



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.

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Chris Doll Scholarship Fund

The membership of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association has established a scholarship fund to honor the outstanding accomplishments of former University of Illinois Extension Educator Chris Doll. These scholarships will provide \$1,000 annually to each of two to three undergraduate students at University of Illinois who are pursuing careers in horticulture with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables. As all of you know, Chris is very passionate about helping bright students develop careers in agriculture, and his love of helping growers in Illinois and the Midwest is not matched by anyone. What is a better investment than to establish these scholarships in honor of Chris' accomplishments to help support students that someday will follow in his footsteps? Chris has promised to meet with the recipient students to share his secrets for success. We hope that many of you will contribute to these scholarships not only to honor Chris, but to train the next generation of great extension specialists to be as passionate as Chris.

To make a contribution to this scholarship fund, please send a check (in any amount you choose) payable to the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, c/o Diane Handley, ISGA Manager, with a note on the check that it is for the Chris Doll Scholarship Fund. Your donation will be tax deductible. Mail checks to: Illinois Specialty Growers Association, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Questions? Contact Diane at 309-557-2107 or dhandley@ilfb.org.

Diane Handley (309-557-2107; dhandley@ilfb.org)

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>.

- **Spring Cover Crop Field Day, March 12, 2015.** 9:00 a.m. – noon, Ewing Demonstration Center, 16132 N. Ewing Rd; Ewing, IL. See cover crop plots and learn more about how cover crops can help your crop production system. Program is free and lunch is included. For more details visit <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/units/event.cfm?UnitID=629&EventID=68306> or contact Nathan Johannig at njohann@illinois.edu or 618-687-1727.
- **Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic, March 12, 2015.** 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Dixon Springs Ag Center (meet at the greenhouse), 354 State Highway 145 North, Simpson, IL 62985. Hands-on workshop covering basic concepts of pruning, pruning equipment and maintenance, and peach and apple pruning. (Dress for outdoor work and bring pruning tools if you have them.) Registration fee is \$5.00, and pre-registration is required at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=11749> (or call 618-382-2662). For further program information contact Bronwyn Aly (baly@illinois.edu; 618-382-2662) or Nathan Johannig (njohann@illinois.edu; 618-687-1727).
- **High Tunnel Workshop, March 19, 2015.** 10:00 a.m. - noon, Jackson County Extension Office, 402 Ava Rd., Murphysboro, IL 62966. Topics: high tunnel steaming, (with steaming demonstration), current overwintering crops in the high tunnel, and spring crops for the high tunnel and their management. No registration fee, but please pre-register by calling the Jackson County Extension Office at 618-687-1727. For more information contact Nathan Johannig (njohann@illinois.edu ; 618-687-1727).
- **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@iffb.org or 309-557-2107.
- **Midwest School for Beginning Grape Growers, March 29-31, 2015.** Madison, Wisconsin. An intensive 3-day course covering market assessment and profitability, site selection and soil preparation, variety selection, pest management, economics, equipment, and labor. Registration fee = \$375. For registration information, contact Peter Werts at pwerts@ipminstitute.org or 608-265-3704; for content questions, contact John Hendrickson at jhendric@wisc.edu or 608-265-3704.

University of Illinois Small Farm Webinar Series: A weekly educational series for the small farm community on topics important to local food production in Illinois. This series provides 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 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. Remaining webinars include ...

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)

High Tunnel Webinar Series from University of Kentucky. Covers season extension in high tunnel production systems; 6 webinars, each 75 minutes long, in February and March of 2015. For more information and to register, contact Miranda at 859-218-4384 or miranda.hileman@uky.edu. All webinars will be broadcast from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. CDT. Remaining topics ...

- March 10 — Crop, Irrigation & Equipment Options
- March 17 — Insect, Weed & Disease Control
- March 24 — Producer Views & Series Wrap-up

Regional Reports

From southern Illinois ... Our winter seems to be coming a little later than we expected, with multiple shots of snow across southern Illinois in the last few weeks. Snow totals have varied, but almost everyone has seen significant snowfall at least once lately. Fortunately some warmer weather is forecasted, and by early next week we might be close to 60°.

In mid-February the temperature was down to -5° here in Murphysboro and down to 0° inside the high tunnel. Throughout all of those low temperatures, all of our crops (lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, and carrots) survived with very little injury under a row cover in the tunnel. We did have a few leaves on the lettuce show injury, but the plants quickly grew out of it. The many sunny days we have had between the snow events has been helpful to keep plants going in the tunnels. Don't forget to remove the snow off of high tunnels, as many structurally cannot handle the load, and on a sunny day if the tunnel is covered with snow you aren't gaining that much needed solar radiation to heat the tunnel.

