



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News

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A newsletter for commercial growers of fruit and vegetable crops

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle

Address any questions or comments regarding this newsletter to the individual authors listed after each article or to its editor, Rick Weinzierl, 217-244-2126, weinzierl@illinois.edu. The *Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News* is available on the web at: <http://ipm.illinois.edu/ifvn/>. To receive email notification of new postings of this newsletter, call or write Rick Weinzierl at the number or email address above.

In this issue ...

- **Upcoming programs** (lots of listings for beginning and established growers)
- **Regional Reports** (from southern and western Illinois)
- **Fruit Production and Pest Management** (brown marmorated stink bug)
- **Vegetable Production and Pest Management** (biological control of insects and mites in high tunnels)
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- **University of Illinois Extension Educators and Specialists in Fruit and Vegetable Production and Pest Management**

Upcoming Programs

Check the Illinois SARE calendar for a full list of programs and links for registration.

<http://illinoissare.org/> and <http://illinoissare.org/calendar.php>

Also see the University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Team's web site at:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/smallfarm/> and their calendar of events at

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/units/calendar.cfm?UnitID=629>.

- **Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association Annual Conference and Tradeshow, January 29-31, 2015.** Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. IGGVA contact: Bradley Beam, bradleybeam@gmail.com. University of Illinois Extension contact: Elizabeth Wahle, wahle@illinois.edu.
- **Commercial Tree Fruit Schools, February 3 and 4, 2015.** February 3 at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon Illinois; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. February 4 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hardin, Illinois; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For Mount Vernon, contact Laurie George at 618-242-0780 or ljgeorge@illinois.edu. For Hardin, contact Ken Johnson at kjohnso@illinois.edu.
- **Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference, February 5, 2015.** Midway Village, Rockford, IL, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Contact Grant McCarty at gmccarty@illinois.edu or 815-235-4125.
- **2015 Gateway Small Fruit and Vegetable Conference, February 10-11, 2015.** (New name and location! Formerly the Illinois Small Fruit & Strawberry Schools and Southern Illinois Commercial Vegetable School previously held in Mt Vernon, now serving commercial growers throughout southern Illinois and Missouri.) Regency Conference Center, O'Fallon, IL. Contact: Elizabeth Wahle at wahle@illinois.edu.
- **Kankakee Fruit and Vegetable Growers Symposium, February 18, 2015.** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the University of Illinois Kankakee County Extension Office, 1650 Commerce Drive, Bourbonnais, IL. For more information, call James Theuri at 815/933-8337 or jtheu50@illinois.edu. A pre-registration fee of \$30 which includes lunch, handout materials and the 2015 Midwest Vegetable Production Guide is required by February 10, 2015.

- **Vandalia Vegetable Growers School, February 28, 2015.** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm., Fayette County Farm Bureau, 1125 Sunset Dr., Vandalia, IL. No registration and no pre-registration required. For information and details, contact Mohammad Babadoost at 217-333-1523 or babadoos@illinois.edu.
- **Workshops on the Affordable Care Act (morning) and Succession Planning (afternoon), March 26, 2015.** Illinois Farm Bureau Building, Bloomington, IL. No fee, but registration is required; see www.specialtygrowers.org to register. For more information, contact Diane Handley at dhandly@ilfb.org or 309-557-2107.

Small Farm Webinar Series: A weekly educational series for the small farm community on important topics to advance local food production in Illinois. This series is aimed at providing small farm producers with a look at how leading practices in production, management, and marketing enable operations to improve profitability and sustainability. Webinars air live each Thursday at 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and include a question and answer session. If you cannot attend, a link to the recorded webinars will be available to view at your convenience for all those who register. To register, see <http://go.illinois.edu/2015winterwebinars> or contact: Miki White, University of Illinois Extension, Small Farms/Local Foods Program Coordinator, Knox County; 309-342-5108 or miki7047@illinois.edu.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Jan. 15, 2015	No-till culture for Peppers & Tomatoes
Jan. 22, 2015	Growing Hops for Market
Jan. 29, 2015	Potato Production
Feb. 5, 2015	Sweet Corn Production
Feb. 12, 2015	Perennial Crops for Small Farms
Feb. 19, 2015	Understanding Insecticides
Feb. 26, 2015	Blueberry Production
Mar. 5, 2015	Hydroponics
Mar. 12, 2015	Effective Farmers Market Displays
Mar. 19, 2015	Veggie Compass Record-Keeping Software
Mar. 26, 2015	Variety Selection & Rootstocks for Establishing Apple Orchards

