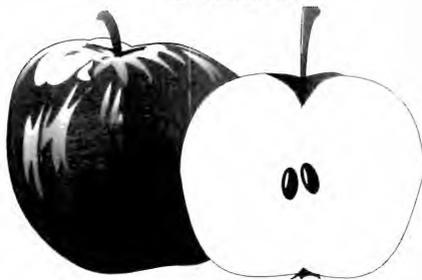


VOLUME LXXXIV • NO. 4
JANUARY 24 - 31, 2003

BRIEFS



Apples by Taste

A Swiss marketing company has come up with a new way to market apples. Now consumers do not have to remember apple variety names; they can select their apples by taste categories. The Taste Group Concept was created by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), based in Frick, Switzerland. The system was designed as a way for organic growers to market little-known scab-resistant varieties in well-known flavor categories, but has broad applications.

The unique marketing system gives consumers three apple choices based on fruit flavor: sweet, spicy or slightly acidic, and predominantly acidic. Six archetypes feed into the three designations. Golden, Jonagold and Idared, are designated sweet. Cox and Gravenstein are spicy. And Boskoop would be predominantly acidic.

A color-coded label designates each taste group. The whole system is meant to simplify cultivar information over the chain by grouping cultivars into archetypes and flavor groups.

According to FiBL research, 76% of consumers found information on taste to be important to their buying decision.

"The Taste Group Concept can reduce the importance of a single variety as long as the quality is okay," said Franco Weibel,

(Continued on page 2)

New Plant Pathologist Hired at Geneva

Christine (Chris) D. Smart has accepted the position of assistant professor of vegetable pathology at Cornell in the plant pathology department at the Experiment Station. Smart will study diseases of vegetable crops in New York State. The position carries both research and extension responsibilities. Currently, Smart is a visiting assistant professor in the plant pathology department at Cornell in Ithaca. She will start full time in Geneva on March 1, 2003.

"Chris has a tremendous background in plant pathology that will allow her to develop and carry out excellent research and extension programs," said department chairman Tom Burr. "She has conducted research on diverse pathogen types and has the rare ability of being able to do cutting-edge genomics research as well as having an in-depth understanding of field pathology. Last semester she did an outstanding job of teaching the introductory plant pathology course in the Ithaca department. We are certainly fortunate to have been able to hire her in our department."

Burr said the department decided this position was the most important one to fill because "we realized that the vegetable industry in NY is growing in value and that faculty working on vegetables at Geneva had declined significantly."

Smart has been active in the Cornell community since 1996, when she started as a postdoctoral research associate working with plant pathologist William E. Fry, in Ithaca. She became a visiting professor in 2001. Smart's duties included teaching "Plant Diseases and Disease Management" (PL PA 241 <http://ppathw3.cals.cornell.edu/pp241/default.htm>).

Smart's research interests are the molecular basis of host-pathogen interactions involving *Phytophthora infestans* and the biology of oomycete plant pathogens. She is currently studying late blight of tomato and potato (late blight is the disease that caused the Irish potato famine), and will continue to study tomato late blight and other diseases of tomato. After assessing the needs of vegetable growers, she will develop new projects to address these needs. "One of my goals is to gain a better understanding of disease epidemics in the field which will lead to improved management practices," said Smart, adding that she is really looking forward to starting in this position.

Another of Smart's goals is to promote regional agriculture. "I hope through research, training graduate students and extension education my program will support regional ag," Smart said. Like all new faculty, she also hopes to get tenure.

Smart became interested in the position in Geneva because "studying vegetable pathology was exactly what I wanted to do with my career." She first became interested in this field when she worked on chestnut blight, and was intrigued by the interactions between plants

(Continued on page 2)



Chris Smart

(BRIEFS, continued)

head of FiBL's Department of Perennial Crops. It also allows retailers to order by archetype rather than by variety. Now growers can take the risk to plan unknown resistant varieties and can maximize sustainability.

Fruit Growers News

New York Fresh Apples Headed for Cuba

For the first time in more than 40 years, New York-grown fresh apples have been shipped to Cuba. The fresh apples left H.H. Dobbins, Inc. packing house in Lyndonville, NY.

