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Welcome to “ON Organic”

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA

The growing season is underway and many fields are being planted. As all organic growers are aware, agronomic record keeping is an important part of your farm business to assist with production decisions each year. Keeping appropriate records is also a key factor in our organic system to provide traceability for organic products and for food safety issues. This month's Food Safety Snippet provides some additional thoughts for you to consider regarding food safety practices on your farm during the growing season. OMAFRA also has a number of resources to assist farmers and processors with implementing and tracking food safety practices. To learn more please visit the website at www.ontario.ca/foodsafety.

As always we welcome your comments and any suggestions for topics in the newsletter.

Thank you once again to our contributing authors and to EFAO, OCO and others who pass along our newsletter on a regular basis.

Subscription to this newsletter is easy and no cost. For details go to the webpage: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/index.html#organic>

The newsletter is also posted on the OMAFRA website at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

The French version of these newsletters is available at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

The OMAFRA Organic pages are linked from: <http://www.ontario.ca/organic> and <http://www.ontario.ca/biologique>

The ON Organic Team

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Pasture Planting Decisions

Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA

What are you going to plant this spring for your pasture program? The first thing to plant is fence posts. By far the biggest gains in pasture management come from a rotational grazing system with at least 10 paddocks and preferably more. Electric fence allows you to do that effectively and conveniently. Cattle should be trained to electric fence and once trained they will respect it and allow you to conveniently manage your pastures. A one or two wire electric fence should reliably contain livestock provided you are providing palatable quality forage in sufficient quantity to meet their needs. Managed pastures will provide significantly more forage for your livestock over the grazing season and will allow you to minimize the impact of a dry summer on pasture growth.

Once you have a rotational grazing system in place which benefits your livestock by increasing the forage productivity there are other steps that you can implement to enhance your grazing program. Over seeding existing pastures with a legume will help to increase forage production and forage quality. Clovers (white clover 1-2 lbs/ac, red clover 3-5 lbs/ac) and trefoil (2-3 lbs/ac) are the preferred species for Ontario situations. They can be broadcast early in the spring and should establish reasonably well provided there is good seed to soil contact and there is sufficient soil moisture to grow the seedling plants. Mixing some trefoil seed in the salt or mineral is another easy way to increase the legume content in a pasture.

If you are planting a new pasture consider how you are going to graze it – type of livestock, do you want early pasture, full grazing season or late fall for stockpile pasture? Orchardgrass and meadow brome are excellent choices for early grazing through to early fall. Reed Canary grass is an excellent grazing species that does better than most species in moist soil and also does well in dry soils because of its large spreading root system. If you want to emphasize late fall grazing or even stockpiling for use into November and December then tall fescue would be the better choice.

Including legumes in the pasture mix is essential to get maximum production; alfalfa provides high quality forage and has good tolerance of summer heat and dry soil conditions. White clover is an excellent grazing species that also has the capability to spread through the pasture. The clovers and alfalfa run the risk of causing bloat if they

make up more than half of the animals diet although with proper management you can go well beyond this level. If you can provide a long rest period for the pasture consider Bird's-foot trefoil as the legume. Trefoil has high tannin levels that act to prevent bloat. Trefoil does need to flower and set seed at some point during the year if you want the stand to last, so at some point you need to provide a long rest period for this to happen.

Annual crops may have a place in your pasture program, depending on when you want extra pasture consider sorghum Sudan grass for July to early September grazing, summer seeded oats for September October grazing and turnips or other brassicas for late September to November grazing.

Corn is an option that works well for some producers; corn is very productive and can provide grazing from August through to mid winter. The corn will need to be strip grazed with a fresh strip given every 1-2 days and there is no re-growth with corn.

Soil fertility is critical for good plant growth. Soil tests should be taken every 3 years to give you a bench mark of soil fertility. Ideally the pH will be above 6, if it is below 6 then follow the soil report recommendations for applying lime to correct the pH. Both the phosphorous and potassium soil tests should be in the medium range (P 15-20 ppm with the sodium bicarbonate test and K 100-120 ppm). If the soil fertility is below these levels you will see a response to additional fertility. If the pasture is predominately grass or contains less than 30% legume you will see a significant response to nitrogen. Applying 40-50 kg/ha of actual nitrogen through appropriate organic amendments will increase grass growth. This amount should be applied in early June and again in early July to get maximum response from the grasses.

