



**UConn Extension
Vegetable &
Small Fruit
Growers'
Conference**

January 9, 2024

UConn Student Union | Storrs, Connecticut

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Early Registration \$40.00, ends Wednesday December 20, 2023 at noon
\$60.00 after December 20, 2023**

Matriculated Students: \$30.00 with valid school ID

Online registration will be open until January 3, 2024 at noon

*Trade Show held throughout the conference
Pesticide recertification credits available: 4 CEU*

Lunch & Parking is included in conference registration

Prior to the day of the conference, you will be sent an event parking link to register for validated parking
You must be registered prior to January 3, 2024 in order to receive free parking.

Register online at: s.uconn.edu/ctvfcregistration

To pay by check visit: s.uconn.edu/ctvfconference or email tolland@uconn.edu

For more information visit: ipm.cahn.uconn.edu

TRADE SHOW EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Trade Show Registration: \$180.00 (includes one person's registration)

TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION: s.uconn.edu/ctvfctradeshow

Trade show set up is from 7:00-7:45 am, breaks for trade show are from 8:00-8:55 am,
10:00-10:45am and 12:00-1:00pm, clean up is after 2:00 pm.

Trade Show Registration closes December 22, 2023 at 11:59 PM



CONFERENCE SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Registration: s.uconn.edu/ctvfcsponsor

Silver Sponsor: \$100.00

Includes advertisement

Gold Sponsor: \$250.00

Includes 1 regular registration & larger advertisement

Platinum Sponsor: \$500.00

Includes 1 trade show registration, 1 regular registration (2 people total) & larger advertisement

Advertisement includes: business logo highlighted in the conference program and business information advertised periodically throughout the conference and at the tradeshow.

Any business, farm, organization or individual can be a conference sponsor. You do not need to attend the conference to be a sponsor. If you have any questions please email tolland@uconn.edu or call 860-875-3331.





AGENDA

Trade show: 8:00-8:55, 10:00-10:45, 12:00-1:00

- 8:00 AM **Registration, breakfast, socialize, visit trade show**
Morning Moderator - Shuresh Ghimire, Vegetable Extension Specialist, UConn
- 8:55 AM **Welcome:** Amy Harder, Associate Dean of Extension, UConn
- 9:00 AM **Bramble: summer vs fall** Mary Concklin, UConn Extension Educator Emerita
- 9:30 AM **Agricultural Labor Update**
Heather Callahan, US Department of Labor, Hartford District Office
- 10:00 AM **Announcements**
- 10:15 AM **Break**
- 10:45 AM **High tunnel tomato nutrient management: findings from on-farm research**
Josef Gorres, Assistant Professor, Univ. of Vermont
- 11:15 AM **Niche crop Aronia** Evan Lentz, Fruit Extension Specialist, UConn
- 11:45 AM **Research update: Alternaria on brassicas in CT**
Sydney Everhart, Associate Professor, UConn
- 11:55 AM **Research update: Understanding nematode parasitism to design better management strategies.** Raquel Rocha, Agricultural Scientist, CAES
- 12:05 PM **Lunch break/trade show**
Afternoon Moderator - Evan Lentz, Fruit Extension Specialist, UConn
- 1:00 PM **Innovation in fertigation for small fruit crops**
Trevor Hardy, Brookdale Fruit Farm, NH
- 1:30 PM **Biodegradable Plastic mulch for specialty crop production**
Shuresh Ghimire, Vegetable Extension Specialist, UConn
- 2:00 PM **Mesotunnels for cucurbit production**
Sarah Pethybridge, Associate Professor, Cornell University
- 2:30 PM **Research update: Vegetable K/P fertility trials and use of biochar**
Haiying Tao, Assistant Professor, UConn
- 2:40 PM **Research update: Trap crops and insectary plants**
Ana Legrand, IPM Associate Extension Professor
- 2:50 PM **Research update: Plant virus diagnostics and control- grapevine virus and potato virus.** Washington daSilva, Agricultural Scientist, CAES
- 3:00 PM **Research updates: Spotted lantern fly**
Claire Rutledge, Agricultural Scientist, CAES
- 3:10 PM **Pesticide recertification credits and socialize. 4 CEU to be confirmed**

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

MARY CONCKLIN

UConn Extension Educator
Emerita

Bramble: summer vs fall.

Mary is the retired UConn fruit specialist. She is the owner and operator of Raspberry Knoll Farm in N. Windham CT, growing brambles, blueberries, strawberries, flowers, herbs and vegetables. Her talk will cover growing raspberries and will include information about managing key pests and diseases.

