



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – December 9, 2024
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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN THE VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION FOR 2025

Go to <https://vvbga.org/> to become a farm or commercial member for 2025. Farm membership is for farms or individuals that grow vegetables, berries, and other horticultural crops. Commercial membership is for businesses and organizations that provide products and services to farmers. Dues are \$75 per farm. If this payment poses a financial hardship, you may select a reduced rate, no questions asked. Commercial member dues start at \$125. Join soon to get your ad in the annual meeting booklet.

Member benefits include:

- Access to the [VVBGA listserv](#), to buy/sell plants and equipment, share farming information, and tap the vast experience of our growers.
- Access to the [Community Accreditation for Produce Safety](#) (CAPS) program designed by growers, for growers, to help you meet market and regulatory food safety expectations.
- Access to the VVBGA's [Pollinator Support Planning Tool](#), a template to describe and document best practices for taking care of pollinators on your farm.
- Access to the VVBGA's [Pick-Your-Own market listing](#), which allows you to quickly share, and update, information to the public about PYO crops and availability.
- Access to the [VVBGA's Soil Health Platform](#), where you can organize all your soil tests, and create or store your soil amendment plans and records.
- Access to educational [webinars for growers](#).
- Discount to attend the [VVBGA Annual Meeting](#) on January 28 (see below).
- A subscription to the UVM Extension [Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower e-newsletter](#).
- Camaraderie, enhanced communication and fellowship among growers.

VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING. TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2025

[DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center](#)

S. Burlington, Vermont. (802) 865-6600

- 8:00 **Registration**, Refreshments, Visit Trade Show with 30+ Exhibitors
- 10:00 **President's Remarks**. Justin Rich, [Burnt Rock Farm](#), Huntington
- 10:20 **Farmers in their Fields 2024**. Vern Grubinger, [UVM Extension](#)
- 10:40 **Flooded in July: What We Did, What We Learned**. Eric Skovsted, [Joe's Brook Farm](#), Barnet
- 11:00 **Infrastructure for a New Market Garden**. Hannah Doyle, [Boneyard Farm](#), Cambridge
- 11:20 **From Interns and Apprentices to H2-A**. Tim Sanford, [Luna Bleu Farm](#), S. Royalton
- 11:40 **Tools for Assessing Crop Profitability**. Christa Alexander, [Jericho Settlers Farm](#), Jericho
- 12:00 **Lunch Buffet** and Visit Trade Show

- 1:30 **Business Meeting.** Election of directors
- 1:40 **Soil Health Practices on our Farm.** Pending.
- 2:00 **Repair, Replace, Retool, or Retire: On-Farm Engineering.** [Chris Callahan](#), UVM Extension
- 2:20 **Reviving a Blueberry Farm.** Kevin Komer and Kelly Sedutto, [North Hollow Berry Farm](#), Stowe
- 2:40 **Strawberry Production and Marketing.** Stephen Park, [Full Belly Farm](#), Monkton
- 3:00 **Vegetable and Berry Pest Updates.** Ann Hazelrigg, [Plant Diagnostic Clinic](#), UVM Extension
- 3:20 **Adapting to Climate and Market Shifts.** Kaity Mazza, [Paul Mazza's Fresh Produce](#), Essex Jct.
- 3:40 **Tour of Vegetable Farms in Korea and Japan.** Elizabeth Wood, [New Leaf CSA](#), Dummerston
- 4:00 **Adjourn**

HOW TO JOIN THE VVBGA AND REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Go to <https://vvbga.org/>. Log in to your existing VVBGA account and renew it. Create a new account only if you have not been a VVBGA member. Pre-register people for the Annual Meeting. **The cost is \$65 per person**, which includes lunch.

Pre-registration closes on January 23, 2025. The walk-in registration fee is \$75 for VVBGA members, \$85 for non-members.

If you need overnight lodging, please make your own reservations with the DoubleTree Hotel at 802-865-6600. Ask for the VVBGA Hilton Honors room rate of \$127. There are other nearby lodging options.

Pesticide applicator recertification credits for the Annual Meeting will be available in categories 1A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10.

To request disability-related accommodation or financial assistance to participate in the Annual Meeting, please email vvbga@uvm.edu by January 7, 2025, so that we may assist you.

Questions? Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension, 802-656-7534, or vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu.

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NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Manchester NH, December 17-19

The biennial NEVFC will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown. The event features 30 educational sessions over three days, on a variety of topics related to vegetable, berry, and tree fruit crops. Visit <https://newenglandvfc.org/> for registration and accommodation details. Regular registration ends Dec. 13, after which a \$15 late fee will be added.

FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WEBINAR SERIES

Thursdays, January 9 to January 30 from 11:00 to 1:00

This is a free, live webinar series for **transitioning farmers and junior-generation farmers** to learn the basics of succession planning, including how to get started, where to find advisors and additional resources, ask questions, and get help. All generations, including family and non-family members, who may play a role in the farm's future are encouraged to attend. Farmers from across New England are welcome! Instructors include Land For Good staff Mike Ghia, Vermont Field Agent, a guest attorney, and a financial specialist. [Register here](#)

TRI-STATE GREENHOUSE IPM ONLINE WORKSHOP

Thursdays, January 23 and January 30 from 1:00 to 3:30.

This is a two-part workshop for Northeast growers. Topics include management of powdery mildew, thrips and aphids, and IPM practices. View the agenda [here](#), and [register here](#). \$50 per person. Questions? Cheryl Sullivan, cfrank@uvm.edu or (802) 656-5434.

LATEST HIGH TUNNEL NEWSLETTER

The December issue of [High and Dry](#) features information from UVM specialists on high tunnel insect pests and steaming high tunnel soils.