Planting fence posts will provide the best opportunity to increase the yields from your pastures this year and in the coming years. A pasture system with a sufficient number of pastures or paddocks and quality perennial and annual forage will provide excellent returns to the livestock producer.

Be Aware of Leek Moth—A Pest of Allium Crops

Marion Paibomesai, Vegetable Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

The leek moth (*Acrolepiopsis assectella* Zeller) is an invasive alien species of European origin that damages *Allium* spp. including garlic, onions and leeks (Fig. 1). Since its detection in 1993 in the Ottawa region, the leek moth has caused significant damage to both commercial and organic market garden producers in eastern Ontario and southwestern Quebec.



Figure 1. Leek moth adult (left), larva (center), pupa (right). (Adult leek moth photo source: Jean-François Landry, AAFC.) Adult leek moth is a small, reddish-brown moth with a white triangular mark on the middle of its folded wings. Larvae are greenish yellow with a pale brown head and 8 small gray spots on each abdominal segment. Pupae are reddish brown encased in a cocoon.



Fig 2. Leek moth feeding damage on garlic, leek, and onion. The larva tunnel and mine into the leafy tissue and occasionally bulbs. On onion, damage typically appears as 'windowing', because the larvae feed from inside the leaf.

The larva are destructive by feeding on tissues of allium plants, see Fig. 2 for damage on various allium crops. To monitor for the presence and activity of leek moth, pheromone traps should be placed in allium plantings beginning in mid to late April, if possible. Entrust 80 W (organic formulation of spinosad) is currently registered on crop group 3-07B, including Green Onions, Leeks, Chives (fresh leaves), Chinese Chives (fresh leaves), Shallots (fresh leaves), Wild Leek, Bunching Onion (Beltsville bunching onion), Tree Onion (note: this does not include the crops in crop group 3-07A – i.e. dry bulb onions, garlic, shallots) to suppress leek moth, when applied 7 days after peak leek moth flight. Please consult with your certification body before using and refer to label for directions for use.

Cultural control methods include crop rotation away from alliums, avoiding planting near infested areas, delayed planting, removal of old/infested leaves, early harvesting to avoid damage by populations that have been building up through the season, and destruction of plant debris, which may contain leek moth. Research has also shown that the use of a lightweight floating row cover can protect plants from leek moth damage. Ensure the sides of cover are anchored to ground to prevent leek moth from entering the enclosure. The covers can be removed to perform tasks like garlic scaping and weeding during the day, as long as the covers are replaced before dusk. For more information on control methods please see:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-009.htm>

In 2011, a survey was conducted to determine the distribution of leek moth in allium growing regions in southwestern Ontario. Pheromone traps were installed in dry bulb onions, leeks, wild leeks, garlic and green onions in 12 locations including, Prince Edward County, Northumberland County, Peterborough, Durham Region, Simcoe County, York Region, Hamilton-Wentworth, Waterloo Region, Wellington County, Norfolk County and Lambton County. Leek moth were captured at 3 of the 12 locations monitored, including 2 sites in Central Ontario, Simcoe County and York Region, and one site in southwestern Ontario in Waterloo Region (Fig. 3). This work confirms the spread of leek moth into southwestern Ontario, thus it is important for allium growers in this region, particularly those that grow organically, to be aware of this pest by looking for damage or larva in their crops.

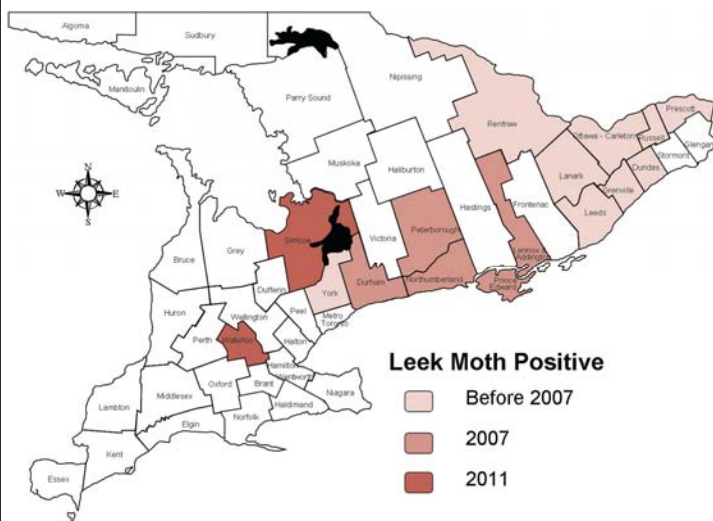


Fig 3. Map of counties in Southern Ontario where leek moth have been positively identified before 2007 through to 2011.

