



Bumper Crop for Ag Scientists - Bill Sciarappa

Commercial growers think of a bumper crop as outstanding yields or high quality compared to typical season harvests. University Ag scientists think of such great years as an outstanding culmination of years of research. Rutgers 2015 - 16 may mark as a bumper crop of new cultivars soon to be released.



Rutgers selections for hazelnut cultivars resistant to Filbert Blight have also yielded impressive results. These trials can be seen at both Rutgers Research farms in Monmouth County Adelpia and Cream Ridge. A twilight tour is planned to visit breeder Dr. Tom Molnar on the New Brunswick campus on **August 11th** - p. 6.

RU-SEBS, NJAES & Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be demonstrating this bumper crop of exciting new crops throughout the state, such as:

- **RU 250 Tomato Cultivars**
- **RU Strawberry**
- **Rutgers Scarlet Lettuce Cultivars**
- **Rutgers Basil**
- **Rutgers Hazelnuts**

Rutgers strawberries feature new great tasting cultivars bred especially for the Northeast growers – not the super large & mediocre taste of the California Chandler.

Rutgers 250 tomato celebrates the university's 250th anniversary. This season's winner from six similar cultivars will be selected from statewide field trials.

Rutgers Scarlet Lettuce seed has come to the East Coast via Shamrock Seeds in a pelleted form. We have a half dozen grower test trials in Central Jersey and others in North and South Jersey. While we had a rough spring seeding period like everyone else, we are impressed by the Kube Pak transplant flat (photo above). Look forward to our fall plantings on research and grower farms.

There is even more in the Rutgers pipeline as the new Rutgers basil variety is highly resistant to Downy Mildew; showing a second straight impressive year in field trials with complete disease resistance - p. 3.

In my mind, I see a changing in traditional food selection of commodity crops for storage, color and yield over to nutritional content, taste and specialty cultivars. This New World Order of Specialty Ag may be expedited locally with these new RU offerings if they become widely accepted by Jersey Growers and consumers.

Set aside some time to see these crops and learn about their breeding history, development and how they may help your farming business. This grand slam of bumper crops will be available for viewing this season at Rutgers Research and Education Center in Cream Ridge where we will hold a twilight session to see these very special tomatoes, strawberries, lettuces and hazelnuts. The R & D stage is set for a very promising season that growers surely don't want to miss. Wishing our local growers a bountiful harvest as well. Hopefully, future diversification in your farm production will help improve profitability.





History and Background

Strawberry research at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) dates back to 1870. By the 1920s, strawberry research was focusing on strawberry breeding and variety trials. Some of the noteworthy strawberry cultivars released by Rutgers NJAES are Sparkle, Jerseybelle and Raritan.

- **Sparkle** (released in 1942) was a leading late-season cultivar in the U.S. for many decades and is still available as an heirloom strawberry. Sparkle has high yields and berries with great flavor, but the size of the berry was considered small compared to newer varieties.
- **Jerseybelle** (released in 1955), quickly became the leading variety in New Jersey, because of its large, glossy and attractively colored berries. In 1963, Jerseybelle constituted 60 percent of New Jersey's acreage under strawberry cultivation.
- **Raritan** (released in 1968) was considered productive with flavorful berries, however, plants were susceptible to a range of diseases and this strawberry is no longer available commercially.

Between 1998 and 2000, Rutgers released 3 patented cultivars of strawberries.

Current Status

In 2014, three new Rutgers strawberry cultivars were submitted for patent protection. These cultivars were

developed via traditional breeding techniques by Rutgers professor emeritus Dr. Gojko Jelenkovic. For over 35 years, Dr. Jelenkovic worked on improving strawberry yield, resistance to diseases, and, most importantly, fruit quality and flavor. This work was followed by extensive testing of strawberry selections by Agricultural Agents [Bill Hlubik](#) and [Peter Nitzsche](#) in field trials at NJAES, observational trials at conventional and organic farms, and flavor evaluations by consumer taste panels. As a result, the cultivar **Rutgers Scarlet™** (patents pending) was released in limited quantities by Nourse Farms in the spring of 2015. Rutgers Scarlet™ can be grown in both plasticulture and matted row production or on a smaller scale by home gardeners. Rutgers Scarlet™ has exhibited good production, but its most distinguishing characteristic is exceptional fruit flavor. This new cultivar has the potential to increase strawberry production by eastern U.S. growers, especially of local farms with direct markets, while their customers will benefit from the availability of high quality fruit.



