

CORNELL  
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## BRIEFS

FRANK WILES HONORED AT  
VEG CONFERENCE

Frank Wiles, a long-time friend of the Experiment Station, was honored at the New York State Berry Growers Meeting on February 10 for his achievements in integrated pest management. Wiles is the former extension director of Tioga County, and the current executive director of the New York State Berry Growers Association (NYSBGA). He has a 30-year history of fostering IPM.

During the early years of the NYS IPM Program, Wiles worked closely with fruit IPM coordinator Joe Kovach encouraging growers of fruits and vegetables in the Southern Tier to practice IPM and establishing scouting protocols for strawberry pests in New York.

Wiles helped found the NYSBGA in 1988 and has worked hard to provide leadership for that organization in the last few years. Today, about 160 growers of strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries are members of the association.

Wiles says that berry growers are especially close to the consumer and sensitive to their concerns about how crops are grown. He views all NYSBGA members as IPM practitioners and has witnessed a drop in pesticide use in strawberries of 50 percent in New York over the past seven years. Scouting, selection of disease-resistant varieties, and cropping practices have contributed to pesticide savings.

Under Wiles' leadership, the NYSBGA began to define an IPM berry marketing program. Growers worked with Kovach, Marvin Pritts, Greg English-Loeb, and Wayne Wilcox on this process.

*C. Koplinka-Loehr*

## USEFUL AGRICULTURAL FACTS

Consumers spend \$511 billion for food originating on U.S. farms. Of each dollar spent

*(BRIEFS continued on page 2)*

## TWO NEW RASPBERRY VARIETIES RELEASED

Two new raspberry varieties were released by Station fruit breeders during the annual meeting of the New York State Berry Growers on Feb. 10.

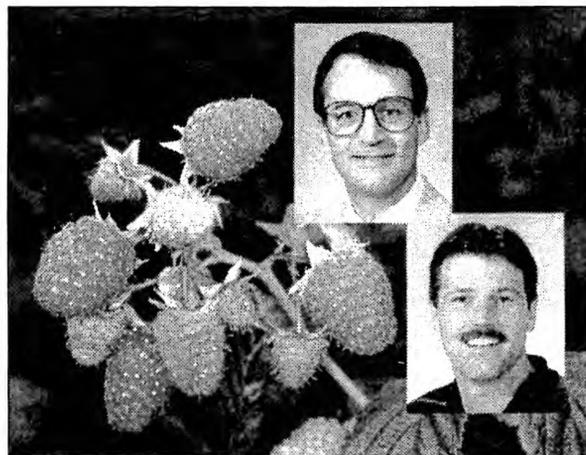
"'Prelude' and 'Encore' red raspberries offer growers a unique opportunity to extend the harvest season, both early and late," said Kevin Maloney, who manages the Small Fruit Breeding Program at the Station. "These varieties are adapted to u-pick, retail farm sales, and wholesale distribution." He and project leader John Sanford are excited about the two new cultivars which should significantly increase the red raspberry harvest season in the Northeast, the Great Lakes regions, and along the East Coast.

"'Prelude' matures in late June and early July, seven days earlier than standard early-season cultivars," said Maloney. It originated from a cross of NY817 ['Hilton' x NY600 (Durham x September)] x 'Hilton', and was previously tested as NY1009. Winter hardy in Zone 5, the plants of 'Prelude' are vigorous and sucker freely. 'Prelude' fruit average 2.2 grams per berry, are positioned openly with good placement, and are very easy to harvest. 'Prelude' also bears fruit on primocanes in the fall. The total average fall production is slightly less than 'Heritage' and the average fruit size is slightly higher. Maloney reports that plant vigor and fruit production of 'Prelude' has not declined in Station test plots when summer cropping annually.

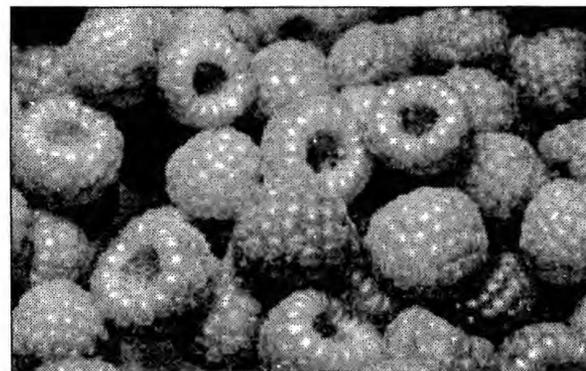
"'Encore' matures late, peaking in production late in the season, and extends the red raspberry harvest into August," said Maloney. 'Encore' originated from a cross of 'Canby' x 'Cherokee', and was previously tested as NY7. 'Encore' has excellent winter hardiness in Zone 5, has very good root suckering and vigor, and produces above average commercial fruit yields. Fruit average 2.9 grams per berry, are attractive, with firm texture, and have a good balanced flavor.