For more information on leek moth and management options, please see:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/IPM/english/onions/insects/leek-moth.html#beginner>

<http://onvegetables.com/2011/07/27/leek-moth-update/>
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-009.htm>

OMAFRA Crop IPM Scout Training Workshop Schedule

Here are the updated IPM scout workshops available for those who will be scouting horticultural crops this year.

To register contact: Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300

Workshop	Date & Time	Location	Workshop Leader	Materials needed	Follow-up field training
Sweet Corn, Peas and Beans	May 17 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Woodstock OMAFRA Boardroom	Elaine Roddy	NOTE: 10 am start time Lunch on your own	
Potatoes	May 24 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.	1 Stone Rd., Guelph Room TBA	Eugenia Banks	<i>Potato Scouting Manual Provided</i> <i>Recommended:</i> OMAFRA publication #823; <i>Potato Field Guide</i> Lunch on your own <i>Have to pay for parking</i>	Field training dates TBA
Asparagus – learn, lunch and field walk	July 10 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (tentative)	Norfolk County	Elaine Roddy	NOTE: 11 am start time Handouts provided. Lunch provided by OAGMB	on request

For more information contact:

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Organic Council of Ontario: Launch of the Co-farmer Consumer Membership Program

Elizabeth Stewart, Co-Farmer Campaign Coordinator, Organic Council of Ontario

The Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) has officially launched their Co-farmer consumer membership level!

The purpose of the Co-farmer membership is twofold:

1. Membership fees generated through Co-farmer memberships will provide critical funding required to keep OCO operating over the long-term.
2. Reignite a local organic movement by building a community of individuals from those who buy local organic to those who produce it.

Over the course of the year, OCO will be attending a number of events and partnering with retailers and NGO's to help spread the word of their Co-farmer membership opportunities. For full details on the Co-farmer membership, please visit:

www.organiccouncil.ca/co-farmer/become

OCO needs your help spreading the word of the Co-farmer membership. How you can help:

- Link your website to their Co-farmer webpages
- Include information about Co-farmer membership in your consumer newsletters

- Ask OCO for brochures and posters that you can display and distribute to your customers

If you're interested in learning more about the Co-farmer membership and would like printed materials to help OCO spread the word, please contact Elizabeth Stewart directly: elizabeth@organiccouncil.ca

OCO has developed a member forum on their website: www.organiccouncil.ca/forum

Every OCO member is encouraged to visit the forum, post comments, start discussions, ask questions and respond to other's questions. OCO would like all members to be connected directly to each other, and this forum is a great platform to start developing those connections.

New Tool for Cover Crops in Ontario

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

You have decided to grow a cover crop or maybe you always grow cover crops but now are looking for something different. The next question is – which cover crop will do what you want? Will it grow in the time you have available? These and more questions can be answered by using the new MCCC Cover Crop Decision Tool for Ontario.

The Midwest Cover Crop Council (MCCC – www.mccc.msu.edu) has developed a cover crop selector tool for a number of US states. Based upon the SARE book *Managing Cover Crop Profitably*, the cover crop species list and ratings have been adjusted to reflect local weather conditions. Ontario joins the ranks after a year of developing the Ontario based ratings from the input of Ontario growers, agribusiness personnel, researchers and OMAFRA staff.

The tool allows you to enter your county and the attributes or goals you have for cover crops. Watch the cover crop chart as the list changes based upon your entries.

You can quickly compare cover crops by toggling between the individual information sheets with for each cover crop. You can find the decision tool at www.mcccdev.anr.msu.edu.

Lavender Variety Trial Update: Extending the Bloom Period

Sean Westerveld, Ginseng and Medicinal Herbs Specialist, OMAFRA

Lavender can be grown for numerous end uses including agri-tourism, fresh or dried cut flowers, dried buds, and numerous value added products. The choice of a variety will depend on the intended end use, but will also depend on whether the variety can consistently survive Ontario's winter. Over the past two years, variety trials have been established across Ontario to assess up to 27 varieties under a range of soil and weather conditions. Although the results are preliminary, they do provide a wealth of information on variety characteristics and survivability.

