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Welcome to ON Organic

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAF and MRA

It's that time of year again - time for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and scout training. In this month's newsletter you will find a listing of the OMAF and MRA training schedule. All training sessions are free but some print resources are suggested as reference material and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register for a training session, please call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) at 1.877.424.1300.

For more information on identification and management of common pests in Ontario, please refer to OMAF and MRA's CropIPM interactive, online resource at www.ontario.ca/cropipm.

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 free. For details go to the webpage:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/indx.html#organic>

The newsletter is also posted on the OMAF and MRA websites 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 OMAF and MRA Organic pages are linked from:

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

The ON Organic Team

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Jacquie De Fields – OMAF and MRA, Client Service Representative

Julie Gamache – OMAF and MRA, Client Service Representative

Spring Pasture Management Tips

Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAF and MRA

There are a number of things that you can put in place now to give improved pasture yields throughout the coming season.

Start by frost seeding legumes into your grass pastures during March or early April. Legumes provide high quality forage for your livestock and also provide a bonus in extra nitrogen that the grass plants will use for optimum growth. For maximum production there should be 40-50% legume in a pasture. Broadcasting several pounds of seed in late February to early April, depending on snow depth and frost is one way of increasing the legume content of a pasture. The clovers (white and red) and trefoil are the preferred legumes to use for frost seeding. Although alfalfa makes an excellent pasture legume it does not establish very well in a frost seeding system. The grass species generally do not give satisfactory results in a frost seeding situation.

Plan a rotational grazing system that allows the livestock to be moved from a pasture before the forage is too short. A residual pasture height of 3-4 inches is ideal. This leaves enough grass for rapid re-growth. Keep in mind that the root system tends to be about the same size as the above ground plant. If you take the grass down very short there will be a decrease in the size of the root system that will support re-growth. A soil test should be done every 3-5 years on pasture fields and additional phosphorous and potassium added if required. The phosphorous and potassium levels should be in the medium range, if they are low there will not be enough soil nutrition to support optimum plant growth. A soil test will also indicate the soil pH, if it is low then apply lime as recommended by the soil test. The other fertility component is nitrogen. If there is less than 35-40% legume in the pasture there will be a response to additional nitrogen.

Put livestock into a pasture before the grass is too tall. Ideally the grass should be 10-14 inches tall when the cattle are moved in. This will give the optimum length of forage for cattle to physically eat while maintaining a balance of yield and quality. For the first rotation through your pastures in the spring it will be necessary to start before the grass has reached this height.

Then rotate quickly from pasture to pasture to keep up with the rapid growth. Subsequent rotations however should follow the above guidelines

Plants start to re-grow about 5 days after being harvested. Livestock will prefer the new growth and will eat it as it appears which will greatly increase the recovery time before the next grazing. For maximum forage utilization livestock should be moved every 1-2 days, but as a maximum every 5 days.

Train your livestock to electric fence. If livestock respect an electric fence they will be much easier to manage and pastures can be sized to the animal needs with single wire temporary fence. An effective electric fence should give the animal a "memorable experience" so they know not to touch it again. A good energizer that is properly grounded, sized to the length of fence that needs to be charged and with all connections making good contact should provide this "experience".

Expect a shortage of feed in mid to late summer and then plan how you are going to fill this shortage. Do you have second/third cut hay fields that can be grazed? Should you plant some annual forage such as sorghum-sudan, late seeded cereals, turnips, or grazing corn? Is there a supply of other forage such as sweet corn waste available in your area at an effective price? Should you make hay/baleage with some of the excess early pasture growth? The things that will work on your farm will be different than the next person's, whether they live down the road or across the province. Each farm needs to look at what will work for their situation.

Keep a pasture log this season where you can record the dates that animals entered and left each paddock, how many animals were involved and an estimate of the amount of forage present in the field. Also note any weather conditions. Starting the grazing season with a plan will allow you to make the necessary management decisions and adjustments during the grazing season to realize the optimum potential of your pastures.

Management Strategies for Fusarium Wilt in Spinach

Brian Collins and Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald, University of Guelph
Sean Westerveld, Ginseng and Medicinal Herbs Specialist, OMAF and MRA

Fusarium wilt, caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *spinaciae*, has been reported in all spinach growing areas of the world including: Canada, U.S., Sweden, and Japan. This soilborne fungal disease can cause up to 100% crop loss. As the disease progresses, symptoms include: stunting, wilting of the older leaves, necrosis, and plant death (Figure 1). The vascular tissue of the root turns from white to dark brown as disease progresses (Figure 2). The fungus invades the root and blocks the vascular system reducing the plant's ability to uptake water. Wilting is most severe during the hottest part of the day and moderately infected plants may recover overnight. Fusarium wilt of spinach occurs annually, most aggressively in summer months when soil temperatures are 25-30°C. Severe symptoms are most often found in full-sized spinach than in baby spinach production as the disease takes time to spread within the root; however, *Fusarium oxysporum* can also cause damping-off in spinach seedlings. This pathogen is spread throughout fields by farm