Fruit breeders at the Station seek to develop superior fruit cultivars characterized by fruit quality (for both fresh and processed markets), insect and disease resistance, tolerance to cold weather, productivity and growth habit. Releases are particularly well adapted for cultivation in New York. Scientists have introduced 241 new fruit varieties, including 37 raspberries, since the Station was founded in 1880.

*L. McCandless*



*John Sanford (top inset) and Kevin Maloney (bottom inset) released 'Encore' (top) and 'Prelude' (bottom) this week.*



## ROBINSON UNVEILS DISEASE RESISTANT LETTUCE

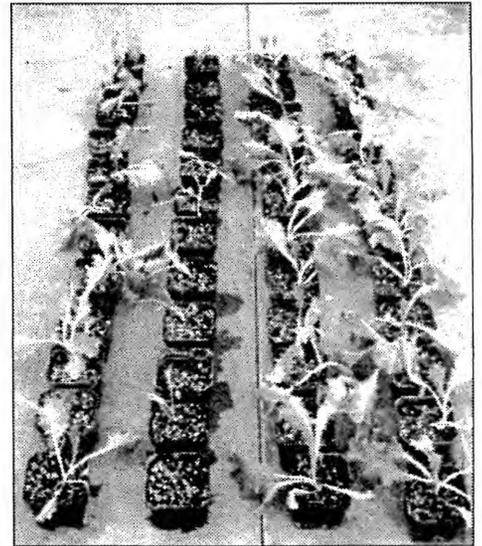
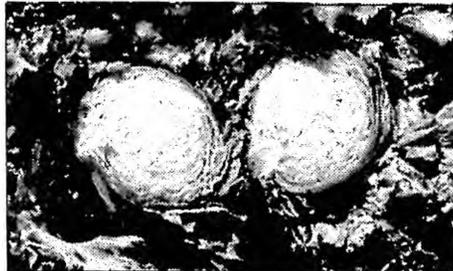
'Onondaga' is a new variety of head lettuce specifically bred for cultivation in New York. Released at the NYS Vegetable Conference on February 10 by Experiment Station vegetable breeders, it is the only lettuce resistant to both cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and corky root rot. It derives CMV resistance from a wild species of lettuce called *Lactuca saligna*.

"Wild species are very difficult to use in breeding because of their distant relationship," said Richard W. Robinson, the Station vegetable breeder. He developed the variety with Research Support Specialist Joseph Shail and virologist Dr. Rosario Provvidenti.

'Onondaga' is a cross between 'Saladcrisp' and 'Montello'. It is light green in color, with a crisp, firm head. It resists physiological disorders like bolting and tip burn and is a mid-season variety, according to Robinson. He is the only plant breeder who has ever been successful in breeding CMV resistance derived from *L. saligna* into domestic lettuce.

At the same conference, Robinson and Shail also released 'Whitaker', a new variety of squash that also derives its disease resistance from a wild variety.

"Conventional breeding at Cornell University is accomplishing improvements that



'Onondaga' is an *Ithaca*-type lettuce with excellent disease resistance.

would not otherwise be achieved," said Robinson. No commercial seed company would undertake a breeding program so long, difficult, and uncertain of success as transferring disease resistance from *L. saligna* to lettuce, or *Cucurbita ecuadorensis* to squash.

"The squash and lettuce varieties we are introducing illustrate the importance of conventional breeding at public institutions such as Cornell University," said Robinson. "Biotechnology can be a very rapid way to breed for some traits, and private seed companies are doing an increasingly good job of breeding vegetable varieties, but neither biotechnology nor private seed companies have developed varieties such as 'Whitaker' squash, and 'Onondaga' lettuce."

Plant breeders at the Station seek to develop superior vegetable varieties and/or germplasm for further seed development by commercial seed companies.

L. McCandless

### TRAFFIC UPDATE

A new Steam Line Project was initiated by Over and Under Piping Contractors on February 10 that requires certain Station roads to be dug up. John VanderWeide reports that roads will not be interrupted until after the heating season.

