

The University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Profitability Impact Team proudly presents this bi-weekly publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry.

Issue #2 April 1, 2010

Spring Observations from WyeREC

By Michael Newell
Horticultural Crop Program Manager



High Tunnel Strawberries

The two strawberry high tunnels at WyeREC are in full bloom (3/24). Named varieties in our tunnels are Sweet Charlie, Strawberry Festival, Seascape and Florida Radiance. We did need to treat for two spotted mites and aphids this season and I have applied two gray mold spray applications at 10% and full bloom. Although, we have seen a lower incidence of gray mold in our tunnels compared to outside plots over the years, we cannot eliminate all fungicide sprays in the tunnels. Higher humidity levels in the tunnels still put the plants at risk of developing fruit rot. We also still rely on the standard sanitation practices of removing dead leaves and any damaged flowers emerging with winter injury to help reduce disease inoculums in the tunnels.

Spring production in tunnels is a great option to get berries to your market earlier than field production. With better control of water, both irrigation and rainfall, fruit quality can be outstanding.

Field Plasticulture Strawberries

With the recent warming trends, plants have really responded. Chandlers have less than one open flower per plant. Earlier flowering varieties such as Sweet Charlie, Strawberry festival and Florida radiance have more open flowers at this time, but many of these flowers have winter injury. This injury most likely occurred back on February 15th when we had a low temperature of 15°F. Even though flower buds were barely visible down in the crown, this was enough development to be injured by the recorded low temperatures. Now that we have open flowers, we need to monitor the weather more closely and be ready with freeze control measures, with either floating row covers or sprinkler irrigation. If you have questions about freeze/frost protection of strawberries

please do not hesitate to contact me (410-827-7388 or mnewell@umd.edu).

Strawberries Critical Temperature (°F)

Bud Emergence... 10
Tight Bud22
Popcorn26
Open Blossom.....30
Green Fruit..... 28

It's not too early to start thinking about fall 2010 planting. How will the 2010 area for planting be managed this summer? Are you planning to use cover crops for organic matter build-up? Are you planning to use fumigate? You need to order your plants from reputable nurseries early, maybe not this early, but by June 1st. Some growers were shorted plants last fall for several reasons so the earlier you place your order, the greater the chance that you will receive what you ordered.

Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Meeting Thursday, April 15, 2010

Anne Arundel County Police
Southern District Station
35 Stepney Lane, Edgewater,
Maryland

Bayside Bull Catering



New Date & Location

Make plans to attend the **Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting** on Thursday, **April 15, 2010**. This year the meeting will be held at a **New Location!** Make plans to attend the all day event from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the **Anne Arundel County Police Southern District Station** located at 35 Stepney Lane, Edgewater, MD. This meeting will provide **Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher**

Recertification. Speakers will provide IPM updates and present on a broad range of production topics.

Also meeting sponsors will showcase their products and services, and state vegetable organization leaders will be present to recruit and answer your questions. Please attend and make this meeting the best ever. For full conference details, contact Dave Myers, Extension Educator, Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410 222-6759. **Please register no later than April 13, 2010.**

The following link gives the specifics for the discussion and the locations for the April 7th meeting in Hyattsville, MD:
http://www.producesafetyproject.org/discussion_series

Submitted by:
 Dave Martin, Senior Agent & CED, Agriculture
 University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County
 410-666-1022.



STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON FDA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE



<p>FEBRUARY 19, 2010 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM Wegmans Conference Center 200 Wegmans Market Street Rochester, NY 14624</p> <p>MARCH 11, 2010 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM The Blackwell Inn 2110 Tuttle Park Place Columbus, OH 43210</p>	<p>MARCH 25, 2010 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM The University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center 15 RDC Road Tifton, GA 31793</p> <p>APRIL 7, 2010 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM The Marriott and Conference Center University of Maryland College 3501 University Blvd E Hyattsville, MD 20783</p>
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Thanks for partnering with University of Maryland Extension, and supporting our programs.

VISIT WWW.PRODUCE SAFETY PROJECT.ORG TO REGISTER

WHO'S INVITED:

- Fruit and vegetable growers
- Food retailers
- Packers
- Consultants
- Produce trade association personnel
- Other interested stakeholders

WHY:

- The Food and Drug Administration is going to establish a nation-wide produce safety standard for the growing, harvesting and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Come and join a practical discussion that needs to be informed by your expertise and on-the-ground knowhow.

TOPICS ADDRESSED WILL INCLUDE:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost • Wildlife/Environmental Concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality • Worker Health & Hygiene
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For more information on the proposed FDA rule, the report series and meeting logistics (including lodging), contact The Produce Safety Project at: 202-687-2976 or producesafety@georgetown.edu

Safe Food For A Healthy Life
 An Initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts at Georgetown University
www.producesafetyproject.org

Produce Safety Project Stakeholders Discussion

Growers are encouraged to attend!

WHY?

The Food and Drug Administration is going to establish a nation-wide produce safety standard for the growing, harvesting and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables. Help make certain FDA has all the facts it needs. Come and join a discussion that needs to be informed by your expertise and on-the-ground knowledge

WHO'S INVITED?

Fruit and vegetable growers, extension educators, food retailers, consultants, produce trade association personnel and other interested stakeholders

Vegetable & Fruit Headline News

A bi-weekly publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry available electronically in 2010 from March through September on the following dates: March 18; April 1 & 15; May 6 & 20; June 3 & 17; July 8 & 22; August 5 & 19; September 2 & 16.

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Article submission deadlines for 2010: March 17 & 31; April 14; May 5 & 19; June 2 & 16; July 7 & 21; August 4 & 18; September 1 & 15.