Figure 1: Progression of Fusarium wilt on spinach leaves.

equipment, people, and water. It can be introduced to farms on infested seed as this pathogen is seedborne. Once the disease has been introduced to a field it is almost impossible to eradicate, as soilborne pathogens are extremely persistent. Crop rotation is impractical for most growers as the long-term survival structure of *Fusarium* can survive for up to 15 years without a host. Currently, there are no effective registered products or resistant cultivars for the control of Fusarium wilt in Ontario spinach production.

During the summer of 2012, field trials were completed by the University of Guelph to identify possible control methods for managing Fusarium wilt (Figure 3). The trials included screening commercial varieties for susceptibility, efficacy of organic and conventional fungicides, and applications of limestone to increase soil pH.

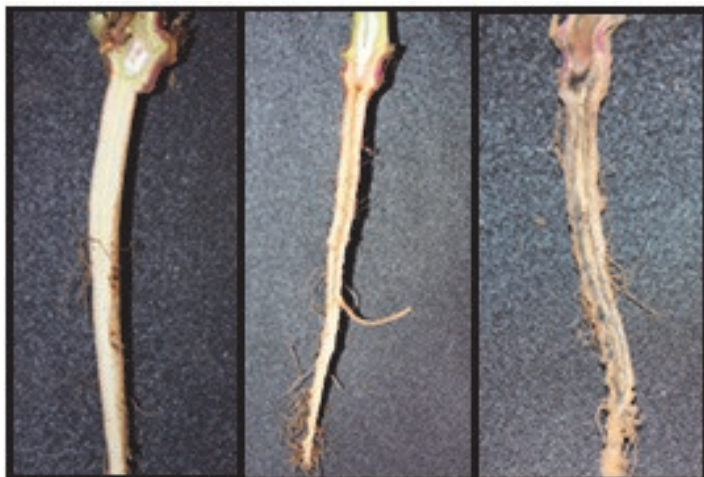


Figure 2: Progression of disease in spinach roots: left - clean roots; centre - early symptoms; right - advanced symptoms.

This pathogen is spread throughout fields by farm equipment, people, and water. It can be introduced to farms on infested seed as this pathogen is seedborne. Once the disease has been introduced to a field it is almost impossible to eradicate, as soilborne pathogens are extremely persistent. Crop rotation is impractical for most growers as the long-term survival structure of *Fusarium* can survive for up to 15 years without a host. Currently, there are no effective registered products or resistant cultivars for the control of Fusarium wilt in Ontario spinach production.

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Figure 3: 2012 field trials completed by the University of Guelph to identify possible methods for managing Fusarium wilt in spinach.

The study compared 25 cultivars from Alf Christianson Seed Co., Pop Vriends Seeds, Rogers-Syngenta Seeds, and Seminis Vegetable Seeds. The varieties C2606, Sardinia, POH-6116, and Carmel were found to be less susceptible while Unipack 12, Norgreen HF, Seven R, Tasman, and Falcon were found to be the most susceptible to Fusarium wilt. No resistant cultivars were identified as all varieties displayed some symptoms. The varieties Imperial Star and Persius were not suitable for the climate of southern Ontario in July as the plants bolted prematurely and were rendered unmarketable.

A total of six organic biofungicide products were tested for the control of Fusarium wilt. Two products, composed of *Streptomyces lydicus* and extracts from quinoa plants, suppressed disease severity equivalent to the best conventional fungicides by reducing disease severity by approximately 45%. The following biological active ingredients were ineffective at suppressing the disease: *Bacillus subtilis*, *Gliocladium catenulatum*, *Coniothyrium minitans*, and *Streptomyces griseoviridis*.

Fusarium wilt is favoured by acidic soils and soils around a pH of 8 tend to suppress disease. Dolomitic limestone (0, 10, 20 tonnes/ha) was applied to a commercial spinach field in the spring of 2012. The initial pH of the soil was 7.1 and over the course of the trial the pH remained unchanged for all treatments. A decrease in disease severity was found with a lime

application of 20 tonnes/ha. As the pH was unaffected, the reduction in disease severity might be attributed to the increased calcium levels supplied to the crop. Calcium is known to play an important role in host resistance. Research from Washington State University found that with a soil pH of 5.5 limestone applications of 4 tonnes/ha reduced wilting incidence by 45%. Ontario soils with a pH less than 7 may benefit more from limestone applications.

