



THE LATEST FROM AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES RCE OF CAPE MAY COUNTY

July 26, 2023

The Latest from Cape May Ag

WHAT'S NEW

Invasive Species of the Month - July

The goal of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's "[Invasive Species of the Month](#)" is to highlight those organisms that are non-native to New Jersey and cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. We can all help prevent the spread of invasives by learning which species are a threat to our ecosystems.

Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) is a popular ornamental plant that has spread from yards and commercial landscapes and is being found in increased numbers invading meadows, roadsides, utility rights-of-ways and other open areas in New Jersey. One or two clumps soon multiply and when not controlled, can push out native plants that are critical for wildlife.



[2023 Spotted Lanternfly Tracking Survey \(psu.edu\)](#)

The Penn State Extension Grape and Wine Team is calling on those who own, operate, or manage a farm or vineyard in the Mid-Atlantic region to participate in a survey that aims to track the spread and severity of nymph and adult spotted lanternfly populations during the 2023 season.

NEWS ARTICLES

[USDA to Invest \\$3 Million to Support Cooperative Soil Science and Soil Survey Research | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to invest \$3 million in partnerships to promote research that informs and improves soil surveys at the regional level, which is part of an ongoing effort to continue to provide critical data to the country...

["We need a better system"](#). Farmers are interested in donating crops, but need more support. Maryland crop growers' perspectives on reducing food loss through donation

EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| August 3, 7 & 10 | Stress surfing
Learn the basics of stress management. Overview of the physical components of stress and how to recognize bodily cues, and behavioral strategies for developing new habits. The final session goes beyond what might normally be thought of when defining "mindfulness" to introduce mindfulness in every day life. |
| August 7 | The Organic Field Crop Course
The Organic Field Crop Course by OATS is a training course for advisors, consultants, agronomists, and agricultural professionals on the art and science of organic field crop production. Next cohort begins August 7 // Enrollment closes July 31 |
| August 25 | Soil Health Outreach and Farm Tour
NRCS, NJ Audubon, and NOFA-NJ will be hosting a soil health outreach event from 4:00pm-7:00pm at Hidden Creek Farm (272 Marlboro Road, Bridgeton, NJ 08302) The event will begin with a farm tour highlighting the soil health and livestock conservation practices that are being implemented on this farm, followed by a rainfall simulator demonstration, ending with conversations about soil health practices led by the hosting organizations while we enjoy some delicious food. For more info or to RSVP contact Alyssa Bright at alyssa.bright@njaudubon.org or 609-400-3857 |
| September 21 – 24 | New Jersey Woodland Stewards Program
Outreach effort for those who embrace a forest stewardship ethic, who want to learn more about sustainable forest management, and are willing to share what they learn with others. If you have any questions about the application process or the NJWS Program, please contact Lori Jenssen by phone (908-832-2400), or by e-mail njfa.director@gmail.com |
| October 2 – 31 | On-Line Bee-ginner's Beekeeping: The Basics of Apiculture
Participants can complete the course content (which will take approximately 14-16 hours) at their own pace anytime during the period the course is open. There is an optional live Q & A session with the instructors during which you can ask questions about the course content. |

Contact us:
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355 Court House – South
Dennis Rd.
Cape May Court House,
NJ 08210
Mon – Fri 8:30AM – 4:30PM



GOT GARDEN QUESTIONS?
Call the Cape May County
Horticulture Helpline
(609) 465 5115 Ext. 3653



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RESOURCES

[Farm Market & Agritourism: Build a value ladder and they will climb](#) – Vegetable Growers News

An [Economic Analysis of Market Impacts of the National Watermelon Promotion Board: 2017-2021](#) by the National Watermelon Promotion Board shares findings of a new study that shows how the organization's marketing activities help shape the demand for watermelons.

[Mix organic, conventional methods to boost soil health](#) – Vegetable Growers News

[Farmland access](#) – ATTRA Publication

[Resilient Farmers, Ranchers and Communities: Social Sustainability in Agriculture](#) – SARE Outreach

[Risk Management Education for Farmers with On-Farm Visitors](#) – Iowa State Extension

[Farmer's guide to direct sales software platforms](#) – National Young Farmers Coalition

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

[Landscape, Ornamentals, Nursery, and Turf Pest Notes](#)

[Vegetable Crop IPM update](#)

[Tree Fruit IPM Report](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[SNAP Online Grant](#)

MarketLink is offering a grant to help direct-marketing farmers accept SNAP benefits online. The grant will cover all SNAP online transactions through GrownBy and WorldPay during the first year, as well as technical assistance with the USDA SNAP retailer authorization, training support, and ongoing maintenance.

[Farm Credit East AgEnhancement Grants](#)

Each year, Farm Credit East and CoBank award grants from \$500 to \$10,000 to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing, and forest products in the six New England states, New York, and New Jersey. Applications are considered three times per year. The next cutoff date is August 1, 2023.

[Deer Fencing Grants for Unpreserved Farms](#). Unpreserved farm owners or operators in New Jersey may receive up to 50 percent matching funds (\$20,000 maximum, no more than \$200 per acre) from NJDA.

[Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) (OCCSP). Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope.

[Soil Health Academy Scholarship](#). Scholarships are available to attend one of their 3-day event. [Apply here](#).

[Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network \(FRSAN\)](#). The long-term goal of the FRSAN projects is to establish a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network that provides stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations on a regional basis.

[Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#). \$500 million in funding to advance partner-driven solutions to conservation on agricultural land. Application deadline: August 18, 2023

[Safeguard NJ Wetlands](#) The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

[The Organic Field Crop Course](#)

Training course by OATS for advisors, consultants, agronomists, and agricultural professionals on the art and science of organic field crop production. The course covers all aspects of field crop production in the northern tier of the United States. Crops featured include corn, soybeans, small grains, pulses, and forage crops, and includes regionally specific information.

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