Nathan Johannng (618-687-1727; njohann@illinois.edu)

From western Illinois ... I think we'll all be glad when spring finally gets here. Nothing like cloudy and cold weather to really make for some dreary times. It seems as though the sun just couldn't shine much during the month of February, so I don't think I'm alone when I'm more than looking forward to sunshine and 60 degrees.

We're on the second harvest of high tunnel winter spinach. We've had some aphid issues, which we've had every year during winter production (summer too) but those are under control. The longer day lengths are helping with growth. The taste is superb, as the plants have higher sugar levels to help reduce cold injury.

Voles are a continual problem on our farm, and the high tunnel environment is ideal for them to overwinter (we were working in a tunnel on a 30 degree day the last week in February, and the temps inside were in the 70's). We had to trap them out several times over the winter to prevent loss of crop. It's amazing how much they can eat in just a week's time!

I'm sure most of you have heard of Drift Watch, a web site where you can list the locations that you're growing specialty crops. The idea is that pesticide applicators will reference that site prior to making application and thus avoid any potential drift issues. We know that nothing is fool proof, but making the attempt to provide geo-references can only help. In addition to listing on this web site, make every attempt to contact every grower who surrounds your operation and personally inform them of your concern – how valuable the crop is, your commitment to provide fresh, local product, and that any unwanted drift will cause economic hardship, etc. You'll probably find that many corn and soybean farmers don't apply their own pesticides but hire custom applicators to do that task. So your next step should be to personally visit each of those facilities, taking a plat book with you so you can show where your fields are located. Again share with them the importance of preventing pesticide trespass. Yes, I realize that we're placing the responsibility on you, but understand that it's in your best interest to provide them the details that might help avoid problems during the coming growing season. Nothing is certain, but I'd rather err on the side of caution. See www.driftwatch.org

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From the Springfield office of USDA NASS ... In February, the USDA released its Specialty Crops summary from the 2012 Census of Agriculture. If you're interested in statistics on acreage, production, and sales, you can check it out at http://agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Specialty_Crops/SCROPS.pdf.

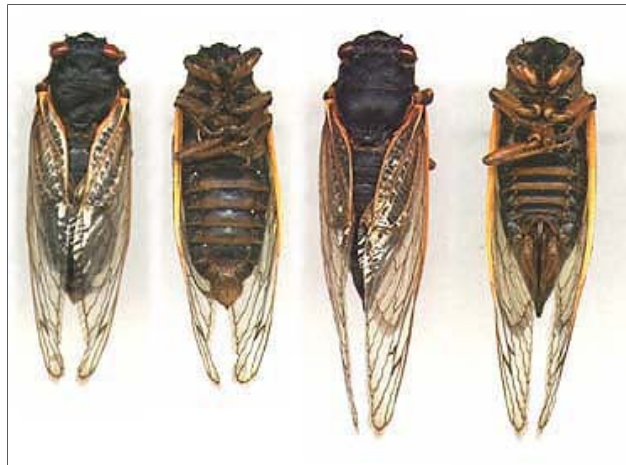
Mark Schleusener (217-524-9606; Mark.Schleusener@nass.usda.gov)

Fruit Production and Pest Management

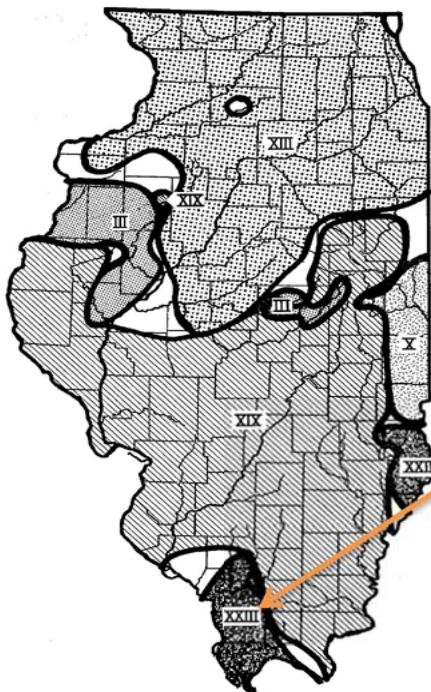
Lower Mississippi Valley Brood (Marlatt's XXIII) of 13-Year Periodical Cicadas in 2015

[Marlatt's Brood XXIII 13-year periodical cicada](#) will emerge in the lower Mississippi River Valley this spring. This brood contains all four described species of periodical cicadas – [*Magicicada neotredecim*](#), [*Magicicada tredecim*](#), [*M. tredecassini*](#), and [*M. tredecula*](#). Here's some text adapted from the [2015 Midwest Tree Fruit Spray Guide](#) ...