For lavender farms that will be open to the public, bloom period will be an important factor to consider. A mix of varieties can result in an extended bloom period, which can prolong the period visitors will want to visit the farm. Based on the wide range of spring temperatures experienced over the past few years, lavender bloom periods will be unpredictable from year to year.

Growers planning a weekend festival will need to consider the possibility that they may miss the bloom period if spring temperatures are much cooler or warmer than normal.

A mix of varieties with different bloom periods will also reduce the chances of this occurring.

Based on the variety trials, the bloom period for each variety lasts about four weeks. However, the varieties have the best overall appearance for two of these four weeks, after which dead blossoms begin to accumulate on the flower cluster. There is also about a four week difference between the earliest and latest blooming varieties. As a result, a grower can have different plants in bloom for up to 8 weeks by choosing an appropriate blend of varieties.

The true lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) varieties bloomed on average two weeks earlier than the lavandin varieties (*Lavandula x intermedia*). The earliest blooming true lavender varieties were Imperial Gem, Dark Supreme, Folgate, Premier, and French Fields. Slightly later blooming true lavenders included Melissa, Betty's Blue, Buena Vista, Provence Blue and Purple Bouquet. Late blooming true lavenders were Hidcote, Royal Purple and Royal Velvet.



The true lavender variety 'Folgate' was one of the earliest blooming varieties.

The earliest blooming lavandin varieties were Provence, Super, Hidcote Giant, and Grosso. Edelweiss, Tuscan Blue, Gros Bleu and Fat Spike Grosso were the latest blooming of all of the varieties in the trial.

Subsequent articles will focus on other aspects of the variety trials including flower characteristics and flower and oil yield and quality. This trial was funded by a Sand Plains Community Development Fund grant to the Ontario Lavender Association. For a full trial report visit the Ontario Lavender Association website at www.ontariolavenderassociation.com.



Figure 2. The lavandin variety 'Edelweiss' was one of the

From OMAFRA newsletter Hort Matters

Sweet Potato Varieties for Ontario

Melanie Filotas, IPM Specialist for Specialty Crops, OMAFRA

At this time of year we receive numerous calls about sweet potato varieties for Ontario. Probably due to their popularity in the home gardener market, we still receive questions about Georgia Jet and Jewel, however these are older varieties that are no longer grown commercially. In fact, there are several active sweet potato breeding programs in the southern United States (and elsewhere), and new sweet potato varieties are released every year or two. Consequently, commercial sweet potato varieties change frequently.

Most of us are familiar with the orange-fleshed, moist, sweet varieties (sometimes referred to as yams) that are the most commonly available in grocery stores and in processed goods. However, there are numerous other varieties with very different appearances and flavour profiles, including white-fleshed, copper skinned varieties such as O'Henry, and the red-skinned, drier Japanese varieties.

For the past few years, staff at the University of Guelph and OMAFRA have been participating in variety trials being conducted by the National Sweet potato Collaborators Group, a network of scientists and extension specialists focused on sweet potato research. Each year this network conducts trials to evaluate promising new varieties being developed by participating geneticists for yield, pack-out and quality under different growing conditions across the United States and Canada. In 2011, eleven trials were conducted across 7 states (Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and New Jersey) and Ontario.

Ten varieties were evaluated at a grower site in south western Ontario. Slips were planted by hand in a single row on top of 30 cm high x 45 cm wide hills in early June, and managed throughout the season using normal grower practices. The plants were harvested on 21 September, cured at 29°C for 3-5 days and then stored at 13°C. Roots were graded into marketable and unmarketable categories based on shape and size and were rated for various characteristics.