This research is continuing in 2013, and will include additional biological controls as well as the biofumigant product Must-Gro. The results of this study are preliminary and are only based on one year of research. This project was also completed on mineral soil and so these results are not necessarily applicable to other soil types. Not all spinach cultivars tested in the trial are commercially available. Biological fungicides used in this study are not yet registered for use on spinach and should not be used. For pest control products registered on spinach in Ontario refer to OMAF and MRA Publication 838.

Organic growers can reduce the impact of Fusarium wilt of spinach by choosing less susceptible cultivars, selecting clean sites, and potentially the application of lime. Growers should monitor their fields for symptoms on a regular basis and check the roots of wilted plants. If severe symptoms have been identified in particular fields, attempt to avoid cropping these locations during summer months. The identification and registration of effective biological fungicides would improve integrated management of this disease.

Funding for this research was provided by:

the HQP Scholarship Program of the OMAF and MRA/ University of Guelph Partnership and Collins Farm Produce.

New Resource for Specialty Crop Growers

Sean Westerveld, Evan Elford, Melanie Filotas and Jim Todd, OMAF and MRA

Growers in Ontario have a new resource to help them choose and grow a wide range of specialty crops. The resource, called “**SPECIALTY CROPPortunities**”, has been launched on the OMAF website this month. It was designed with all production systems in mind, including organic.

There are literally hundreds of specialty crops that can be grown in Ontario including culinary and medicinal herbs, specialty/ethnic vegetables, specialty fruits and nuts, specialty grains and oilseeds, and industrial crops. Due to limited research and experience with many of these crops, there has been very little written information available to Ontario growers looking for a new crop to grow. The research that has been conducted on these crops in Ontario has often been forgotten over time without a permanent database to provide those results to the public – until now.

Agriculture Development Branch staff along with University of Guelph colleagues, assembled a team of researchers from the University of Guelph, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Erie Innovation and Commercialization, and Vineland Research and Innovation Centre to pull together all of the available research on specialty crops and provide a single resource for growers. Initially the resource includes specific information on 100 specialty crops, which will be expanded over the next few years.

Growers looking for information pertaining to a specific crop can use the crop category selection or alphabetical crop list to locate a profile on that crop. Each profile summarizes background information on the crop, its growth habit, and specific agronomic information such as plant spacing, fertility, irrigation, soil type, harvest, and storage requirements. It also includes information on pests of that crop, such as a listing of existing and potential pests, notes on potential pest impacts, and how to find more information on pest management. Finally, the profile lists any research projects conducted on that crop in Ontario and other references used to create the profile.

If a grower is unsure of what they want to grow, they can use the Crop Selection Tool to narrow down the list of specialty crops to those specifically suited to their preferences and growing conditions. The selection tool asks a series of 4 questions and the end result is a listing of crops that match the selection criteria along

with an indication of labour, irrigation and specialized equipment requirements. Crops not included in the list could still be grown, but may require some additional site modifications. Just because a crop can be grown, doesn't mean there is a market for it. Growers still need to find a market before growing any specialty crop.

The resource also includes a wealth of general information on specialty crops including crop fertility, pest management, on-farm research, business planning and marketing, food safety, and an introduction to organic crop production. A particular challenge for specialty crop growers is a lack of fertility recommendations. The resource provides suggested approaches for fertilizing crops when there are no recommendations. Another challenge is pest management, since it is often unknown what will attack the crop and how to control those pests. The resource discusses integrated pest management, provides information on the major types of insects and diseases, provides alternative management approaches, and discusses how to determine which organic or conventional products are registered for use on the crop.

The resource is available on the OMAF Crops page at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/ listed under “specialty crops” or directly at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/CropOp/en/index.html>. We encourage growers to contact us if they have suggestions for new crops to include in the resource or have information to add from their experiences growing and selling any of the specialty crops. Contact information is provided in the resource.

This project was funded by Agri-Food and Rural Link, a program of the OMAFRA/University of Guelph Partnership.

New Organic Equivalency Agreement

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has completed a review of the Costa Rica Organic Agriculture Regulation and has deemed equivalency with the Canadian Organic Products Regulations, 2009 (OPR 2009) for agricultural products of plant origin.

[Recognition of Equivalency with Costa Rica webpage](#) on the CFIA website (www.inspection.gc.ca).

For more information on the agreement please visit the

Risk Management Program Update

Production Insurance Update – May 1, 2013 Organic Deadlines

It's that time of year again and Production Insurance (PI) deadlines for spring-seeded crops are fast approaching. Agricorp offers PI coverage for both organic and conventional crops. Here are some PI options for your organic crops:

- Specialized organic plans are available for organic corn, organic soybeans, organic fresh market carrots, organic fresh market cabbage, organic winter wheat and organic winter spelt.
- Proof of certification is required to receive a claim payment at the organic claim price.
- The forage rainfall plan works equally well for both organic and conventional producers.
- As always, other crops or crops in transition can be insured under the general production insurance plans.