Periodical cicadas are orange and black, about 1 1/2 inches long, with mostly transparent wings; they appear mainly in late May and June. Annual or dog-day cicadas are larger, mostly green and black, and appear each year from July to September.



Magicicada neotredecim (from http://www.magicicada.org/about/species_pages/m_ndecim.php)



Older maps of Marlatt's Brood XXIII indicate its distribution as shown to the left. For a more recent map of its distribution and some comments, see http://www.magicicada.org/about/brood_pages/broodXXIII.php.

Ordinarily, annual cicadas do not cause much damage. Cicada males announce their presence to the voiceless females by making a continuous, high-pitched shrill sound. The adult females lay eggs in rows in pockets that they cut in small branches and twigs of trees with their long, knife-like egg-laying organ. The eggs hatch in 6-7 weeks, and the newly hatched nymphs fall to the ground and burrow until they find suitable roots, usually 1 1/2 to 2 feet beneath the soil surface. With their sucking mouthparts, they immediately begin to suck juices from the roots.

Females prefer oak, hickory, apple, peach, and pear trees and grape vines for laying eggs. Because the numbers of periodical cicadas are so great during emergence years, egg-laying by females can severely damage twigs and small branches of fruit trees (and other trees), brambles, blueberries, and grapes. Damage occurs when the females make slits in branches and twigs in which to deposit the eggs. These small twigs and branches turn brown and die, sometimes breaking off. The damage may be severe in newly planted orchards. Egg-laying damage can be prevented on small trees by covering the tree with protective netting, such as cheesecloth. Cover the tree and tie the netting to the trunk below the lower branches, then remove the covering when egg-laying is over. If netting is not a practical option, you may apply insecticides when egg-laying begins and repeat as necessary when reinfestations occur. Pyrethroids are generally the most effective insecticides against periodical cicada, but they may also trigger mite outbreaks because they kill the predators that help to keep European red mite in check. Pyrethroids registered on one or more perennial fruit crops include Asana, Baythroid, Brigade, Danitol, Mustang Max, Pounce, and Warrior. All of these insecticides are classified for restricted-use, so only licensed pesticide applicators are allowed to purchase them. Check the [2015 Midwest Tree Fruit Spray Guide](#) to see which insecticides are labeled for use on which crops.

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AppleTalk Weekly IPM Conference Calls

For apple growers in northern Illinois ...

Starting in late April, the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Eco-Fruit Project, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Apple Growers Association and the IPM Institute of North America will offer another season of weekly conference calls with IPM consultant John Aue and other IPM specialists. This series of 16 weekly calls requires a subscription of \$125 and allows you to stay informed on pest conditions, answer pressing questions, and learn about other growers' approaches to IPM. The call moderator is John Aue, an IPM consultant for the tree fruit industry in the upper Midwest for over 25 years. Specialists from universities around the region participate as guests and discuss a wide range of IPM and fruit production issues, including insect, weed, and disease management, thinning, and tree nutrition.

To see the AppleTalk blog and read transcripts from previous conference calls, see www.ecofruit.wisc.edu/appletalk. Calls are scheduled for 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Central Time every Tuesday from late April 29 through early August. The AppleTalk blog is a website that includes weekly call recordings and transcripts and other timely information. Your password will be required to access new blog posts. No password is required to access information from prior seasons. If you cannot participate during the live calls, call recordings may be accessed via download from the AppleTalk blog or with a call-in number to listen over the phone. Instructions will be provided upon your registration.

To register, contact Peter Werts at pwerts@ipminstitute.org or 608-265-3704 or download the registration form from [Apple Talk Registration Form PDF](#), fill it in, and mail it to: The IPM Institute of North America, Inc., ATTN: Apple Talk Conference Call, 1020 Regent St., Madison WI 53715.

Vegetable Production and Pest Management

Optimum Temperatures for Seed Germination and Transplant Production

Favorable temperature is an important requirement for seed germination. Some seeds will germinate over a wide range of temperatures, whereas others require a narrow range. Generally, 65 to 75°F is best for germination in most plants. This often means that germination flats may have to be placed on heating mats to maintain optimum temperature. The importance of maintaining proper soil and air temperature to achieve maximum germination percentages cannot be

over-emphasized. The following table, taken from <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/vegetable/temperature.html>, lists seed germination ranges for several common crops.