"We're excited that for the first time in more than a generation, Cubans will be able to enjoy our great-tasting New York apples," said New York Apple Association (NYAA) President Jim Allen.

One container load of 980 boxes of New York-grown Red Delicious was loaded on Dec. 17, sealed and shipped and headed for a port in Jacksonville, Fla. They were expected to arrive in Cuba before Christmas.

New York, because of its geographic proximity, has a big advantage in competing for Cuba's apple market. Cuba's population is more than 13 million.

Fruit Growers News

Forum Focuses on The Right Combination to Unlocking the Future

Farmer cooperative leaders and those interested in cooperative affairs have a great opportunity to learn more about key industry trends and cutting-edge strategies. The Northeast Cooperative Council will hold its Cooperative Leaders Forum and 54th Annual Meeting on March 19-20 at The Wyndham Hotel in Syracuse, NY. This year's theme is "The Right Combination to Unlocking the Future." The Forum is held in conjunction with CoBANK's regional customer meeting.

Bill Hale, President of the Hale Group, will kick off the Forum with a presentation on "Changing the Food Service Industry." He is an acknowledged food industry expert and is well known for his ability to identify emerg-

(Continued in next column)

(SMART, continued)

and microbes and amazed by the devastation that a disease epidemic can cause.

Smart received a B.S. in Biology in 1986, and a Ph.D. in Botany and Plant Pathology in 1992, all from Michigan State University. She was a graduate research assistant for the department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University from 1986 to 1992, and while there, received the William Fields Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1988. From 1992 to 1996, Smart was a postdoctoral research associate for the department of plant pathology at the University of California-Davis. While at Cornell, Smart has been a co-investigator on a USDA National Research Initiative-Competitive grant for looking at the role of oospores in the epidemiology of *Phytophthora infestans*. She was also the PI on a USDA National Research Initiative-Competitive grant to study resistance in tomatoes to *Phytophthora infestans*. Smart has authored or co-authored numerous publications since 1993.

Smart's husband, Larry, a plant physiologist and geneticist, is an associate professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. They have one daughter, Stephanie, who is four-years-old. To relax, Chris enjoys reading, hiking and swimming. The Smarts recently moved to Castle Street in Geneva and already say they enjoy living here. "We used to live in the country and are enjoying having everything so close here," said Chris. "The neighborhood is really great."

Chris Smart can be reached at cds14@cornell.edu. Starting March 1, her office will be at 213 Barton Lab.

J. Zakour

(BRIEFS, continued)

ing trends and new opportunities within the food system. Other speakers include: David Hayes & Joe Getman, attorneys with Bond, Schoeneck & King, LLP addressing the subject of "Best Practices for Governance"; Steve Wright, CEO of Pro-Fac Cooperative will discuss "Restructuring Pro-Fac" and Don Schriver, COO of Dairy Farmers of America will review "DFA - Investing in Market Access for Member Milk."

Speakers on the CoBANK segment of the program include: Doug Sims reviewing operating results for CoBANK, Prof. Dave Kohl speaking about "Megatrends in Agriculture," and Prof. Ed Seifried addressing the "The Road to Economic Recovery."

For more information visit the NECC website at:

<<http://cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu/events1.html>> or contact Brian Henahan at 607/255-8800 or bnh5@cornell.edu.

UPCOMING EH&S TRAINING SCHEDULE

Forklift Safety Training

January 28, 2003

9 AM-10 AM

Jordan Hall Auditorium

Respiratory Protection Training

February 5, 2003

9 AM-10 AM, Current Members

1 PM -2 PM, New Members

Jordan Hall Auditorium

Respiratory Fit Testing

February 4-10, 2003

8:30 AM-4 PM, By Appt.

Jordan Hall Staff Room

Don't miss out on this information and useful training! Sign up now by calling ext. 2466 or e-mail lar38



Suffolk County Pesticide Phase-out Committee Wins IPM Award

Mice in the concession stands, ants in the archives, poison ivy clambering over the park fence—Suffolk County’s Community Advisory Committee has seen it all. The county, which owns or leases 356 buildings and thousands of acres of parks, beaches and golf courses, deals with problems like these every day.

Without pesticides.