However, commencing later this spring, Station employees can expect traffic flow to be affected. The route requires the road between B&P and FRU and Collier Drive by Raw Products to be dug up. (NOTE: This will NOT happen all at the same time!) The route is: From the steam tunnel under Collier, around the outside of Raw Products; to B&P; through the garage at B&P; to FRU; through FRU; to the Warehouse; and a small branch to building 43.

Expected completion date is July 3. Your cooperation and patience during this time will be appreciated.

(BRIEFS, cont.)

on food, the farmer's share is 21 cents. The other 79 cents is spent on wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution.

Twenty-two million American workers produce, process, sell and trade the nation's food and fiber; 4.6 million of the 22 million live on farms, slightly less than two percent of the U.S. population.

According to the USDA, Americans spend just 9.3 percent of their income on food. People from India spend 53.1 percent. The Japanese spend 19.1 percent, the French spend 16.3 percent, Swedes spend 15.3 percent, and people from the UK spend 11.5 percent. Americans spend the least.

Sources: National Farm-City Council and the USDA

### DAVID COMBS NAMED 'FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR'

Many Station employees volunteer their time for community organizations. One who has been honored for his services is David Combs, recently named Firefighter of the Year at the 112th banquet of the C.J. Folger Hook and Ladder Co. of the Geneva Fire Department. He was one of 10 members cited for responding to the most calls during 1997.

Combs has been working as a Technician for IPM since September. He works with Joe Kovach in reducing reliance on pesticides in fruit crops. According to Kovach, he has been particularly helpful on the strawberry project.

## PETZOLDT RECEIVES IPM AWARD

Curtis Petzoldt, assistant director of the NYS IPM Program and vegetable IPM coordinator for the state, is rarely content with the status quo. With one foot in a cabbage field and the other in the future, he encourages practices that change the ways farmers and consumers do business. On February 10, Petzoldt's work was recognized when he received one of three awards for outstanding work in integrated pest management (IPM) at the 1998 NYS Vegetable Conference.

Half a dozen NYS IPM awards are presented each year to individuals or groups showing leadership in minimizing economic, health, and environmental risks. According to IPM Program director James Tette, the purpose of the award is to "honor people for developing new IPM methods or for sharing IPM with others."

In 1996, Petzoldt and area IPM educator Timothy Weigle founded the Northeast Weather Association—a nonprofit membership organization that provides growers with timely weather data and pest forecasts. The specific information helps producers determine when diseases and insects need to be controlled, and whether sprays can be delayed or eliminated. Says Petzoldt, "Membership in the Northeast Weather Association grew 56 percent between the first and second year. In the coming year, we will offer weather-based pest and crop models for producers of ornamentals and field crops."

In 1997, Petzoldt and his colleagues sought to manage European corn borer on fresh-market sweet corn by releasing microscopic beneficial wasps and applying Bt (a biological insecticide). With these practices, they averted up to three applications of chemical pesticides and achieved *marketable quality corn*. This research is part of a multi-year interdisciplinary project comparing four vegetable growing systems (conventional, IPM present, IPM future, and organic) to assess which practices can be incorporated into present and future cropping systems. Anthony Shelton, associate director of Research CALS, says "Petzoldt has doggedly pursued the development of IPM for vegetables and other crops. He is widely respected by those who work with him, not only in New York, but also nationally."

In 1998, Petzoldt will take part in na-



*Curt Petzoldt (left) receives IPM award from director Jim Tette at the NYS Vegetable Conference.*

tional meetings that focus not only on IPM labeling of foods, but how labeling could cross state lines. The New York State IPM Program, with Petzoldt at the helm, has responded to private sector demands for IPM-grown products for several years. Wegmans and other distributors, for example, carry 14 kinds of vegetables with the NYS IPM label. Petzoldt has worked for more than a decade with growers, private consultants, and private industry to develop IPM guidelines, enabling crops to be grown in ways that are economically and environmentally sound.

Prior to joining the IPM Program in 1985, Petzoldt was a representative for Lilly Research Laboratories and Elanco Products. He holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of California (Davis) and a B.A. in biology from Bates College.

Other award recipients are growers Tim and Colleen Stanton and private consultant Richard Wildman. The Stantons practice IPM on a family farm in Feura Bush, NY, where they devote nearly 400 acres to production of hay and other field crops, small fruits, vegetables, and greenhouse plants. Besides using IPM methods on the farm and in the greenhouse, they have helped to develop the use of rye mulch for pumpkin production, tested powdery mildew-resistant pumpkins, participated in pumpkin variety trials, and hosted informational twilight meetings for growers. The Stantons have also conducted trials for reducing bird damage on sweet corn and have evaluated biological controls to combat sweet corn insects.