SARAH PETHYBRIDGE

Associate Professor, Cornell
University

Mesotunnels for cucurbit production.

Dr. Sarah Pethybridge is an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, New York. Her talk will summarize a study that evaluated strategies to optimize pollination and performance (plant health and fruit yield) of muskmelon and acorn squash in an organic mesotunnel. Mesotunnels are a medium-size tunnel (36-42 in. high) in which a nylon-mesh, breathable fabric (e.g., ProtekNet or ExcludeNet), is placed over hoop structures above the plant canopy and the fabric is secured to the ground. Pesticides can be applied through the fabric without the need for lifting and breaking the exclusion barrier. Mesotunnels therefore have the potential to offer full-season crop protection but naturally occurring pollinators are excluded.

JOSEF GORRES

Assistant Professor, Univ. of
Vermont

High tunnel tomato nutrient management: findings from on-farm research in CT and RI.

Dr. Josef Görres, Associate Professor and soil scientist at the University of Vermont will share the results from five high tunnel on-farm trials from CT and RI to understand the cycling, mineralization, and movement of nitrogen and phosphorus in high tunnel soils. He was the soil scientist on this high tunnel project.

EVAN LENTZ

UConn Extension

Aroniaberry: a not-so-new opportunity to diversify for fruit and vegetable growers.

Evan Lentz is an Assistant Extension Educator specializing in commercial fruit production and IPM at the University of Connecticut. His presentation will evaluate Aroniaberry as a possible novel fruit crop for farm diversification and provide recent research updates that have set forth new production standards to make adoption easier.

SYDNEY EVERHART

Associate Professor, UConn

Research update: Alternaria on brassicas in CT.

Dr. Sydney Everhart is an Associate Professor at UConn. Dr. Everhart is working on a research project to enhance the resiliency of broccoli production by mitigating Alternaria leaf blight and head rot in the eastern United States. In this talk, Dr. Everhart will provide an update on species ID and fungicide sensitivity of causal fungi, which could inform farmers' IPM decisions.

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

RAQUEL ROCHA

Agricultural Scientist, CAES

Research update: Understanding nematode parasitism to design better management strategies.

Dr. Raquel Rocha is an Assistant Agricultural Scientist II at the CAES, where she studies how plant pathogenic nematodes respond dynamically to their environment and cause disease. Root-knot nematodes (RKN) are grouped into over 100 species and races occurring worldwide, capable of attacking over 5,000 species of plant hosts. Thus, the diversity of RKN species, their broad distribution, and their wide range of plant hosts raise the challenge of tailoring RKN management strategies to meet the grower's needs. The research conducted by the Rocha Lab at CAES aims to identify molecular components required for plant root-knot development and nematode nutrient acquisition. This is a critical step towards uncovering a promising source of future control targets for developing RKN resistance in crops of interest.

TREVOR HARDY

Brookdale Fruit Farm, NH

Innovation in fertigation for small fruit crops.

Trevor is a 7th generation fruit and vegetable farmer with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He built and operates Brookdale Farm Supplies, the largest irrigation and row crop supplies company in New England. Trevor will talk about innovations in tools for soil moisture, soil and tissue analysis, and other tools for fertigation for small fruit systems.

SHURESH GHIMIRE

UConn Extension

Biodegradable plastic mulch for specialty crop production.

Dr. Shuresh Ghimire is a UConn Extension Vegetable Specialist. His talk will cover introduction to biodegradable plastic mulch (BDM), rationale for BDM use, application, impacts on crops, limitations on use in certified organic production in the US, and BDM degradation in soil and its impacts on soil.

HAIYING TAO

Assistant Professor, UConn

What's New in Soil Fertility and Soil Health Research?

Dr. Haiying Tao is an assistant professor of Soil Fertility and Soil Health recently joined the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut. She will highlight her current research efforts on soil testing, nutrient recommendations, soil amendment, and cover cropping.

ANA LEGRAND

IPM Associate Extension
Professor, UConn

Insect pest management research update.

Dr. Ana Legrand is an entomologist with the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture at UConn. She will present an update on current projects dealing with cole crop caterpillars and potato leafhopper.

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK SUMMARIES

HEATHER CALLAHAN

US Department of Labor,
Hartford District Office

An update on agricultural labor.