Soil temperature for vegetable seed germination.¹

VEGETABLE	MIN. (°F)	RANGE (°F)	OPTIMUM (°F)	MAX (°F)	DAYS TO GERMINATION
Asparagus ^a	50°	60° - 85°	75°	95°	21 - 30
Bean ^d	60°	60° - 85°	80°	95°	7 - 14
Bean, Lima ^c	60°	65° - 85°	85°	85°	10 - 14
Beet ^b	40°	50° - 85°	85°	95°	7 - 14
Cabbage ^{a, b}	40°	45° - 95°	85°	100°	7 - 10
Carrot ^b	40°	45° - 85°	80°	95°	10 - 21
Cauliflower ^{a, b}	40°	45° - 85°	80°	100°	3 - 10
Celery ^a	40°	60° - 70°	70°	85°	14 - 21
Chard, Swiss ^b	50°	50° - 85°	85°	95°	7 - 14
Corn ^d	50°	60° - 95°	95°	105°	7 - 10
Cucumber ^{c, d}	60°	75° - 95°	95°	105°	7 - 10
Eggplant ^c	60°	40° - 80°	85°	95°	7 - 12
Lettuce ^a	35°	40° - 80°	75°	85°	7 - 14
Muskmelon ^c	60°	75° - 95°	90°	100°	7 - 10
Okra ^c	60°	70° - 95°	95°	105°	8 - 12
Onion ^a	35°	50° - 95°	75°	95°	10 - 14
Parsley ^b	40°	50° - 85°	75°	90°	10 - 21
Parsnip ^b	35°	50° - 70°	65°	85°	14 - 21
Pea ^b	40°	40° - 75°	75°	85°	8 - 10
Pepper ^c	60°	65° - 95°	85°	95°	14 - 21
Pumpkin ^d	60°	70° - 90°	95°	100°	7 - 10
Radish ^b	40°	45° - 90°	95°	95°	3 - 7
Spinach ^b	35°	45° - 75°	70°	85°	7 - 10
Squash ^d	60°	70° - 95°	95°	100°	9 - 12
Tomato ^c	59°	60° - 85°	85°	95°	5 - 14
Turnip ^b	40°	60° - 105°	85°	105°	6 - 7
Watermelon ^c	60°	70° - 95°	95°	105°	7 - 10

¹Compiled by J.F. Harrington, Dept. of Vegetable Crops, University of California, Davis.

^aHardy vegetables to grow as transplants.

^bHardy vegetables for direct seeding.

^cTender vegetables to grow as transplants.

^dTender vegetables for direct seeding.

^eTender vegetables for direct seeding, 2 weeks after last frost.

Similarly, to have hardy transplants in the optimum amount of time and to produce transplants that will establish well, yield early, and yield well for longest time, grow-out temperatures should be managed as much as possible as well. The following table (from the same source as above) provides an overview for most common crops.

Temperatures and times required for growing plants for field transplanting.

Vegetable	Day (°F)	Night (°F)	Time ² (weeks)
Asparagus	70° - 80°	65° - 70°	8 - 10
Broccoli	60° - 70°	50° - 60°	5 - 7
Brussels Sprouts	60° - 70°	50° - 60°	5 - 7
Cabbage	60° - 70°	50° - 60°	5 - 7
Cauliflower	60° - 70°	50° - 60°	5 - 7
Celery	65° - 75°	60° - 65°	10 - 12
Sweet Corn	70° - 75°	60° - 65°	3 - 4
Cucumber	70° - 75°	60° - 65°	3 - 4
Eggplant	70° - 80°	65° - 70°	6 - 8
Lettuce	70° - 80°	50° - 55°	5 - 7
Muskmelon	70° - 75°	60° - 65°	3 - 4
Onion	60° - 65°	55° - 60°	10 - 12
Pepper	65° - 75°	60° - 65°	6 - 8
Summer Squash	70° - 75°	60° - 65°	3 - 4
Tomato	70° - 75°	65° - 75°	5 - 7
Watermelon	70° - 80°	65° - 70°	3 - 4

²Time required grow out transplants will differ significantly depending on daily duration and intensity of lighting.

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

Specialty Potato Varieties

Many local growers have potatoes as a part of their market offering, and potato planting time (late March to Mid-April) will be here before you know it. There are all kinds of shapes, sizes, and colors of potatoes available that might appeal to your specific consumer base.