Kyle Cecil (309-342-5108; cecil@illinois.edu)

Regional Reports

From the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center ... We have added a lettuce float bed to our collection of hydroponic equipment. While NFT techniques such as gutters are popular for raising lettuce, older methods such as float beds are still used and represent a viable low cost alternative. This winter we will evaluate 14 Bibb lettuce cultivars in two NFT systems and one float bed system. In addition, we have also made plantings of hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers for our Beginning Farmers class and a hydroponic workshop that will be held here later this winter.





Jeff Kindhart (618-695-2770; jkindhar@illinois.edu) and Julie Zakes (zakes@illinois.edu)

From western Illinois ... Temperatures during the week of January 5 were bitterly cold, but the last few days have warmed significantly. Although the cold snap wasn't long-lived, we did experience some significant freezing of the ground. Extreme cold weather events are a unique opportunity to "test" our high tunnels. By this I mean the opportunity to monitor the temperature extremes and variability within the tunnels during these events. I am always amazed at how "comfortable" it can be inside these structures with minimal sunlight during the winter months. We experienced colder temps last January, and plants that were the right variety, planted at the right time and given the opportunity to recover did quite well.

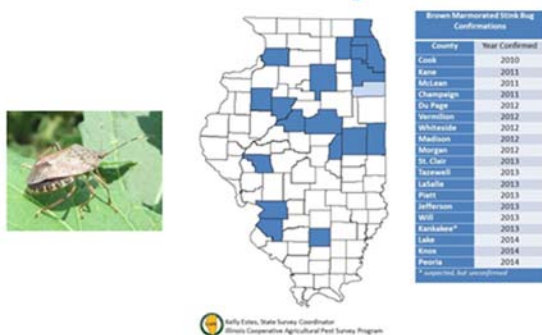
Growers throughout the region have started trays of tomatoes, greens and other plants destined for area high tunnels. It won't be long till we are in the heat of the growing season. It can't come soon enough.

Kyle Cecil (309-342-5108; cecil@illinois.edu)

Fruit Production and Pest Management

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Brown marmorated stink bug distribution



Occurrence is probably more widespread than confirmed reports indicate.

Selected BMSB insecticides by crop

	Preharvest Interval (days)		
	Apples	Peaches	Brambles
Actara (thiamethoxam)	14	14	3
Belay (clothianidin)	7	21	not registered
Brigade (bifenthrin)	not registered	not registered	3
Danitol (fenproprathrin)	14	3	3
Lannate (methomyl)	14	14	Not registered
Mustang Max (zeta-cypermethrin)	14	14	1

See <http://plant-pest-advisor.rutgers.edu/bmsb-insecticide-options-revised/bmsb-spray-schedule-table-3/> for a more extensive list.

At the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organics Conference on January 9 I provided an update on a few insect pests of fruits ... one that I covered is brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). BMSB has been detected in the counties indicated on the map above and probably is present in additional counties as well. Most fruit growers will

NOT likely encounter this insect at densities that warrant control this year, but a few may. The insecticides listed in the table above are among the most effective against BMSB. See <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/bmsb-insecticide-options-revised/bmsb-spray-schedule-table-3/> for a more extensive list. I'll provide updates and sampling recommendations for this insect at upcoming fruit programs and later issues of this newsletter.

