



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News

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Editors: Nathan Johannig & Bronwyn Aly

A newsletter to provide timely, research-based information that commercial fruit & vegetable growers can apply to benefit their farming operations.

Address any questions or comments regarding this newsletter to the individual authors listed after each article or to its editors, Nathan Johannig, 618-687-1727, njohann@illinois.edu or Bronwyn Aly 618-382-2662, baly@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, contact Nathan Johannig at the phone number or email address above.

In this issue...

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Upcoming Programs

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

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

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

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

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

- **2017 Small Farms Winter Webinar Series, every Thursday from noon to 1:00 p.m. from January 19 – March 30, 2017.** It's easy (and FREE!) to register for the Small Farms Winter Webinars. Sign up for as many as you want at <http://go.aces.illinois.edu/winterwebinars2017>. We'll send you a webinar reminder, log-on instructions, and how to access the archived recording. If you do not have broadband internet capable of streaming video, call your local Extension office to see if they can offer live viewing. For more information, contact: Andy Larson, University of Illinois Extension, Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator at 815-732-2191 or andylars@illinois.edu
 - Mar. 23 - Benefits of Mulching Vegetables**, James Theuri, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator
 - Mar. 30 - Soil Management for High Tunnels**, Nathan Johannig, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator
- **Specialty Food Business Seminar Series. Christian County and Montgomery County Extension offices.** The seminars will be held the second Monday of each month starting in January and ending in May. The seminars are free and the public is invited to attend any or all of the seminars they choose.

Workshops include:

 - **Agri-Tourism** - Monday, April 10, 2017 (1-3 pm). A panel discussion, representatives from Illinois South Tourism will be part of the discussion.
 - **Social Media** - Monday, May 8, 2017 (1-3 pm). May's topic will be presented by Terri Miller, Promotion and Publicity Specialist, UI Extension. She will address best practices for social media and current trends.

There is no cost to attend the seminars, however advanced registration is required. Participants may register on-line at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm/> or by calling either the Christian County Extension office in Taylorville at 217-287-7246 or the Montgomery County Extension office in Hillsboro at 217-532-3941. For more information contact: Lisa Peterson, Extension Educator, Nutrition and Wellness, lap5981@illinois.edu

- **Annie's Project - Education for Farm Women- being offered in two separate locations**
Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening farm women's roles in the modern farm enterprise.
Second location, Pekin, IL, will begin on Monday, March 6, 2017 and will meet every Monday and Wednesday evening for three weeks from 5:30-9 p.m. Sessions will be held at the Tazewell Farm Bureau Building, Pekin, IL. The course fee is \$75 and covers the course and materials. Please pre-register online at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=15883> by February 27, 2017; or call the University of Illinois Extension office at 309-547-3711
- **High Tunnel Workshop, Monday, March 27, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Jackson County Extension Office High Tunnel, 402 Ava Rd. Murphysboro, IL 62966.** Learn about winter & summer high tunnel production, management, and current research. Program fee is \$5.00 per person. To register call the Jackson County Extension Office at 618-687-1727 or contact Nathan Johannung at that number or njohann@illinois.edu.
- **Bi-State Compost School, June 21-22, 2017, Henry White Experimental Farm & St. Louis Composting, Belleville, IL.** The school is an intensive 2 day program for new and experienced mid to large scale composting operators that will train participants in the science and art of composting. For more information or to register visit <http://go.illinois.edu/bistatecompost> or contact Duane Friend at friend@illinois.edu or 217-243-7424. Registration is limited to 30 participants.

Regional Reports

From the St Louis Metro East... Field work has resumed following a significant freeze event. Temperatures did indeed drop low enough the nights of March 14 and 15 to cause damage to fruit crops. Most areas experienced temperatures in the upper teens but isolated areas were reported to have dropped as low as 10°F. Japanese plums, pluots, and early blooming peaches like Bounty suffered the worst damage and are not expected to crop this year. There is still optimism for the remaining peach crop. Damage is very dependent on cultivar and planting location. Though reports vary across the region, growers are finding sufficient live peach buds at this time to support a crop. Time will tell at pollination whether there was additional unseen damage to flower buds. Apples and European plums appear to be in good shape. Strawberries and brambles protected with covers and/or frost irrigation are also in good shape.

Elizabeth Wahle (618-344-4230; wahle@illinois.edu)

From southern Illinois... The weather has been all over the place lately with highs on Monday in the low 80s which is nothing compared to the freeze event last week with a few days not even breaking above the freezing mark. We had a couple of mornings down in the 20s and last Wednesday (3/15) we had morning low of around 17° here in Murphysboro and similar temperatures reported by area growers. Also, that Monday (3/13) we actually had about an inch of snow; however, it did not last long. The middle of this week we have had highs more normal in the 50s and a few spotty showers, bringing limited precipitation. We are supposed to have a better chance of rain on Saturday and some forecasts give continued rain chances into next week.

