

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:

Rutz, Donald, Keith Waldron, and Elizabeth Graeper Thomas. Integrated Pest Management Guide for Organic Dairies. NYS IPM Publication No. 323.

Fruit:

Peck, G.M. and I. A. Merwin. 2009. A Grower's Guide to Organic Apples, NYS IPM Publication No. 223

Carroll, J., Pritts, M., and Heidenreich, C. (eds). 2010. Production Guide for Organic Blueberries. http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/blueberry.pdf. NYS IPM Publ. No. 225. Cornell Univ, Geneva, NY. 36 pp.

Carroll, J., Pritts, M., and Heidenreich, C. (eds). 2010. Production Guide for Organic Strawberries. http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/strawberry.pdf. NYS IPM Publ. No. 226. Cornell Univ, Geneva, NY. 38 pp.

Weigle, T., and Carroll, J. (eds). 2010. Production Guide for Organic Grapes. http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/grapes.pdf NYS IPM Publ. No. 224. Cornell Univ, Geneva, NY. 59 pp.

Vegetables:

Seaman, A. (ed.) Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, George Abawi, Thomas Bjorkman, Ann Cobb, Helene Dillard, Vern Grubinger, Beth Gugino, Robert Hadad, , Michael

Helms, Julie Kikkert, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Brian Nault, Anu Rangarajan, and Thomas Zitter. 2009 Production Guide for Organic Beans for Processing. NYS IPM Publication No. 132

Seaman, A. (ed.). Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, Mary Kirkwyland, George Abawi, Thomas Bjorkman, Ann Cobb, Beth Gugino, Robert Hadad, Michael Helms, Christy Hoepting, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Anusuya Rangarajan, Anthony Shelton, and Christine Smart. 2010 Production Guide for Organic Cole Crops. NYS IPM Publication No. 134

Seaman, A. (ed.) Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, George Abawi, Ann Cobb, Helene Dillard, Vern Grubinger, Beth Gugino, Robert Hadad, Michael Helms, Julie Kikkert, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Brian Nault, Anu Rangarajan, and Thomas Zitter. 2009 Production Guide for Organic Carrots for Processing. NYS IPM Publication No. 133

Seaman, A. (ed.) Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, Brian Caldwell, Vern Grubinger, Beth Gugino, Robert Hadad, Michael Helms, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Brian Nault, Richard Pedersen, Anu Rangarajan, and Thomas Zitter. 2009 Production Guide for Organic Cucumbers and Squash for Processing. NYS IPM Publication No. 135

Seaman, A. (ed.). Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, Mary Kirkwyland, George Abawi, Beth Gugino, Michael Helms, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Anusuya Rangarajan, and Ward Tingey. 2010 Production Guide for Organic Lettuce. NYS IPM Publication No. 136

Seaman, A. (ed.) Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, George Abawi, Ann Cobb, Helene Dillard, Vern Grubinger, Beth Gugino, Robert Hadad, Michael Helms, Julie Kikkert, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Brian Nault, Anu Rangarajan, and Thomas Zitter. 2009 Production Guide for Organic Peas for Processing. NYS IPM Publication No. 137

Seaman, A. (ed.), Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, George Abawi, Beth Gugino, Michael Helms, Margaret McGrath, Charles Mohler, Anusuya Rangarajan, and Ward Tingey. 2010 Production Guide for Organic Spinach. NYS IPM Publication No. 139

Seaman, A. (ed.), Mary Kirkwyland, Elizabeth Graeper Thomas, George Abawi, Michael Glos, Beth Gugino, Don Halseth, Michael Helms, Andrew Leed, Charles Mohler, Anusuya Rangarajan, Ward Tingey, and Thomas Zitter. 2010 Production Guide for Organic Potatoes. NYS IPM Publication No. 138

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.