Richard Wildman is president of Agricultural Consulting Services, Inc., one of the earliest private crop-consulting firms in the state. He has helped growers of processing sweet-corn reduce numbers of pesticide applications by up to 50 percent in New York, and his work with tomato processors has also resulted in substantial savings in pesticide use, both economically and environmentally.

Wildman originated the concept of fully integrated crop production, which embraces nutrient management planning and soil resources in a "whole farm" approach. He has developed on-farm crop management software that helps growers with record keeping, consults with CCE on scouting techniques, and serves on the IPM Commodity Working Group for Vegetables.

*C. Koplinka-Loehr*

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 13-20, 1998**

**EVENTS/MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, February 17, 1998**

**10:30 am**

Lounge, Jordan Hall

*Geneva Administrative Managers' Meeting*

**SEMINARS**

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES**

There will be no seminar this week.

**ENTOMOLOGY**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 1998

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Place:** Room 310, Barton Laboratory

**Speaker:** Dr. Stephen Teal  
College of Environ. Forestry  
Syracuse University

**Topic:** Genetic Basis of a Bark Beetle  
Communication System: Ecological & Evolutionary Relevance

*There will be a period of social interaction  
with the speaker at 10:00 am.*

*Coffee & cookies will be available.*

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 1998

**Time:** 3:30 pm

**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory

**Speaker:** John Sutton  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario

**Topic:** Biocontrol of *Botrytis* by  
*Gliocladium roseum*

*Meet the speaker at 3:00.*



**DEADLINES**

• **Monday, March 2, 1998**

Apple Research and Development Program  
proposafs due in Director's Office.

**PEOPLE**

• **Congratulations**

Jim and Suzie Hunter became first-time grand-  
parents on Friday, February 6, at 11:08 pm,  
when Nikolas Hunter Weyland was born to  
Wendy and Kurt Weyland. Nikolas was 8 lbs  
14 oz and 21.5 in. long!

**LTC WORKSHOPS**

**February 18, 1998**

**2-3:00 pm**

Library Technology Center,  
Jordan Hall Basement

*Introduction to Windows*

**February 19, 1998**

**9-10:30 am**

Library Technology Center,  
Jordan Hall Basement

*The New Cornell Library Gateway*

Please attend classes in which you have enrolled. Notify Jane Irwin (x294, **mji4**) if you are unable to attend. For further information on the Library Technology Center workshops and registration, see [www.nysaes.cornell.edu/library/cal.html](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/library/cal.html) on the WWW.

**WEB SITES OF THE WEEK**

It is a very likely that memory prices are going to be rising in the near future. If you think you need more memory (and chances are, you do), now is probably the best time to buy. The web can help because numerous memory suppliers now have very complete web pages. In fact, most memory suppliers even take orders over the Web. This article examines two Web sites that showcase random access memory.

The first site is Peripheral Enhancement Corp. at [www.peripheral.com](http://www.peripheral.com). The "On Line Memory Guide" found there is very useful. This is a searchable guide that shows all the basic-configuration computer systems, how much memory is on their mother boards, and all available memory add-ons—very useful information, indeed! While the guide is useful, PEC has fairly expensive prices. The prudent memory shopper may want to find out the types of SIMMs or DIMMs they need while at the PEC site, then actually purchase them somewhere else.

Data Memory Systems, at [www.datamem.com](http://www.datamem.com), has a fairly basic, no frills web site. What the site lacks in pizzazz, it makes up for by consistently having the lowest prices around. If you know what you need and only have time to make one stop, Data Memory Systems is your best bet.

A long list of memory suppliers with Web sites may be found at [www.yahoo.com/Business](http://www.yahoo.com/Business) and [Economy/Companies/Computers/Hardware/Components/Memory/](http://www.yahoo.com/Economy/Companies/Computers/Hardware/Components/Memory/)

NOTE: How do you know if you need more memory? A general rule of thumb is that more memory is always helpful. Specifically, if you use Netscape 3.0 or 4.0, freeze-ups can be avoided if you have at least 32 megabytes. If you use extremely memory intensive programs, such as Photoshop or Illustrator, you should have 64 megabytes.

*J. Zakour*

**WHAT'S IN A KISS?**