Yield results for the trial are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 - Yield (number of 40 lb boxes/ha) and percent No. 1 grade roots of ten sweet potato varieties evaluated during the 2011 growing season. Numbered varieties are test selections from breeding programs that have not been released for commercial production				
Orange-fleshed Varieties				
Variety	Ontario Total Yield ¹	Ontario % No. 1's ¹	Ontario Yield No. 1's ¹	Avg. Yield of No. 1 Roots From All Sites ¹
Beauregard	2109 a	68.1 a	1440 a	1059
Covington	2020 a	47.9 bc	983 b	1038
Evangeline	725 e	38.1 cde	281 ef	919
NC 05-198	1901 ab	30.9 de	589 cd	1094
NC 04-032	1571 bc	38.1 cde	598 cd	615
L05-111	1370 cd	55.0 b	760 bc	888

White-fleshed Varieties				
Variety	Ontario Total Yield ¹	Ontario % No. 1's ¹	Ontario Yield No. 1's ¹	Avg. Yield of No. 1 Roots From All Sites ¹
NC 04-847	1313 cd	41.2 cd	555 cde	934
O'Henry	1040 de	44.5 bc	474 cdef	706
Bonita	1398 c	27.4 e	379 ef	769

Japanese Varieties				
Variety	Ontario Total Yield ¹	Ontario % No. 1's ¹	Ontario Yield No. 1's ¹	Avg. Yield of No. 1 Roots From All Sites ¹
Kotobuki	779 e	28.6 e	230 f	--

¹ Numbers in a column followed by a different letter were significantly different.

Overall, Beauregard had the highest yield and percentage of No. 1 grade roots at the Ontario trial, surpassing the average yield from all trial sites, including North Carolina. Covington, which has replaced Beauregard in popularity in North Carolina and California because of its more consistent production of No. 1 grade roots, did not surpass Beauregard in the Ontario trials. This is not entirely surprising, as Covington is a longer season variety that does not perform consistently under our northern growing conditions. Over the last several years, on Ontario farms, Covington has performed extremely well in some summers and very poorly in others,

OMAFRA Articles & Updates (cont'd)

depending on temperature, moisture, and soil conditions each year. Similar variability has been observed in other areas, such as Louisiana, with this variety.

Evangeline is a newer variety recently released in Louisiana. It has become popular there due to its unique flavour, which has been reported to be much sweeter than that of other popular varieties. In our trial, Evangeline had a much lower yield of No. 1 roots, although the shape, colour and appearance of the No. 1's that were harvested was excellent. None of the numbered test varieties yielded as well as currently available varieties.

These results and those from other areas show that the performance of commercial sweet potato varieties varies dramatically with location, and varieties that perform well in major sweet potato growing regions in the southern U.S. are not always well adapted to Ontario growing conditions. Ontario growers need to select varieties that perform most consistently in their area's soils and microclimate, bearing in mind that these may not be the same as the varieties that perform best for the U.S. producers providing them with slips. Additionally, because each variety is adapted to different conditions (e.g. Covington and Beauregard) and because Ontario's temperature and moisture conditions can vary dramatically from year to year, growers should consider planting more than one variety per year.

From OMAFRA newsletter Hort Matters

Cold Temperatures and Hops

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA

This spring we have seen unseasonably warm temperatures in March leading to early sprouting in hops across the province. As we continue to see variable temperatures through April some questions are beginning to arise about the susceptibility of hops to cold damage.

Most hop cultivars are generally considered to be cold hardy once established and the plants can sustain moderate frosts. Young tender shoots or newly planted rhizomes, however, may be affected by excessive freeze thaw cycles. The plant will send up new shoots if early ones are frozen off at a cost of additional energy from the crown. An application of mulch or straw in the autumn can be used as a layer of insulation to prevent the ground from warming up too quickly in the spring and to prevent damage from excessive freeze thaw cycles. Leaving this layer of mulch on too late into the spring, however, could result in delayed emergence of the shoots and delay crop development. If straw or mulch has been removed from the plants and there is potential for a heavy frost, plants can be re-covered for a few days to prevent freezing. Re-covering plants with straw or mulch may provide a 1-2°C temperature buffer.



Central crown appears unaffected.

Too much mulch and soil was removed exposing new rhizomes and shoots to desiccation from cold temperatures early in the season.

The photo above submitted by a cooperating hop grower in Ontario, shows the desiccation of rhizomes and shoots around a hop crown when a layer of mulch had been removed this spring exposing the new rhizomes and shoots to cold temperatures. In this case, too much mulch was removed and the exposed shoots will not recover; however, the main crown appears unaffected. In the long-term, the dieback of the outer shoots will probably not affect the final crop since only 2-4 of the strongest bines (typically selected from the centre of the crown) will be trellised and the remaining shoots pruned back for the rest of the season.