Rutgers Professor Emeritus
Gojko Jelenkovic

Authorized Licensees/Sales to Commercial Farmers

Kube-Pak Corp.

194 Rt. 526
Allentown, NJ 08501
Phone: (609) 259-3114
Fax: (609) 259-0487



Nourse Farms, Inc.

41 River Road
Whately, MA 01093
Phone: (413) 665-2658
Fax: (413) 665-7888

Rutgers Strawberries In the News

[What's in Season from the Garden State: Jersey Strawberries – The Breed Goes On](#) (SEBS & NJAES Newsroom)

[Rutgers breeding for sweet taste of strawberry success](#) (mycentraljersey.com)

[Rutgers Cooperative Extension Strawberry Project - First Quarter Report Video](#) (National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative)

What's in Season from the Garden State: The Basil Battle – New Cultivars on the Horizon to Beat Downy Mildew



For the past seven years, a familiar scenario has been playing out on farms and in gardens across the U.S. A healthy, fragrant crop of sweet basil begins to display yellowing leaves. The undersides of the leaves

show signs of a menacing grayish sporulation. It is only a matter of time before the basil plant succumbs to this new disease of basil, downy mildew.

Neither a fungus or a mold, downy mildew is the common name for a group of highly specialized plant pathogens called “oomycetes” that infect and feed off of living host plants. Each downy mildew is specific to its host plant. For instance, downy mildew of impatiens, another recent scourge, is specific to impatiens, while basil downy mildew affects only basil – with the most popular type, sweet basil, being the most susceptible.

Basil downy mildew favors heat and humidity, and by mid to late summer, when there is enough inoculum, the disease is widespread in our region. According to Extension Specialist in Vegetable Pathology Andy Wyenandt at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, basil downy mildew can't overwinter in our region and can only survive the winter in southern Florida and Texas, where it is a year-round threat. The rapid spread to northern states during the growing season is through the planting of infested seed, by importing southern-grown plant material, or via weather patterns coming from southern states.

Without adequate control options and genetic resistance, basil downy mildew has the potential to destroy basil production in the eastern U.S. and beyond. Currently, sweet basil growers rely on multiple applications of a few commercial available fungicides. Rutgers researchers have the crucial role of developing new sweet basil varieties that are resistant to downy mildew.



Andy Wyenandt (l) and Jim Simon

Rutgers Professor of New-Use Agriculture Jim Simon began breeding basil in 1990. “About five years ago, we turned our attention to downy mildew as this new disease came into NJ for the first time and really began to devastate our commercial basil crop where growers were negatively impacted,” states Simon. “In concert with our state vegetable pathologist, Andy Wyenandt, and with encouragement of some of our lead basil farmers like Dennis Dalponte and other Rutgers vegetable specialists, we first sought to address this problem by identifying basils from any species that exhibited tolerance or resistance.”

Once resistance was identified in other basil types, Simon and grad student Robert Pyne had to make hundreds of crosses to get the desired traits of sweet basil

along with downy mildew resistance. While developing a resistant basil is an accomplishment, Pyne points out “it has no commercial value unless it looks and tastes like a true sweet basil.” The team does their own informal quality assessments and provide samples to New Jersey and Florida



Jim Simon & Robert Pyne

basil growers for feedback. Breeding work is tedious, and promising varieties have to undergo further testing to see if they'll hold up under extremely high disease

A lot is riding on the success of the \$1.8 million dollar USDA-Specialty Crop Research Initiative funded grant awarded to Simon and others in 2011. Sweet basil is the most commercially important annual culinary herb crop grown in the U.S. and one of the most popular garden herbs. Commercially, basil is grown for culinary use for both fresh and dry consumption and also is a commercial source of essential oil and oleoresin that are used in perfumes, food flavors, and aromatherapy products.

