	14.3
Fernandez				

X – Percent of onion bulbs that were harvested from the established transplants.

Y – The total marketable yield is based on an onion population of 50,000 plants/A including jumbo and colossal bulb sizes.

Z – Average weight of bulbs in pounds based on jumbo bulb size and larger.

Table 2. The size distribution and soluble solids of fourteen onion varieties evaluated at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA – 2005.

Variety	Percent bulbs 3.0 inch in diameter or larger	% Pink Root <sup>Z</sup>
Candy	54.8	68
Eagle	60.3	26
Condor	65.7	20
Renegade	74.2	56
Expression	75.5	46
Cimarron	53.4	72
Denali	32.7	45
Sequoia	38.7	33
EM 311	42.8	23
EM 398	81.6	38
Malaga	45.8	47
Rosita	51.3	21
NM Centric	72.1	46
NM Arthur	59.8	50
NM Freedom	22.8	48
NM Sweetpak	3.2	55
NM Dulce	7.4	58
NM Juan Fernandez	54.8	64

Z – Percent of onion bulbs exhibiting symptoms of pink root.

## 2006 Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show

[John Berry](#), Agricultural Marketing Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension - Lehigh County

The 2006 Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show will be held in Reading, PA, February 22-25, organizers have announced. The excellent educational conference attracts direct marketers from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and surrounding states.

The conference focuses on innovative marketing techniques through tours, workshops, round table discussions and presentations by industry experts. There is also a trade show featuring products and services geared specifically to Agri-tourism, pick-your-own produce operations, growers' markets, roadside stands, year round markets, CSA's and other direct farm sale businesses.

“Whether you’ve been in the direct farm marketing business for years or are just considering the possibilities, this conference is a must,” said John Berry, Penn State Cooperative Extension. The Direct Farm Marketing Associations, extension services, and departments of agriculture in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania sponsor this annual conference. Watch your mail for registration materials or check the conference web site at [www.MADMC.com](http://www.MADMC.com)

For additional information, registration materials, or to sign up as an exhibitor, contact John Berry at 610-391-9840, via FAX at 610-391-0683 or via e-mail at [jwb15@psu.edu](mailto:jwb15@psu.edu). Provide your name, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

## **Notes on New Berry Cultivars**

[Kathy Demchak](#), Department of Horticulture, Penn State University

Many of you will be browsing through nursery catalogs over the next couple of months. If you have opinions of newer cultivars you've tried that you'd like to share, I'd be tickled to get your input. Please send your thoughts either by email to [kdemchak@psu.edu](mailto:kdemchak@psu.edu), or by ground mail to me at 102 Tyson Building, University Park, PA, 16802, preferably before the end of 2005. If I receive enough comments to summarize into a newsletter article, we'll include one in the January or February issue of the Veg. and Small Fruit Gazette.

In the meanwhile, here are some comments I have on some of the newer cultivars you'll see that I think are worth trying. As always, try small quantities until you determine how they perform on your farm, and order early.

Among strawberries, 'Itasca'<sup>TM</sup>, from the University of Minnesota, is a cultivar that we had in a trial as MNUS 138. At Rock Springs, this cultivar starting producing during the early season, but continued producing longer than other early-season cultivars. We compared 'Itasca' to 'Earliglow', 'Evangeline', and 'Sable'. Of those 4 cultivars, it produced the highest yields, in part due to its long harvest season, and had the largest berry size. The fruit color was bright red. The downside was that in warm weather, the flavor tended to become a little flat, and the fruit a tad soft, reminding me of 'Mesabi' under similar circumstances. Because of this, this cultivar is probably better-suited to the cooler regions of PA. It's resistant to red stele.

'L'Amour', from the NY State Ag. Exp. Station at Geneva, bore its fruit in the early-mid season. It had excellent flavor, size, color, shape and resistance to foliar diseases. Compared to 'Honeoye', the standard for this category, the yields were considerably lower, but the quality was substantially better, especially when the weather got warm.

'Canoga' is not a new cultivar – not even close, but it is re-appearing in nursery catalogs for use in plasticulture. I haven't had it in a trial, but the grower feedback I'm hearing is that growers are generally happy with the yields and quality. However, due to lower runnering than normal, if it's used in matted-row culture, it should be planted at a closer density than usual. It produces its fruit during mid-season.

'Ovation', in the late-season category, had excellent size, shape, and flavor, but the yields were a bit low in matted-row production. One grower mentioned that its production season seemed very short, so that might be something to watch for. That particular trait didn't show up in our trials, but location can make quite a difference....

If you're looking for a day-neutral strawberry, consider trying 'Seascape'. I've heard that it may be a bit more susceptible to winter-injury than other day-neutrals, though it didn't have any problems with this at Rock Springs, even in gutter production. The flavor is excellent.

In blackberries, you may want to try the new primocane-bearers 'Prime-Jim' and 'Prime-Jan', especially if you're in a location where cane winter survival has been a problem. Both are in a PSU trial established in Landisville in 2005. The vigor, especially of 'Prime-Jim' was impressive. These appear to have better flavor in northern trials than they did in their home territory trials at the University of Arkansas.

