



## Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape  
Architecture

### Fruit Update – 8/28/26

Evan Lentz – Assistant Extension Educator

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#### Short Strawberry Survey Request

Mary Concklin and I are pursuing a grant to look at growing strawberries in high tunnels. We are hoping to provide information on the benefits of doing so and integrating low-cost gutter systems to improve pest management and production. If you could, please respond to the 2-question survey so that we can include the results in our application packet. Thank you!

[Survey Link Here](#)

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#### Aphids on Raspberries

Above are some photos I took at a farm last week. The grower noticed this small, contorted growth habit on many of his raspberry canes. There are multiple species that feed on raspberries, congregating on the underside of leaves and causing leaves to curl or otherwise have a stunted/deformed appearance. We are most concerned about the aphids' ability to spread viruses.

Management includes starting with certified stock, resistant varieties (Royalty, Canby, Titan) removing wild brambles within 600 feet, rogueing any plants with virus symptoms, and insecticide applications. Details on rates and materials can be found in the [New England Guide](#).



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#### Pruning Summer Brambles

Pruning can begin as soon as fruiting is finished for summer-bearing raspberries and blackberries. You should be removing any spent fruiting canes (floricanes) as these will not give you another crop next year. Remove these spent canes all the way down to the ground. You do not want to leave long stubs as these will harbor disease. The remaining canes (primocanes) that have yet to flower will give you your crop next year and need to be thinned. For raspberries, thin to 4-5 canes per liner foot of row. For blackberries and black raspberries, thin to 4-6 canes per crown. It will look thin, but this is ok. Next year, laterals will break and fill in, no problem. Not thinning your brambles will negatively impact your yield and quality due to a lack of air flow and light penetration.

Plan to tip your blackberries and black raspberries; do so just above the top wire of your trellis. This will help to encourage those laterals to form next year. In late winter/early spring you'll need to head/tip those laterals. Cut them back to about 12-18 inches. Maintaining laterals longer than this



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will only serve to negatively impact your crop due to the above-mentioned lack of airflow and sunlight penetration.

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### Fall Brambles

Right now, SWD, Gray Mold, and the rusts are all a concern for our fall-bearing brambles. Although SWD numbers were incredibly low this year and remain low, scouting should continue. Moisture, rain, and dew will all trigger Gray Mold sporulation. Vigilant pruning should help to introduce air and light into the planting, helping to reduce the time fruit remains wet.

#### *Reminder about Rusts*

*Late Leaf Rust* only affects red and yellow brambles. It is not systemic. It can be managed in a similar way to Botrytis (Gray Mold): pruning, sanitation, and fungicides (Pristine, Cabrio, Rally, etc.).

*Orange Rust* is a systemic disease. The only recourse is to remove infected plants to prevent infection of others. Wild brambles should also be removed from around the planting area as they serve as hosts.

Please consult the [New England Guide](#) for more information on materials and rates.

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### Strawberry Fertilization

June-bearing strawberries are due for their second fertilizer application. This application can be made any time from now until about mid-September. This application will help with the formation of flower buds and overwintering. As always, applications should be timed before a rain event if you do not have irrigation set up. Look to apply between 20-30 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre.

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### Save the Date: CT Pomological Annual Meeting – December 1, 2026

Middletown Elks Lodge, Middletown, CT

An All-day Event

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### New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference: Register Today!

Registration: Shuresh Ghimire, UConn; (860) 870-6933; [shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu](mailto:shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu)

General questions: Heather Bryant (603) 787-6944; [Heather.Bryant@unh.edu](mailto:Heather.Bryant@unh.edu)

New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Returns December 15-17 in Manchester, NH

Farmers, agricultural service providers, and industry professionals from across the Northeast are invited to attend the New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference and Trade



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Show, taking place December 15-17 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The conference will feature 31 educational sessions over three days, providing growers with the latest research, practical production strategies, and business management tools for vegetable, berry, and tree fruit operations. Additional sessions will focus on emerging topics including farm technology, organic production, protected culture, and cut flower growing.

A highlight of the conference is the popular Farmer-to-Farmer series, which brings growers and speakers together for informal, in-depth discussions on timely issues facing farms today. These interactive sessions encourage the exchange of real-world experiences, practical solutions, and innovative ideas among peers.

In addition to the educational program, attendees can explore an extensive Trade Show featuring more than 120 exhibitors, view student and faculty research during the poster session, and connect with fellow growers, researchers, advisors, and industry representatives through networking events and social mixers.

The educational program includes five concurrent sessions each morning and afternoon:

### Tuesday, 12/15

- Sweet corn
- Strawberries
- Apples
- Cut flowers
- Cucurbits
- Stone fruit
- Sprayer technology
- Advanced farm technology

### Wednesday, 12/16

- Apples
- Brambles
- Farm business management
- Tomatoes
- Mixed vegetables
- Cover crops
- Soil and water management
- Specialty fruit
- Winter growing

### Thursday, 12/17

- Blueberries
- Protected culture
- Mixed vegetables
- Weed management
- Postharvest handling
- Root crops
- Soil testing and amendments
- Seed saving
- Farm business management

Special programming will include Worker Protection Standard Train-the-Trainer certification and thirteen Farmer-to-Farmer discussion sessions.

The conference steering committee has assembled an outstanding lineup of speakers from across the Northeast and around the country. Presentations will showcase the latest innovations, research findings, and practical approaches to fruit and vegetable production, marketing, and farm management.

Whether attendees are looking to improve crop production, explore new technologies, strengthen their farm business, or connect with fellow growers, the New England



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Vegetable & Fruit Conference offers valuable information and networking opportunities to help farms succeed.

### Registration Information

Pre-registration fee: \$130 per person, \$100 additional attendee if registering at the same time as a group; \$60 for students (high school or college). Students must show a valid student ID when picking up their registration packet.

Deadline: Pre-registration must be completed by November 30, 2026. After this date, the fee increases to \$165 (\$70 for students, \$135 for each additional). Late (after 12/11) or walk-in registration is \$180.

Accommodations: Overnight stays at the Doubletree are available at \$149 per night. Find a direct booking link via the event website, [newenglandvfc.org](http://newenglandvfc.org). Additional local accommodation options at a variety of price points can be found [here](#).

Assistance: For physical, language, or financial assistance, please contact Olivia Saunders at 603-447-3834 or [Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu](mailto:Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu) at least three weeks prior to the event, and every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. A block of rooms is reserved for attendees requiring on-site accommodation for mobility reasons. For more details, including online and downloadable registration materials, visit New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference website.

### Sponsors

The event is Sponsored by the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers' Association and the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association in conjunction with the Universities of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Cornell University, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

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