From OMAFRA newsletter Hort Matters

It Will Blow Again!

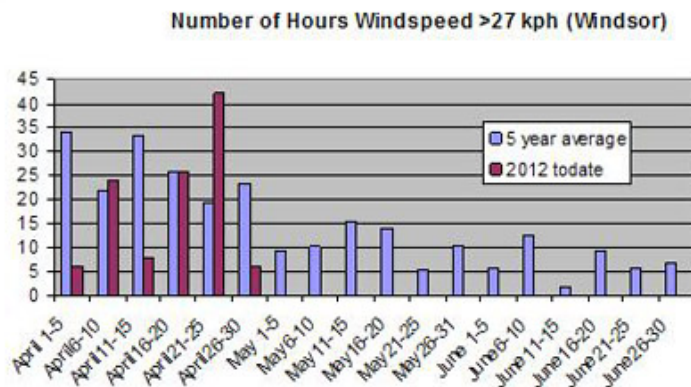
Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist (Hort Crops), OMAFRA

April has been windy in the extreme, but will the spring soften as we head into May? Many years ago I mined some long term weather data and found that April and well into the middle of May consistently produced wind events that were capable of wind erosion and crop damage. In contrast June was considerably calmer. In that case I looked at wind speed and the amount of rain in the previous 48 hours.

This year seems a bit different, with little rain in the past month, rapidly drying soils and some significant wind events. Soils are dry and loose and ready to move under the right conditions. The recent rain should settle the soil a bit but conditions can change quickly.

OMAFRA Articles & Updates (cont'd)

Has this year really been different? I went back five years to compare the average number of hours per five day period that had wind speeds over 27 kph - the speed at which sand particles will start to lift.



Conditions have been windy in recent weeks, but not as much as you might expect from history. Based on the five year average, you will continue to see some windy days as we move into May. Most of the wind events will be similar to the last few weeks - associated with storm fronts, so you can expect to have intense windy periods.



Kent County Monday April 23 - heavy blowing soil across a bare field while 100m down the road, the killed cover crop is holding everything in place. This scenario was repeated across the province - wherever soils were dry, bare and loose.



Cover crops pay early in the season, particularly on vegetable soils. April 23, Exeter area.

Photos courtesy of K. Monk, ABCA.

Strategies to keep soils in place:

- Leave cover crops and crop residues intact, attached and undisturbed as long as possible
- Plant cover crops in areas to be planted late
- Seed/interseed cover crops in wind erosion prone areas like knolls
- Get an emergency wind control strategy in place as crops are planted/transplanted (i.e. irrigation, artificial wind barriers, adding residues to cover soil)

From OMAFRA newsletter Hort Matters

OMAFRA Food Safety Snippets

Are you selling produce at the farm?

By Jan Schooley, Retired Food Safety Specialist, OMAFRA

Make sure you think about how human pathogens could get transferred to your product. If you have a farm stall by the road then you need to consider the source of food safety risk. Is there a pasture nearby that will act as a source of flies? Do you have covers for your produce displays? Do you use any props such as grasses or other plants that could be a source of pathogens – or flies? Is your apron clean – and your boots? Have your boots (with your feet in them) been in animal stalls or pasture? Do you have hand sanitizers handy at your stall both for you and for your customers if they need them? You should always be mindful of food safety and the products you sell. Your customers will appreciate it. For training information and resources, please call 1-877-424-1300 or visit our website www.ontario.ca/good-ag-practices. Food safety questions? Ask us

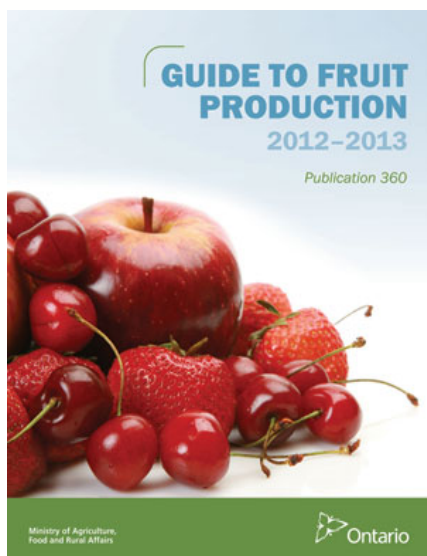
New Publications

OMAFRA Publications -

The following paid publication is available from

www.serviceontario.ca/publications:

Guide to Fruit Production, 2012-2013, Publication 360 [new title for Pub 360]; the cost is \$20.00; please recycle all former editions of Pub 360 and any supplements.