Peach growers were rather nervous to say the least about the weather last week. So far it seems that overall we dodged any major injury to the peach crop as a whole. Injury was seen on any open flowers on early varieties, but many that were pink or swollen seemed to survive fairly well. Growers were happily surprised the injury wasn't more wide spread given the temperatures and the literature which says to expect around 90% bud death at pink and 18°F. This being said, we are not out of the woods yet, as it is still March and another cold snap could happen even through early to mid-April. Apples are at silver tip or just a bit past and are in good shape and pears are in bloom.

With limited rainfall the soil has dried out fairly well so that field work would not be out of the question. First of the week at home, I chisel plowed some red clover in preparation for potatoes and here at the office, I might even try to lay some black plastic if we have another couple of good days of drying. History would reveal that often we have to do these things when we can, as weather patterns shift and we can get and stay very wet at times in April or May. Today I did see the very first tip of an asparagus spear just starting to break through the soil. Although we have had some good warm days so far, we still need a few more to get us to our first harvest, but we are getting closer. We are harvesting carrots in the high tunnel and so far they have very nice size (both length and diameter) and a rea



Carrot ('Nelson') Harvest from the High Tunnel. Photo: N. Johannig

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

Fruit & Vegetable Production & Pest Management

Modified Growing Degree Days (Base 50° F, January 1 through March 19)

Station Location	Actual Total	Historical Average (11 year)	One- Week Projection	Two-Week Projection
Freeport	52	15	61	77
St. Charles	57	18	67	83
DeKalb	59	19	70	89
Monmouth	98	32	112	135
Peoria	136	38	152	176
Champaign	104	42	120	142
Springfield	169	49	187	213
Perry	180	59	198	227
Brownstown	207	74	229	259
Belleville	215	90	239	271
Rend Lake	294	96	250	285
Carbondale	235	100	261	291
Dixon Springs	265	117	293	332

Insect development is temperature dependent. We can use [degree days](#) to help predict insect emergence and activity. Home, Yard, and Garden readers can use the links below with the degree day accumulations listed above to determine what insect pests could be active in their area.

Degree day accumulations calculated using the [Illinois IPM Degree-Day Calculator](#) (a project by the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois and the Illinois Water Survey).

Kelly Estes (217-333-1005; kcook8@illinois.edu)

Tomato Grafting Video from Purdue

Our colleague Wenjing Guan from the Southwest Purdue Ag Center in Vincennes, IN has just released a new video how to graft tomato plants. This is great resource for any growers that have been interested in tomato grafting and want to learn more. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ufx661sf88> and if you have further questions you can contact Wenjing Guan at (812) 886-0198 or guan40@purdue.edu.

Illinois Farmers Market Price Reporting Summary

The Illinois Farmers Market Price Reporting project will begin its fourth season of price collections starting in late April or May of this year. Pricing information has been collected from twelve reporting farmers markets across Illinois in the past two years, and eleven farmers markets during the 2014 season. A reporter from each participating farmers market submits the lowest and highest price observed each week at the market based on a specific list of crops supplied on the reporting form. Because Illinois farmers markets sell such a huge selection of crops, reporting prices for each crop would become quite cumbersome and time consuming for the individuals volunteering their time to collect prices each week. In order to streamline the price collecting process, a standardized reporting form was created and provided to each reporter with 22 different crops. The crops selected for the reporting form represent both fruits and vegetables and range in seasonality from spring through fall. The reporting form also specifies a quantifiable selling unit for each crop listed. As an example, prices are collected on asparagus sold by the pound BUT not asparagus sold by the bundle or bunch. Crops typically sold at farmers markets by bunches, bundles, or bag are not included on the crop list as they create too much variability in price comparisons. Not quite like comparing apples to oranges but close.

The table listed below summarizes the 2016 season-long average low and high price from across all twelve reporting markets. In 2016, the first reporting markets submitted prices starting the first week of May and the last reported prices were submitted the last week of October. For those interested in looking at previous years' reports or accessing the upcoming 2017 weekly price reports and auction report, follow this link: [Illinois Farmers Market Price Reports](#)

The following twelve farmers markets reported prices in 2016 (those with an asterisk also reported in 2015):

- Abraham Lincoln Memorial Farmers Market (Logan Co.)
- Harrisburg Area Farmers' Market (Saline Co.) *
- Land of Goshen Community Market (Madison Co.)
- East Peoria Farmers Market (Tazwell Co.)
- Riverfront Farmers Market (Peoria Co.)*
- Canton Farmers Market (Fulton Co.)*
- Mt. Vernon Times Square Market (Jefferson Co.)*
- 61st Street Market (Cook Co.)
- Saturday Produce Market (Macon Co.)*
- Benton Farmers Market (Franklin Co.)*
- Farmers Market at the Quincy Mall (Adams Co.)*
- Kankakee Farmers Market (Kankakee Co.)*

If anyone is interesting in volunteering to be a reporter for a farmers market you attend, please contact Bronwyn Aly at 618-382-2662 or email baly@illinois.edu. With over 350 farmers markets in Illinois, increasing the number of reporting markets for this project would provide a better representation of the annual statewide price ranges.