Dr. Alan Walter of SIU and I collaborated on a specialty potato variety trial a few years ago. It included different shapes, sizes, and colors of potatoes, including some fingerling varieties. The data below and pictures represent 10 varieties; however, there are many more – over 70 different varieties from a range of suppliers. The table provides you with yield, tuber size, and overall rating for the quality and consistency of tubers

Overall Kennebec is still one of the highest yielding and largest varieties. However, some of the other varieties produced good yields and offer unique colors and sizes that your customers, including some local chefs, might want. The largest tuber is not what every consumer wants to buy. Many like smaller potatoes that can be cooked whole without peeling. Overall, as with any crop, you have to know your market.

If you are new to potato production and would like to learn more, you can view this webinar on potato production from the Small Farms Webinar Series (<https://uofi.app.box.com/s/u1pp0cc05zozy899hi1ygki9qtj46x2i>).

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Yield data, Specialty Potato Variety Trial, SIU Horticulture Research Center, Carbondale, IL (2006-2008).

Cultivar	Marketable Yield lbs/100 ft row	Total Yield lbs/100 ft row	Ave. Marketable Tuber Size oz. /tuber	Overall Quality 10 = Excellent 0 = Poor
Russian Banana*	85.0	200.0	1.38	3.8
Desiree	293.1	379.1	3.49	7.1
Austrian Crescent*	142.8	229.7	1.81	
Yukon Gold	183.8	213.8	5.35	7.9
Red Pontiac	100.6	150.0	3.28	5.8
Kennebec	230.0	279.7	4.71	8.6
Carola	199.7	293.9	2.99	6.7
German Butterball	218.6	352.1	2.53	6.0
All Blue	183.1	333.1	2.64	6.6
Durango	193.3	276.4	3.18	7.0

Seed Source: Milk Ranch Specialty Potatoes, LLC now Potato Garden

*Fingerling Potato Variety





Specialty Potatoes

National Survey on Cover Crops

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops - whether or not they use cover crops themselves - in a national survey, now in its third year of collecting data. The results, which will be released this summer, will help growers, researchers, agricultural advisors, ag retailers and policy makers more effectively address questions about cover crops and learn about best practices. To take the survey, use

<http://2014-2015covercropsurvey.questionpro.com/>

Farmers who complete the questionnaire are eligible for a drawing for one of two \$100 Visa gift cards. All answers are anonymous; respondents will be directed to another website at the end of the survey to enter the \$100 Visa gift card drawing.

The survey is being conducted by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) and is sponsored by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), and Corn+Soybean Digest.

Reminder on the Phase-Out of Endosulfan

For the last few years, the US EPA's phase-out of registrations of endosulfan due to worker safety concerns has been underway. The "end use" dates for several crops are listed below, including those that have passed in recent years. Note that these phase-out dates take precedence over the label on products purchased in the past. Even if the product you possess has a label that allows use on these crops, you may NOT legally apply endosulfan to a crop after the end date listed below.

Group A: Use ended July 31, 2012

Almond, apricot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, celery (non-AZ), citrus (non-bearing), collard, greens, dry beans, dry peas, eggplant, filbert, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, nectarine (CA only), macadamia, plum and prune, poplars grown for pulp and timber, strawberry (annual), sweet potato, tart cherry, turnip, walnut, ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Other uses on product labels not listed above or in group B, C, D, E, or F.

Group B: Use also ended July 31, 2012

Cabbage, celery (AZ only), cotton, cucumbers, lettuce, stone fruits not listed in group A, including nectarine (non-CA), peaches, and sweet cherry, summer melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon), summer squash, tobacco.

Group C: Use ended July 31, 2013

Pear

Group D: Florida – Use ended December 31, 2014

All Florida uses on: apple, blueberry, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn, tomato, winter squash.

Group E: Use ends July 31, 2015

Apple, blueberry, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn, tomato, winter squash.

Group F: Use ends July 31, 2016

Livestock ear tags, pineapple, strawberry (perennial/biennial), vegetable crops for seed (alfalfa, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collard greens, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, radish, rutabaga, turnip).

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

Less Seriously (with many of these taken from a posting on the applecrop list-serve by Evan Milburn) ...

- On the other hand ... you have different fingers.
- I just got lost in thought. It wasn't familiar territory.
- Remember, half the people you know are below average.
- Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of every week.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
- Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.
- Going to church on Sunday doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

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

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