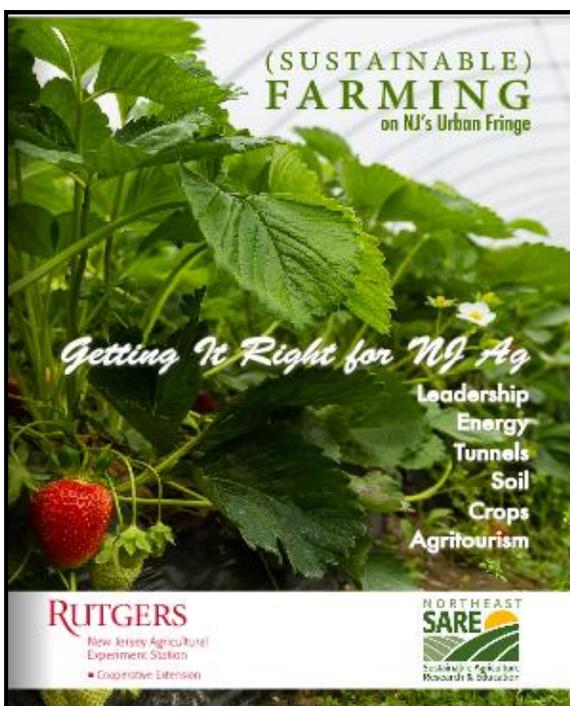
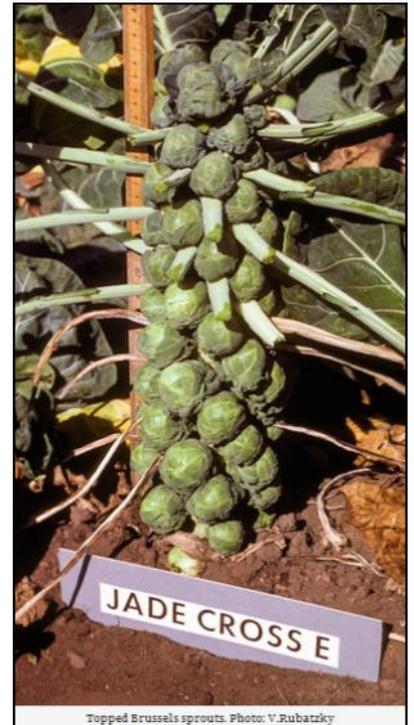
Farm Market Products: Brussels Sprouts on the Stalk

While the draw of agritourism is the on-farm experience, it's just as important to provide both the *expected* (sweet corn!) and *unique* quality produce. Unique experiences and products set your operation apart in the minds of your customers. Sometimes unique means going back to the ways things used to be done – take Brussels sprouts. Growing up on the Infante family farm, we would top the plants and sell them “on the stalk”. Since the young leaves of Brussels sprouts taste similar to collards, we would market the topped leaf cluster separately as greens to be prepared like you would collards.

Timing of topping is tricky. Earlier maturing varieties respond better to topping when the largest buttons are about 0.5-inch to less than 1-inch in size. This window seems to be about 30 to 60 days before expected harvest date. Topping more than 75-days before harvest is counterproductive according to Becky Sideman and Olivia Saunders of UNH Extension. They recently completed two years of [Brussels sprouts variety trials](#) which included the effect of timing topping on yield and button size uniformity. The step of removing the active growing point at the top of the plant stimulates axillary bud

growth and helps the plant mature its buttons within a shorter time period. Topping also helps reduce crop lodging in late fall. Sales “on the stalk” might reduce total yield (a single destructive harvest), but has the greater advantage of reducing harvest labor costs.

While in NJ we recommend growers start with [Jade Cross E F-1](#) hybrid as a reliable early maturing standard variety, Sideman and Saunders' results show the yield variability is such that trialing under your own farm's conditions is worthwhile. Overall, the newer hybrid varieties taste much sweeter than open-pollinated heirloom varieties.



Brussels sprouts sold “on the stalk” are an attractive and unusual late season direct market item for the farm stand. They are rugged, holding in the field well past first frosts (in fact, improving in flavor with exposure to light frosts) and, forgiving in postharvest handling for a longer shelf-life.

