Title: Organic Production Guides

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Abstract: New farmers interested in raising organic fruit, vegetables, or livestock, experienced growers transitioning to organic production, or diversifying their organic crop mix to include vegetables or fruit have had few resources to help them develop the nutrient, weed, and pest management systems necessary for successful organic production. Available resources tend to be scattered across various web sites and publications, or are embodied in the experience of researchers and successful organic farmers. Concerns about weed and pest management failures are often cited by conventional farmers as obstacles to undertaking a transition to organic production. At the request of, and with funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, we have undertaken the job of coordinating the production of organic guidelines for livestock insect pest management, production of eight vegetable crops: carrots, cucurbits, snap beans, and peas for processing, and cole crops, potatoes, lettuce, and spinach; and four fruit crops: apples, grapes, blueberries, and strawberries.

Background and justification: Farmers interested in transitioning acreage to organic production or diversifying their organic crop mix to include vegetables have had few resources to help them develop the nutrient, weed, and pest management systems necessary for successful organic production. Available resources tend to be scattered across various web sites and publications, or are embodied in the experience of researchers and successful organic farmers. Concerns about weed and pest management failures are often cited by conventional farmers as obstacles to undertaking a transition to organic production.

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Finding effective pest control products approved for organic production can be a challenge for farmers and extension staff alike. These guides will include this information, helping farmers
understand their options and providing extension staff with resources for working with their organic audiences. The process of developing the guides also identifies gaps in organic production information, providing a roadmap for needed applied research.

**Objectives:**

1) Produce guides for organic production of apples, blueberries, cole crops, grapes, lettuce, potatoes, spinach, strawberries, and management of insect pests of livestock.

2) Publish the guides on the web in pdf format

**Procedures:**

1) Teams of Extension faculty, field staff, and organic farmers collaborated to produce each guide. Many of the guides were based on the format of the conventional production guidelines. Practices and products not allowed for organic production were replaced by a set of cultural practices to maximize crop health and minimize weed, insect, and disease pressure. Pesticides listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) were included as labeled for each crop and pest.

2) The guides have been published on the web at: http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/.

**Results and discussion:** A list of the guides produced and published in 2009:

**Dairy:**

**Fruit:**


**Vegetables:**
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**Project locations:** It is likely that the guides will be useful to farmers, extension staff, and crop consultants throughout the Northeast and Great Lakes regions.