In the world of blueberries, there is a fair amount of interest in two late-season cultivars from Michigan State University, 'Aurora' and 'Liberty', which are supposed to have improved flavor over 'Elliott'. Several major nurseries are suppliers for the eastern U.S., but last year, quantities available were really low. So, if you want to try these, order early.

## **The Organic Way – Coming Attractions**

[Elsa Sánchez](#), Penn State University and [Bill Sciarappa](#), Rutgers University

Several opportunities for instruction and camaraderie are rapidly approaching for organic growers: The Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention, the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show and PASA's Annual Farming for the Future Conference.

### **Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention**

The annual Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention will take place January 31 – February 2, 2006 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. This year the organic session will be held on Tuesday afternoon, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The program will begin with Rural Sociologist, Dr. Kathy Brasier from Penn State University speaking on strategies for CSA member retention. Entomologist, Dr. Mary Barberchek from Penn State University will then provide information on IPM strategies for insect pests on organic farms. Darrell Frey, farmer and permaculture expert from Three Sisters Farm in PA will speak on some of his marketing strategies, activities and farming practices for promoting diversity. Vegetable Specialist, Dr. Matt Kleinhentz from Ohio State University will summarize research results from vegetable variety trials conducted under organic conditions. The program will end with Dr. Vern Grubinger, Vegetable and Berry Specialist from the University of Vermont speaking on mechanical weed control. The program also has speakers presenting topics of interest to organic growers in other sessions including direct marketing, organic potato production, blueberry nutrition in organic systems and beneficials in the field and greenhouse. Also, a round-table session will be held on Wednesday evening to discuss opportunities and concerns in organic production. For more information on the Convention contact Pennsylvania Vegetable Association Executive Secretary, Bill Troxell at (717) 694-3596 or [pvga@pvga.org](mailto:pvga@pvga.org). Registration materials can also be obtained on the internet at [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org).

### **New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the NJ Vegetable Growers Association is scheduled for January 10, 11 and 12, 2006 at the Borgotá Hotel Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Again this year, a special session is provided for organic inclined growers. This "Organic" session takes place on

Tuesday, January 10 starting at 1:30 PM with moderator Bill Sciarappa, Rutgers Agriculture Extension Agent, providing an overview on organic vegetable production. NOFA-NJ Director Karen Anderson will follow with details on NJ programs and perspectives. Soil Scientist Dr. Joe Heckman will then speak on the specific approaches needed to improve and maintain soil fertility under organic management. Special national guest Dr. Vince Russo from the USDA-ARS West Coast will provide some of his recent research results in successfully producing organic vegetable transplants. Special regional guest Dr. Anusuya Rangarajan, Director of the NEON project, will summarize several years of commercial programming in organic production and marketing. There are also many other sessions of particular interest like alternative enterprises, leafy greens and cucurbits and a soils workshop. Please call 609-426-1690 for more information and registration materials or log on to [www.njveggies.org](http://www.njveggies.org).

### **PASA's Annual Farming for the Future Conference**

Just today I received the announcement for PASA's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Farming for the Future Conference which will take place February 2 – 4, 2006 in State College, PA. The theme for this year's conference is Weaving a Diverse Landscape: Food as a Common Thread. Brother David Andrews is featured as the pre-conference keynote speaker at the dinner on Thursday evening. Dr. Sandra Steingraber is the keynote speaker on Friday. I had the opportunity to read **The Organic Manifesto of a Biologist Mother** (available in its entirety online at <http://www.steingraber.com>) and attend a seminar by Dr. Steingraber and really enjoyed both. Dr. John Ikerd is the keynote speaker on Saturday. Two books authored by Dr. Ikerd, **A Case for Common Sense** and **Sustainable Capitalism: A Matter of Common Sense** (both can be found online at <http://www.ssu.missouri.edu/faculty/jikerd>) were featured in Penn State University's [Sustainable Ag Newsletter](#). For more information about the conference contact PASA at (814) 349-9856 or [info@pasafarming.org](mailto:info@pasafarming.org). Registration materials for the conference can be found online at [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org).

### **Upcoming Meetings**

If you have a meeting you would like to announce, please send the meeting title, date, location and contact information to [esanchez@psu.edu](mailto:esanchez@psu.edu).

#### **Local**

- ✓ January 7 – 14, 2006. **Pennsylvania Farm Show**, Harrisburg, PA. For more information contact Dr. Pete Ferretti at (814) 863-2313 or [paf2@psu.edu](mailto:paf2@psu.edu).
- ✓ January 13, 2006. **Morrison Cove Vegetable Growers' Meeting**, Martinsburg, PA. For more information contact Tom Ford at (814) 940-5989 or [tgf2@psu.edu](mailto:tgf2@psu.edu).
- ✓ January 14, 2006. **Snyder County Produce Auction Meeting**, Port Treverton, PA. For more information contact Jeff Mizer at (570) 837-4252 or [jwm5@psu.edu](mailto:jwm5@psu.edu).
- ✓ January 16, 2006. **New Holland Vegetable Growers' Meeting**, New Holland, PA. For more information contact Tim Elkner at (717) 394-6851 or [tee2@psu.edu](mailto:tee2@psu.edu).
- ✓ January 18, 2006. **Northeast Regional Vegetable Growers' Meeting**, Clark Summit, PA. For more information contact John Esslinger at (570) 963-6842 or [cje2@psu.edu](mailto:cje2@psu.edu).