The following free OMAFRA Factsheets are now available from www.serviceontario.ca/publications:

11-057: Rooftop Solar Installations on Rural Buildings, Agdex 768; New.

12-007: Hazelnuts in Ontario – Biology and Potential Varieties, Agdex 240; New

12-009: Hazelnuts in Ontario – Pests, Agdex 240; New

12-011: Hazelnuts in Ontario – Growing, Harvesting and Food Safety, Agdex 240; New.

12-013: Water Efficiency and Conservation Practices for Irrigation, Agdex 753/650; New.

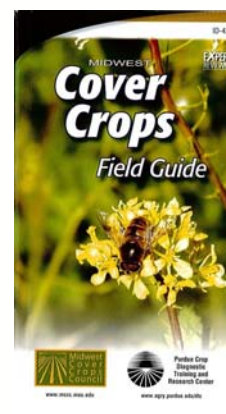
12-015: Managing the Lygus Bug in Greenhouse Crops, Agdex 290/621; New.

12-019: Horse Foot Health, Agdex 460/10; replaces 88-073 and 88-074, Horse Management Foot Care, Part 1 and 2, which should be recycled.

Other Publications

NEW! Purdue Cover Crop Guide – This guide is an in-field reference booklet and contains management information on many different cover crops. The guide was written by members of the Midwest Cover Crops Council and includes information developed by OMAFRA field specialists and University of Guelph researchers. It is available through the Purdue Extension Education Store at www.theeducation-store.com or by calling 888-EXT-INFO (398-4636). Individual copies of the guide cost \$5 each, and boxes of 25 are available at a 10 percent discount, \$112.50.

The guide is divided into two sections. The first contains general information about cover crops, including selection and planting methods, killing methods, concerns about insects, and ways to keep the crop from becoming a weed. The second contains photos, seeding dates, depth, planting and killing methods, benefits and cautions for specific crops, each given a ranking according to their benefit type and amount.



Funding Opportunities

Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) Event and Speaker Funding

The AMI currently has funding for speakers and events related to farm business management. Registered organizations, associations, and groups located in Ontario can apply for up to \$5000. For more information on the funding program and to download an application form, please visit the AMI website at www.takeanewapproach.ca/

Ontario Co-Operative Education Tax Credit

The Co-operative Education Tax Credit (CETC) is a refundable tax credit available to employers who hire students enrolled in a recognized Ontario university or college co-operative education program.

An eligible employer may claim a refundable tax credit for each qualifying work placement ending in the taxation year. The CETC reimburses employers 25 per cent of eligible expenditures. Smaller businesses are eligible for a higher credit rate of 30 per cent. The maximum credit for each qualifying work placement is \$3,000. Most work placements are for a minimum employment period of 10 weeks up to a maximum of four months.

Eligible expenditures made by a business in respect of a qualifying work placement are:

- Salaries and wages including taxable benefits paid or payable to the student in respect of the qualifying work placement at an Ontario permanent establishment (place of business)
- Fees paid or payable to an employment agency in respect of the qualifying work placement for the services of a student carried out primarily at an Ontario place of business.

Eligible employers must:

- Have a permanent establishment located in Ontario, and
- Be subject to Ontario income tax, and
- Incur eligible expenditures associated with hiring co-op students enrolled in an Ontario university or college.

For more information on the program please visit the OMAFRA website at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/co-op-Ed-tax-credit.htm or the Ministry of Finance website at www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/credit/cetc/

Learning Opportunities

EFAO Summer Tour to the Rodale Institute

Date: July 19-21, 2012

EFAO will be running a summer bus trip to the Rodale Institute in Pennsylvania to participate in their annual field day. Speakers will present information on current research projects and participants will receive a tour of the research farm. The bus trip will also visit several farms in the area.

Cost: \$175 for members (\$220 for non-members) plus meals and accommodation.

For more information or to register please call the EFAO office to register 519.822.8606, registration deadline is June 15th, 2012.