March 7, 2015 by [M. Infante-Casella](#) and [J. Rabin](#)

Sustainable Farming on the Urban Fringe is supported in part by NE-SARE

[Click to view our 2015 bulletin](#)

<http://sustainable-farming.rutgers.edu/collaborative-projects-2015-sustainable-agriculture-rutgers-nesare/>

Why Agriculture and NJ Farm Bureau Needs You

Agriculture is continually faced with emerging issues that affect the way farmers run their business every

day. Issues such as minimum wage, environmental regulations, water allocations, and right to farm, to mention a few. Farmers are faced with these issues and more, but not alone. As these issues are debated in our legislature, NJ Agriculture and the farmers who make up the industry here in the great 'Garden State', continues to have a friend in NJ Farm Bureau. Most think – 'Farm Bureau', that's a governmental agency. What a huge misconception. NJ Farm Bureau is a grass roots, membership based organization that continues to fight to keep the Agriculture playing field level for the hard working farmers in our state. They have taken on the key issues through influence on regulations and laws with our legislators, creating positive public relations through the media, and exploring all initiatives, activities and ventures to help NJ's Agriculture industry remain profitable and viable. They represent the voices of our state's Agriculture community at all levels of government – local, county, state and national.

NJ Farm Bureau's mission is to promote all segments of Agriculture without bias to any one of those segments. They work in collaboration with all the specific agricultural commodity associations throughout the state on the different issues each faces. It keeps all its members informed of what is happening in the Agriculture industry here in the state and on the national level through its weekly newsletter and a quarterly newspaper. They also maintain an informative website that is constantly updated, providing the latest information to its members and anyone that is interested in Agriculture, on what is happening in the industry.

A voice with some is strong, but a voice with many is stronger. By becoming a member of NJ Farm Bureau, you provide a larger group that truly says that you support those that continue to provide the food and fiber that we need in our daily lives. Your membership also supports your County Board of Agriculture, which in turn, supports many of your local organizations involved in Agriculture, such as 4-H, FFA, and the Master Gardener programs. You will also find valuable member benefits



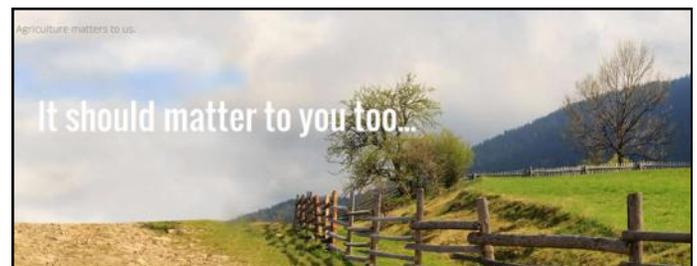
such as a discount of Farm Family Insurance policies, discounts on GM vehicles, Dell Computers, Grainger Supply, hotel reservations and car rentals with national chains that you may use, along with many other numerous attractive programs. Taking advantage of these discounts that you would use in your operations and daily lives, would more than pay for the annual membership in New Jersey Farm Bureau.

You don't have to be a farmer to become a member of NJ Farm Bureau. There are different levels of membership, from a 'Regular Farmer Member', a 'Retired Farmer Member', an 'Associate Member' and/or 'Friends of Agriculture Member'. NJ Farm Bureau also provides a free membership to all high school Senior FFA and 4-H members in their counties.

As a member of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, and the Monmouth County Director to New Jersey Farm Bureau, I continue to see first-hand how their leadership, and knowledgeable and dedicated staff truly works for all advocates of Agriculture here in Monmouth County and New Jersey. The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture encourages everyone who has a true interest in supporting your local agriculture, to become a member of NJ Farm Bureau at any level. By joining, you will create the larger voice that is needed in helping to preserve one of our oldest heritages, promote the viability of Agriculture, and ensure the Open Space we have all come to love.

To learn more about New Jersey Farm Bureau and the benefits of becoming a member, please visit their website at www.njfb.org or contact Debbie Pribell at the Farmhouse @ 609-393-7163.

Gary DeFelice, Monmouth County Board of Agriculture



AGENCY UPDATES



Contact: Lynne Richmond (609) 633-2954 lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COSTS

(TRENTON) – The New Jersey Department of Agriculture announced a partnership with the federal government to reduce organic certification costs as part of the Christie Administration's ongoing efforts to promote New Jersey-grown and marketed organic food products.