- ✓ January 19, 2006. **Buffalo Valley Produce Auction Meeting**, Mifflinburg, PA. For more information contact Jeff Mizer at (570) 837-4252 or [jwm5@psu.edu](mailto:jwm5@psu.edu).
- ✓ January 20, 2006. **Cambria County Winter Potato and Vegetable Meeting**, Ebensburg, PA. For more information contact Tom Ford at (814) 940-5989 or [tgf2@psu.edu](mailto:tgf2@psu.edu).
- ✓ February 11, 2006. **Central PA Crop Growers Meeting**, Penns Valley, PA. For more information contact Tom Butzler at (570) 726-0022 or [tmb124@psu.edu](mailto:tmb124@psu.edu).
- ✓ February 18, 2006. **Central PA Crop Growers Meeting**, Tyrone, PA. For more information contact Tom Butzler at (570) 726-0022 or [tmb124@psu.edu](mailto:tmb124@psu.edu).
- ✓ February 20, 2006. **Tri County Vegetable Growers' Meeting**, Shippensburg, PA. For more information contact Steve Bogash at (717) 263-9226 or [smb13@psu.edu](mailto:smb13@psu.edu).
- ✓ February 22, 2006. **Farm Family Day**, Lebanon, PA. For more information contact Ginger Pryor at (717) 270-4391 or [LebanonExt@psu.edu](mailto:LebanonExt@psu.edu).
- ✓ March 7, 2006. **Regional Vegetable Growers' Meeting**, Pottsville, PA. For more information contact George Perry at (570) 622-4225 or [gpp1@psu.edu](mailto:gpp1@psu.edu).
- ✓ March 15, 2006. **Erie County Vegetable Growers' Meeting**. For more information contact Andy Muza at (814) 725-4601 or [ajm4@psu.edu](mailto:ajm4@psu.edu).

## Regional

- ✓ December 13 – 15, 2005. **New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference**, Manchester, NH. For more information visit [www.nevbc.org](http://www.nevbc.org).
- ✓ January 10 – 12, 2006. **Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the NJ Vegetable Growers Association**, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Please call 609-426-1690 for more information and registration materials or log on to [www.njveggies.org](http://www.njveggies.org)
- ✓ January 31 – February 2, 2006. **Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention**, Hershey, PA. For more information contact the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association at [pvga@pvga.org](mailto:pvga@pvga.org) or visit [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org).
- ✓ February 2 – 4, 2006. **PASA's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Farming for the Future Conference**, State College, PA. For more information contact PASA (Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture) at (814) 349-9856 or [info@pasafarming.org](mailto:info@pasafarming.org). Registration materials can also be found online at [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org).
- ✓ February 22 – 25, 2006. **Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show**, Reading PA. For additional information, registration materials, or to sign up as an exhibitor,

contact John Berry at 610-391-9840, via FAX at 610-391-0683 or via e-mail at [jwb15@psu.edu](mailto:jwb15@psu.edu). Provide your name, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

## National

- ✓ January 4-6, 2006. **North American Berry Conference.** The conference will be held at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center in Savannah, GA. The conference date has been moved from its normal February date to make it easier for growers, researchers, educators and suppliers to also participate in the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference being held January 6-8, immediately following the Berry Conference. NASGA is emphasizing the importance of registering early for the 2006 conference – because of the date change, and registration materials will be available on the NASGA website, [www.nasga.org](http://www.nasga.org) by mid August.

## International

- ✓ February 27 – March 3, 2006. **Advanced Permaculture Garden Design**, Nuevo Arenal, Costa Rica.  
Course Instructors: Daninne Egizio-Hughes and Darrell Frey. This course will focus on applying permaculture design to create gardens and functional landscaping for the Inn. Intensive tropical and forest gardens will be designed to supply fruits, herbs and vegetables for the Inn's visitors. Course Fee: \$1500. Registration includes course fee and lodging at the Red Sunset Inn. Nearby activities include recreation at Lake Arenal, eco-tours and the spectacular Arenal Volcano. For more information contact Darrell Frey at (724) 376-2797 or [defray@bioshelter.com](mailto:defray@bioshelter.com).

To join our distribution list, send an e-mail to: [Gazette-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu](mailto:Gazette-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu). No subject or message text is required. The system picks up the name and address from the e-mail headers. To delete yourself from the list send an e-mail to: [Gazette-L-unsubscribe-request@lists.psu.edu](mailto:Gazette-L-unsubscribe-request@lists.psu.edu). Again, no subject or message text is required.

The newsletter is also posted within three days on the Department of Horticulture Vegetable program website at: <http://hortweb.cas.psu.edu/extension/veg crops/newsletterlist.html>.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

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