Table 1. 2016 Illinois Farmers Market Price Report Summary Across All Markets.

Illinois	2016 Farmers Market Price Report		Number of times reported	Top Ten Marketed Crops
	Averages across all markets			
12 Reporting Markets	Low Price	High Price		
Asparagus (lb)	\$3.35	\$4.94	20	
Apples				
(lb)	\$2.03	\$2.31	20	
(peck)	\$16.86	\$18.57	7	
Beans, Green (lb)	\$2.35	\$3.02	87	5
Blackberries/Raspberries				
(pint)	\$3.89	\$4.33	42	
Blueberries				
(lb)	\$4.33	\$5.33	3	
(pint)	\$3.91	\$4.56	31	
Broccoli (head)	\$1.94	\$2.20	40	
Cabbage (head)	\$1.53	\$2.28	84	6
Cantaloupe (each)	\$2.68	\$3.43	48	
Cucumber				
Slicing (each)	\$0.65	\$0.86	112	2
Pickling (lb)	\$1.58	\$2.03	38	
Garlic (bulb)	\$1.10	\$1.39	58	
Lettuce, Romaine (head)	\$2.49	\$2.78	51	
Onions (red, sweet, white, yellow)				
(each)	\$0.83	\$1.05	71	8
(lb)	\$1.52	\$2.01	70	9
Peaches				
(1/2 peck)	\$10.29	\$11.20	38	
(peck)	\$18.33	\$18.78	18	
Peppers, Bell				
(each)	\$0.63	\$0.88	105	4
Potatoes (Red, White, Yellow)				
(pint)	\$2.22	\$2.53	30	
(quart)	\$2.93	\$3.43	50	
(lb)	\$1.46	\$2.04	80	7
New (quart)	\$3.09	\$3.68	17	
Squash, Acorn				
(each)	\$1.48	\$1.73	33	
Squash, Butternut				
(each)	\$1.33	\$1.83	30	
Strawberries				
(pint)	\$3.82	\$4.46	18	
(quart)	\$5.07	\$5.76	19	
Sweet Corn (dozen)	\$4.88	\$5.58	69	10
Tomatoes				
Red Slicing (lb)	\$2.06	\$2.64	117	1
Cherry/Grape (pint)	\$2.70	\$3.41	62	
Green Mature (lb)	\$2.36	\$2.50	43	
Watermelon (each)	\$3.59	\$4.62	37	
Seedless (each)	\$4.34	\$5.28	29	
Zucchini				
(each)	\$0.68	\$0.92	107	3
(lb)	\$1.58	\$1.71	43	

Bronwyn Aly (618-382-2662; baly@illinois.edu)

Less seriously...

We all need to remember and take time to recognize that for most of us, the best part of our lives is often sitting (or use to be sitting) in the vehicle with us, and they are pretty dare funny. Hence, the inspiration for this issue's less seriously comes from my 6 year old son who often tells me jokes in the car. Although the majority of his jokes tend to involve the words poop or poop nugget, I have tried to remember and include some of the "cleaner" ditties.

1. Knock, Knock. Who's there? Interrupting Cow. Interrupting Co....MOOOOO.....who?
2. What did one pencil say to the other? *My, don't you look sharp today!*
3. Knock, Knock. Who's there? Banana. Banana who? Banana. Banana who? Banana. Banana who? Orange you glad I didn't say banana again.
4. What do the Starship Enterprise and toilet paper have in common???? They both circle Uranus looking for Klingons.

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, & White counties	618-382-2662	baly@illinois.edu
BILL DAVISON , Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties	309-663-8306	wdavison@illinois.edu
LAURIE GEORGE , Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, & Washington counties	618-548-1446	ljgeorge@illinois.edu
ZACHARY GRANT , Cook County	708-679-6889	zgrant2@illinois.edu
DOUG GUCKER , DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt counties	217-877-6042	dgucker@illinois.edu
NATHAN JOHANNING , Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph, & Williamson counties	618-687-1727	njohann@illinois.edu
ANDY LARSON , Boone, Dekalb, and Ogle counties	815-732-2191	andyars@illinois.edu
GRANT MCCARTY , Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties	815-235-4125	gmccarty@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
Extension Educators – Horticulture		
CHRIS ENROTH , Henderson, Knox, McDonough, & Warren counties	309-837-3939	cenroth@illinois.edu
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ELIZABETH WAHLE , Madison, Monroe, & St Clair counties	618-344-4230	wahle@illinois.edu
Campus-based Extension Specialists		
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MOSBAH KUSHAD , Fruit & Vegetable Production	217-244-5691	kushad@illinois.edu

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