Through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program and Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program, each qualified producer or handler of organic products is eligible for a reimbursement of up to 75 percent of its costs of certification not to exceed \$750. Certification costs include fees and charges levied by the certifying agent for certification activities.

To qualify for reimbursement under this program, an organic producer or handler must have been certified or incurred expenses for the continuation of certification during the period of October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Certification must be through a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Applications must be received by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture no later than **November 19, 2015**. Applications and more information about the program are available online at www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/organiccostshare.html.

Please contact John Denlinger at 609-984-2225 or John.Denlinger@ag.state.nj.us.

Twilight Tour & BBQ

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015 @ 3:30-9:00

Log Cabin Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Raindate: Thursday, August 20, 2015

We are looking for Monmouth County Farmers
Interested in learning more about
HAZELNUT PRODUCTION!

Are you looking to diversify your ag operation?
Rutgers NJAES has been researching fungal resistant varieties
Ready for Field Trials
Production Possibilities in near future

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture in
Coordination with **Rutgers Cooperative Extension**
Is hosting outreach & a BBQ Dinner
Learn about Hazelnuts
Planting *Cultivating*Harvesting*Processing Oil
& Roasted*Marketing Nuts

PRESENTERS

Dr. Tom Molnar
Dr. Bill Sciarappa



Reserve your Spot
First Come**First Served**Limited Spaces
COST: \$15 per person

Any money after expenses will be donated to
MCBOA Scholarship Fund

Make checks payable to
Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
PO Box 5033—4000 Koslowski Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

125th Anniversary of the 2nd Morrill Act

In 2014, land grant universities across the nation celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act. This year, 2015 is the year to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the 2nd Morrill Act, known as the 1890 Land grant Institutions. Prior to 2014, there were eighteen 1890 institutions and today there are nineteen institutions. They are located in 18 states and three regions being the South, Northeast and North Central. Alabama has three 1890 institutions.

Other planned activities to commemorate the event include: July 15, 2015, is the 1890 Day on the Hill in WA. D.C. This will feature visiting on the hill followed by a reception at the Library of Congress; and July 16 there will be Convocation at the Library of Congress showing the 1890 video and other highlights. These events will raise awareness, provide access and enhance opportunities for all. For more information view the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKepBeWLdWM#t=38> or go to the website or Twitter @1890landgrant.

CALENDAR

July 2015

10-12 - NACAA Horticultural Tour - Rapid City, South Dakota.
Bill Sciarappa 732-431-7260 x7278

12-16—NACAA National Ag Agents Conference, Sioux Falls, S. Dakota.

22-26 Monmouth County Fair - East Freehold Park.

<http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2492>

23—Vegetable Working Group - RU-NJAES-RCE

August 2015

3-6 ASHS National Conference, New Orleans, LA.

11-12—North American Strawberry Growers Association Summer Tour, Maryland. For more info www.nasga.org

13 - Twilight Meeting, 3:30—9:00 - Hazelnut Production - Log Cabin Rutgers University, New Brunswick. 732-431-7260 x7261. See p. 6 for complete details.

September 2015

RCE of Monmouth County New Crops Tour - Rutgers Cream Ridge Research & Education Center. Date to be determined.



Welcome to the Monmouth County Fair !

Presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H Association

July 22—26, 2015



East Freehold Showgrounds
Kozloski Rd, Freehold, NJ



Home & Garden competition

Start planning your entry into the 2015 Home & Garden Competition. [Download the brochure.](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2492) <http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2492>
On-Site Cake Decorating & Cupcake Decorating Contests

Please send completed forms to Christina Carlson

Newsletter printed courtesy of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders



<http://njveg.rutgers.edu/>

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

9-15, 10-20, 11-17, 12-15

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

CORE 9 am - 1 pm - 7/14, 8/11, 9/19, 10/20, 11/17, 12/8

3A - 9 AM—3 PM—6/16, 10/6

3B - 9 AM—3 PM - 10/27

To register call 800-524-9942

Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Bldg.

4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260

Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn
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Past Issues on the web <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=3078>



Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report <http://www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov/>

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728

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Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

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