



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

August 24, 2023

The Latest from Cape May Ag

WHAT'S NEW

"Invasive Species of the Month" - August

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.

Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), or simply referred to as stiltgrass, is an annual grass that grows from 12 to 36 inches tall. Its narrow stem has segments separated by joints; each segment produces a leaf, and each has a silvery-pearlescent midvein and leaf margin. It was inadvertently introduced to the United States in 1919 in shipping packaging and has since become widespread. Stiltgrass spreads throughout forests, lawns, gardens, and roadsides. Stiltgrass is not bought and sold in the United States. It is considered an invasive weed in every environment.

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

[Farmers Market Customer Counts: How and Why](#) By tracking the number of customers who attend your market, you can easily map out your growth. In the article "[Farmers Market Customer Counts](#)", the authors outline why customer counts are important and how to implement this strategy.

[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...

EVENTS/COURSES

- Aug 25 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
- Aug 31 People's Garden Webinar: Register now for a free webinar on Climate Smart Agriculture & Who's in the Garden on at 3pm ET. See examples of how gardens across the country thrive in challenging environmental conditions and learn how to manage unwanted species in our gardens. Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) ([zoomgov.com](#))
- Sept. 16-17 NJDEP | Fish & Wildlife | Trapper Education: Trapper Education Courses Courses are offered in Late March/April and September/October of each year. Program materials will be provided to registered students. Students must attend **both days of a two-day class** (where applicable) (*Specific location details will be sent at the time of registration*). Register: [NJDEP | Fish & Wildlife | Trapper Education and Trapping Season Information](#)
- Sept. 15 Raising healthy calves is a crucial aspect of any dairy operation, as a herd's future depends on its calves' health. Ensuring that these calves receive the healthiest start possible and continue to receive proper nutrition benefits both the calf and the dairy farm's profitability. This virtual event is the first in a series that will discuss socially raised dairy calves. Melissa Cantor, along with Hayley Springer, will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of calves raised in paired housing systems. This includes but is not limited to social benefits, nutritional requirements, current research on paired housing, and upcoming mandates that may change how calves are raised in the United States. Register: [Socially Raised Calves: Pair Housing](#)
- Sept. 21-24 The New Jersey Woodland Stewards Program is an 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 Jensen by phone (908-832-2400), or by e-mail njfa.director@gmail.com
- Oct 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.

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355 Court House – South
Dennis Rd.
Cape May Court House,
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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.

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Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.