Now, for their careful and innovative work on pesticide problems big and small, the Community Advisory Committee has been honored with an “Excellence in IPM Award” from the New York State Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. IPM is a set of practices that minimizes the use of pesticides while promoting environmental health.

Jennifer Grant, who coordinates programs in community IPM for the NYS IPM Program, presented the award on January 15 in Yaphank at the monthly meeting of the Suffolk County Community Advisory Committee. “This committee looks at the law, then researches the nitty-gritty details of how to make it work,” says Grant. “They’re an ideal model for how communities can approach controversial issues involving pesticides.”

In 1996, Suffolk County voted to phase out pesticide use on all county property. Public anxiety about possible links between pesticide use and cancer rates fueled the phase-out. The law called for scaling back pesticide use starting in 2000, with a complete ban, except in matters of public health and safety, by 2002.

The Community Advisory Committee—nine people from county agencies and the community—is leading the charge. They’re dealing with properties ranging from nursing homes and jails to museums and office buildings—and even a working farm with a slaughterhouse. Ten thousand employees and 1.3 million residents work, do business, and play in county properties nearly every day.

“This is an eager, committed, can-do group,” says County Legislator Dave Bishop, who originally proposed the ban. “They’ve had to deal with problems that no one anticipated when we began. But they do research, bring in experts, and look at the alternatives. They see issues through to the end.”

Exempting the Law

Sometimes that involves granting exemptions to the law. County corrections officers, with over 1,500 inmates to deal with, came before the committee and explained how they treat for body lice in the jail. “They have to protect inmates and officers alike from lice,” says Amy Juchatz, the committee’s chair and the health program analyst at the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. “In that kind of setting, there aren’t feasible alternatives to insecticide-based treatments, so we asked the legislature to make an exception.”

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County has lent their expertise. When the Community Advisory Committee realized that there were pesticides in the antifouling paints used to keep barnacles and algae from glomming onto boat bottoms, they turned to Suffolk Extension’s IPM specialist, Joyce Rodler, and NYS IPM Program staff for alternatives.

“We’re researching alternatives ranging from power-washing to ‘marine skin,’ a paintable



Jennifer Grant

(JENNIFER, continued)

plastic that things won’t stick to,” says Rodler. “The county operates everything from police patrol boats and tugboats to a 60-ton dredge, so we’ll probably need several options.”

The Buzz About Mosquitoes

With mosquitoes much on peoples’ minds, Dominick Ninivaggi, superintendent of the Department of Public Works’ Vector Control unit, is looking at alternatives to sprays. “Public health is number one,” says Ninivaggi. “The law exempts any product used to protect people from diseases like West Nile virus.” But he is investigating how bacteria, growth regulators, garlic oil repellants, and larvae-killing sound waves could work for large-scale mosquito control.

Suffolk County has been using bacterial products to control mosquito larvae since 1982, and has been steadily reducing its reliance on broad-spectrum pesticides since 1995.

Of 43 species of mosquito found in Suffolk County, three imported species found in saltwater marshes are among the handful of aggressive species that transmit West Nile virus. Thousands of acres of fresh- and saltwater marshes lie within the county’s bounds. Ninivaggi is researching how wetlands restoration can keep mosquitoes down while reducing pesticide use. “We’re working to manage water levels so fish can get in there and eat the mosquito larvae,” says Ninivaggi.

M. Woodsen

V & B Gala Dinner & Premier Wine Auction April 4, 2003

CASA LARGA VINEYARDS,
IN FAIRPORT, NY

More information about the event will be posted at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/vb> as it becomes available.

For tickets, contact Nancy Long at npl1@cornell.edu

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY 24 - 31, 2003

SEMINARS

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Monday, January 27, 2003
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: Rm.310 Barton Laboratory
Subject: Interactions between Bt plants and insects: from Bt cotton to Bt broccoli.
Speaker: Dr. Joe Zhao, Geneva

HORT SCIENCE

Date: Monday, January 27, 2003
Time: 11 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Subject: Climate change and NE horticulture: crop responses, farmer adaptation, and policy
Speaker: Dr. David Wolfe, Ithaca

Date: Monday, February 3, 2003
Time: 11 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Subject: Controlled Environment Agriculture from an Engineering Perspective
Speaker: Dr. Louis Albright, Ithaca

Plant Path

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2003
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: Rm.133, Barton Laboratory
Subject: Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for Detection of Crop Stress in Cranberry
Speaker: Dr. Peter Oudemans, Rutgers University, Chatsworth, NJ

LTC

Due to Jane Irwin's absence, the Open Labs that had been scheduled for the next month have been cancelled. Please contact library staff if you have questions.