Permaculture Design Course

Date: July 22 - August 4, Caledon

The Permaculture Design Course is a 13 day (72 hour minimum) intensive program combining theory and practical activities.

Through lectures, discussions, slide shows, field trips, and hands-on learning, participants learn the basic permaculture design principles and develop the skills to design and implement sustainable systems. There will be a wide variety of topics covered by Gregoire Lamoureux (experienced permaculture instructor) and invited guest teachers, tours to local sites, and opportunities for hands on learning as well as practice of the design principles.

Cost: \$988 early registration by June 10 for the 13 days. This includes field trips, access to onsite facilities, and a course manual. (\$1088 after June 10) Additional Costs: \$390 for 3 delicious, organic, home-cooked meals per day. \$140 for a campsite and outdoor facilities OR \$210 for trailer accommodation and outdoor facilities OR \$420 for a room in Greenhaven and indoor facilities (if available) OR ask about commuter rates if living or staying nearby.

For more information or to register please contact Brenda Dolling at 519-942-4010 or email bdolling@wholevillage.org.

Conferences and Events

Ontario Goat Producer Information Meetings

Regional information meetings are being held by Ontario Goat (OG) for producers to learn more about the farm products proposal. OG board members and staff from the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission will be at the meetings to answer questions.

Dates:

May 16, 2012	7-9pm	Hagersville
May 17, 2012	7-9pm	New Liskeard
May 23, 2012	1-3pm	Mount Elgin
May 24, 2012	1-3pm	Teeswater
May 24, 2012	7-9pm	Milverton
May 28, 2012	7-9pm	Conference call (pre-registration required)

For more information please contact Ontario Goat at info@livestockalliance.ca or by telephone at 519.824.2942.

Fruit & Veg Organic XPO

Date: July 12 -14, 2012

Location: St. Williams, Ontario

This year the Canada's Fruit & Veg Tech X-Change will feature an organic category to educate both organic and non-organic producers on the size and scope of the sector, and the exceptional products and services offered to support on-farm organic activities.

The Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) and National Farmers Union (NFU) are supporting partners for the event and will be onsite to provide guidance to both existing and new organic producers.

Willsie Equipment will provide live demonstrations of their organic tillers and Underhill Farm Supply will exhibit a plot of radish root to showcase the application of natural soil aeration and organic matter regeneration.

A "Meet the Buyers - Broker Brunch" will take place on opening day, with a chance to meet organic buyers such as Whole Foods Market. Immediately following, the Organic Council of Ontario will be holding an informal seminar on farm transition to certified organic.

For more information please visit the website www.fruitvegtechxchange.com/organic

Feast of Fields

Date: September 9, 2012

Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area

The annual outdoor food event hosted by Organic Advocates brings together farmers, chefs, and the public to raise awareness of organics. A number of celebrity chefs will be attending this year including Michael Smith, Emerie Brine, Ted Reader and more!

Cost: Early Bird Tickets \$75.00

For more information or to purchase tickets please call 905.859.3609 or email tickets@feastoffields.org

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Date: September 11-13, 2012

Location: Woodstock, Ontario

For more information please visit the website www.outdoorfarmshow.com or call 519.822.2890 Toll free: 1.800.563.5441

International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

Date: September 18-22, 2012

Location: Roseville, Ontario

For more information please visit www.plowingmatch.org or call 519.631.1234 Toll free: 1.800.661.7569
Email eventadmin@plowingmatch.org

BioFach America - All Things Organic

Date: September 20-22, 2012

Location: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

For more information please visit www.biofach-america.com

Organic Week

Date: September 22-29, 2012

Organic Week is a national celebration of organics in Canada. Events will be held across the country to highlight the benefits of organic agriculture.

For more information and a listing of events in your area please visit the website at www.organicweek.ca

Events (cont'd)

CanBio Annual National Conference and Trade Show

Date: October 12-13, 2012

Location: Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

For more information please visit www.cdea.ca/event/canbio-annual-national-conference-and-trade-show

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

OMAFRA Organic Agriculture

<http://www.ontario.ca/organic>

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)

<http://www.oacc.info>

Agricultural Information Contact Centre:

1-877-424-1300

E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Northern Ontario Regional Office: 1-800-461-6132

www.ontario.ca/omafra