Rick Weinzierl (217-244-2126; weinzier@illinois.edu)

Vegetable Production and Pest Management

Biological Control for Insect Management in High Tunnels

Aphids, thrips, and mites (not actually insects) often are greater problems in high-tunnel production of tomatoes, cucumbers, and other crops than they are in outdoor production. Because of insecticide resistance, spray coverage problems, pre-harvest restrictions, and the high value of crops within high tunnels, biological control of these pests by use of predators and parasites can be a cost-effective alternative to insecticide and miticide applications. A useful source of information that addresses biological control of insects and mites in high tunnels is ***Sustainable Pest Management in High Tunnels and Greenhouses***, a SARE publication. See <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Fact-Sheets/Sustainable-Pest-Management-in-Greenhouses-and-High-Tunnels>. You can download the pdf from this site.

Suppliers of biological control organisms for release in high tunnels and greenhouses include Biobest (contact Veronica Cervantes at 248-912-4774; veronica@biobest-usa.com; see www.biobest-usa.com) and Koppert Biological Systems, Inc. (1-800-928-8827; fax: 1-734-641-379; see: www.koppert.com).

Rick Weinzierl (217-244-2126; weinzier@illinois.edu)



Local Foods Issues

Zachary Grant hired as Extension Educator in Cook County

Zack Grant, currently the manager of the Student Sustainable Farm at the University of Illinois campus at Urbana, has been hired as a Local Food Systems and Small Farms Extension Educator in Cook County. In addition to a range of production and marketing topics, a portion of his responsibilities will focus on Farm-to-School programming. We'll provide more information (including a phone number) after Zack starts in this new position on February 2, 2015. His email address is zgrant2@illinois.edu.

Less seriously ...

- Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve, but you better not start anything."
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."
- An invisible man married an invisible woman. Their kids sure weren't much to look at.
- A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The flight attendant looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

University of Illinois Extension Educators and Specialists in Fruit and Vegetable Production and Pest Management

Extension Educators – Local Food Systems and Small Farms		
BRONWYN ALY , Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope, Saline, Wayne, and White counties	618-382-2662	baly@illinois.edu
STEPHEN AYERS , Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, & Vermilion counties	217-333-7672	srayers@illinois.edu
DEBORAH CAVANAUGH-GRANT , Logan, Menard & Sangamon counties	217-782-4617	cvnghgrm@illinois.edu
KYLE CECIL , Henderson, Knox, McDonough, & Warren counties	309-342-5108	cecil@illinois.edu
BILL DAVISON , Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties	309-663-8306	wdavison@illinois.edu
CONNIE ECHAIZ , Lake and McHenry counties	847-223-8627	cechaiz@illinois.edu
LAURIE GEORGE , Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, & Washington counties	618-548-1446	ljgeorge@illinois.edu
ZACHARY GRANT , Cook County		zgrant2@illinois.edu
DOUG GUCKER , DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt counties	217-877-6042	dgucker@illinois.edu
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ANDY LARSON , Boone, Dekalb, and Ogle counties	815-732-2191	andylars@illinois.edu
GRANT MCCARTY , Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties	815-235-4125	gmccarty@illinois.edu
MIKE ROEGGE , Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike & Schuyler counties	217-223-8380	roeggem@illinois.edu
DAVID SHILEY , Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie & Shelby counties	217-543-3755	dshiley@illinois.edu
JAMES THEURI , Grundy, Kankakee, & Will counties	815-933-8337	jtheu50@illinois.edu
JAMIE WASHBURN , Effingham, Jasper, Clay, Fayette, Clark, Crawford and Edgar counties	217-374-7773	jlwshbrn@illinois.edu
Extension Educators – Horticulture		
RICHARD HENTSCHEL , DuPage, Kane, & Kendall counties	630-584-6166	hentschel@illinois.edu
ANDREW HOLSINGER , Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, & Montgomery counties	217-532-3941	aholsing@illinois.edu
SONJA LALLEMAND , Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph, & Williamson counties	618-687-1727	lalleman@illinois.edu
ELIZABETH WAHLE , Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, Madison, Monroe, St Clair, & Washington counties	618-344-4230	wahle@illinois.edu
Horticulture Research-Extension Specialists at our Research Stations		
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