Heather Callahan is the Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist (CORPS) with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (WHD), in Hartford. Heather has been the community outreach representative for the past 7 years providing compliance assistance, education, and training to employers, workers, advocates, and other stakeholders. Heather will review labor standards in agriculture, including:

- Federal minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping, and child labor requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Learn about when overtime pay is due to agricultural workers.
- Employment standards related to wages, housing, transportation, disclosures, and the use of farm labor contractors under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA). (cont.)
- Field sanitation provisions regarding toilets, cool potable drinking water, and hand-washing facilities under the OSHAct.
- Recruitment, wages, housing, transportation, and recordkeeping requirements under the H-2A temporary, non-immigrant agricultural worker visa program.

WASHINGTON DASILVA

Agricultural Scientist, CAES

The fight continues: Developing vaccine-like therapeutics to control plant pathogens.

Dr. Washington da Silva is a virologist with expertise in virus diagnoses, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, and molecular biology. Dr. da Silva is an associate scientist at the CAES and an adjunct associate professor at the University of Connecticut. He received his Ph.D. in virology from Cornell University. In this talk, he will discuss some of his research on using nanoparticles as carriers of RNA molecules to develop “therapeutic vaccines” to control plant pathogens.

CLAIRE RUTLEDGE

Agricultural Scientist, CAES

Research updates: Spotted lantern fly.

Dr. Rutledge will present a summary of the current research projects on spotted lanternfly biology and management being done at CAES. One project is examining egg-laying behavior, what makes a site attractive to oviposit, and can we provide those sites to allow for easier removal and containment? Another project is focused on the chemosensory world of SLF, which ultimately may lead to effective lures for management. Finally, third project seeks to understand how SLF moves through the landscape.

PARKING INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS

Student Union Ballroom (Rooms 330/331, Tradeshow Room 304)

2100 Hillside Road, Storrs, CT 06269

Conference Parking is **available only in South Parking Garage**, 2366 Jim Calhoun Way, Storrs, CT 06269.

Prior to the day of the conference, you will be sent an event parking link to register for validated parking. Follow the instructions to enter in your vehicle's information and the passcode.

If you do not use the parking link, you will need to pay for parking via PaybyPhone or the parking kiosks on Floor 1 of South Parking Garage.

This link is not valid for North Parking Garage. If you park there, you will be ticketed.

Please note: Hillside Road between the South Parking Garage and the Student Union is now closed to motor vehicle traffic. If you have more materials than you can easily carry from the parking garage, bringing a transport cart is recommended.

Driving Directions

Located in northeastern Connecticut, UConn's main campus in Storrs is conveniently accessible from various interstates, and is approximately 25 miles east of Hartford, 50 miles west of Providence, 100 miles southwest of Boston, and 150 miles northeast of New York City.

From Points North (I-84)

- I-84 to Exit 68
- Follow signs on Route 195 South
- Turn Right onto Route 44 West
- Turn Left onto Discovery Drive
- Follow Signs to South Parking Garage, 2366 Jim Calhoun Way, Storrs, CT 06269.

From Points South (I-95, I-395, US-6, SR-32)

- Follow Signs on Route 195 North
- Turn Left onto Bolton Road, or Next Left onto Mansfield Road
- Follow Signs to South Parking Garage, 2366 Jim Calhoun Way, Storrs, CT 06269.

From Points East (I-95, I-395)

- Follow signs on Route 44 West
- Turn left onto Discovery Drive
- Follow Signs to South Parking Garage, 2366 Jim Calhoun Way, Storrs, CT 06269.

From Points West (I-91, I-384, SR-32)

- Follow signs on Route 44 East
- Turn right onto Discovery Drive
- Follow Signs to South Parking Garage, 2366 Jim Calhoun Way, Storrs, CT 06269.

Walking Directions From South Parking Garage to Student Union:

- Exit the South Parking Garage through the ground floor exit onto Jim Calhoun Way.
- Walk toward Hillside Road, in front of the UConn Bookstore.
- Turn left and walk past Gampel Pavilion on your left.
- The Student Union building will be on the right.
- The Ballroom is located on the third floor. Multiple elevators are available.

Registration:

The registration desk is located outside the ballroom, on the third floor of the Student Union. All attendees must check-in.

Parking garages are marked with the blue circle P on the map below.

For additional parking information, please visit the [Storrs Visitor Parking](#) page.



2024 UConn Extension Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference and Trade Show. This event is a valuable resource for local farmers who are seeking connections in the state as well as knowledge about local issues and opportunities.



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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
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 **CAES**
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

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