FITNESS

Aerobics

Date: Mon. & Fri.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Sawdust Cafe

Taekardio

Date: Mon. & Wed.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: Large 3 bedroom 1/2 house for rent on Rose Street (near hospital) in Geneva. Fenced in back yard and basement storage included. Alternate side of street parking. \$475 per month plus utilities and water. Lease required. Contact pmm19 or call 2394 for more information.

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE. February 1, 2003 at DeSales High School. To help raise money for St. Francis/St. Stephen's 8th grade trip to Washington, DC. If you would like your bottles and cans picked up, please call Nancy Long at 781-6950.

FOR SALE: Mauve/grey couch, 7'3"L x 36" W x 36"H. It wouldn't fit through my sister-in-law's apartment door so now it's for sale- never been sat on. Because it was on clearance for \$350, it could not be returned, asking \$300. Contact Cathy at x2367 or Gregg Heidenreich x2433.

FOR SALE: 1993 Saturn SL2, 4 dr. Sedan, Automatic, ABS, Traction Control, 4 snow tires and 4 summer tires, 103K miles. \$2,000. Contact Jim at jam18, or X-2212.

WANTED to buy/borrow Men's size 8 hockey skates. Contact Cheryl TenEyck x 2379 or home 315 789 3493

FOR SALE: Ferret cage, 3 levels, includes hammock and litter pan. \$45. Dave x2496 or Bradley 585 2248.

FOR SALE: 1996 Red Toyota Corolla. Automatic transmission, air conditioning. Excellent condition, clean inside and out and a smooth runner. 100 K miles. \$3,750 or B/O. Call x2420, e-mail sm90@cornell.edu or 315-789-9540.

WANTED: sewing/mending jobs. Can shorten, patch, replace zippers and buttons etc. hlw7@nysaes.cornell.edu or call 2433.

FOR RENT: Large 1 bedroom apartment, walking distance from Station. \$500/month plus electric. Security deposit required. Contact dbc10 or 781-1808.

FOR SALE: professional drafting table, Hamilton VR20, 3'x5', power lift, excellent condition, \$300. Call Dave x2496.

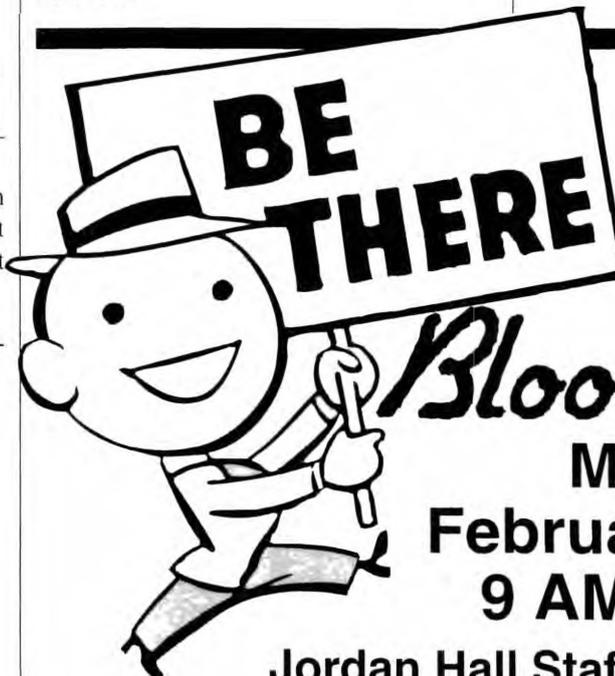


Station Club BOWLING PARTY

March 1, 2003

The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly.

Abraham Lincoln



Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, February 3, 2003 9 AM to 3 PM

Jordan Hall Staff Room & Lounge