The deadline to apply for organic corn, organic soybeans and coverage, without winterkill, for organic winter wheat and organic winter spelt, and the forage rainfall plan is **May 1, 2013**.

For more information on these production insurance plans or other business risk management programs delivered by Agricorp please visit agricorp.com or contact us at 1-888-247-4999.

For more information on Agricorp's current adhoc programs please visit:

- [Canada Ontario Forage and Livestock Transportation Assistance Initiative: http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/AgriRecovery-ForageLivestockTransportationSupport.aspx](http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/AgriRecovery-ForageLivestockTransportationSupport.aspx)
- [Canada and Tender Fruit Weather Risk Mitigation Strategy Initiative: http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/GF-AppleTenderFruitAppAvailable.aspx](http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/GF-AppleTenderFruitAppAvailable.aspx)

New OMAF and MRA Publications

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

- 13-011: Animal Health – Listeriosis, Agdex 400/660, New.
- 13-013: Animal Health – Plague, Agdex 400/660, New.
- 13-015: Animal Health – Salmonellosis, Agdex 400/660, New.
- 13-017: Animal Health – Tularemia, Agdex 400/660, New.
- 13-019: Animal Health – Verocytotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, Agdex 400/660, New.
- 13-021: How to Spray Asparagus in Fern, Agdex 254/635; New.

- 13-023: European Crane Fly, Agdex 273/636; New.
- 12-058 : Calculateur du poids cible des porcs lourds, Agdex 240; New.
- 12-060 : Mise hors service de systèmes de production de biogaz à la ferme, Agdex 769, New.
- 13-002 : Santé animale – Botulisme, Agdex 400/660; New.
- 13-004 : Santé animale – Herpèsvirus équin, Agdex 400/660; New.
- 13-006 : Santé animale – Hantavirus, Agdex 400/660; New.
- 13-008 : Santé animale – Coxiellose (fièvre Q), Agdex 400/660; New.
- 13-010 : Santé animale – Grippe, Agdex 400/660; New.

New OMAF and MRA Publications (Cont'd)

2013 SUPPLEMENTS

Supplement **Publication 384, Turfgrass Recommendations**, January 2013; this supplement contains changes/additions/deletions to the 2009 edition of Publication 384, *Turfgrass Management Recommendations*. It replaces previous supplements, is available free of charge and will also be included with new orders for the book.

Supplement **Publication 838, Vegetable Crop Protec-**

tion Guide 2012-2013 – this 64-page supplement contains new product registrations and changes from September 2011 to December 2012. It can be ordered free of charge and will also be included in all paid book orders for Publication 838.

For a complete listing of OMAF and MRA products, see our online catalogue at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html>

Food Safety Snippets

On Farm Food Safety: Your Business Advantage

Using Designated and Clean Harvest Containers

Wayne Du, Pork Quality Assurance Program Lead, OMAF and MRA

Cleaning and maintaining harvest containers is a simple and effective way to reduce the potential for contamination.

Follow these simple steps:

- Harvest containers should only be used to harvest product.
- Clearly label harvest containers to ensure they are never used for waste, chemicals or other items which can cause cross-contamination.
- Inspect containers prior to harvest and occasionally during the season, discard those which cannot be repaired or properly cleaned and sanitized.
- Keep containers off the soil/ground by placing them on a dummy pallet or tarp to avoid contamination during harvest.
- Never allow workers to stand in containers to avoid contamination from shoes

Remember, containers and bins which contact fresh produce should be kept clean, sanitized and in good repair.

Harvest Tools and Containers

Sandra Jones, On-Farm Food Safety Program Lead, OMAF and MRA

Have you ever had your harvest knives go “walking” from their designated areas and possibly used for unintended tasks? Colour coding is a quick and efficient way of determining the proper place and use for designated items. Knives, tools, containers, cleaning equipment and even clothing/aprons can be colour coded to help reduce the risk of cross contamination to ensure they are only used for the intended task.

Food safety practices keep agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable. For more information, visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs website at www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Summer Jobs Service

The 2013 Ontario Rural Summer Jobs Service is now accepting applications from eligible employers who plan to create summer jobs for students in Rural Ontario. Eligible businesses and community organizations in Rural Ontario may receive a hiring incentive of \$2 per hour to create student employment.

What qualifies as a RURAL business?

If your business or organization is located in a town, small city or rural township with a population of 100,000 or less, you are eligible to apply to this program.

Funding Opportunities (Cont'd)

Application Process

There are two ways to apply for the program:

1. Employers are encouraged to use the [on-line application](#).
- The online application form takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- After completing the form, simply type your name in the signature field. This is considered an electronic signature for the purpose of the contract.
- Click the **Save Form** button to save the application on your computer. Then send the application by email to rsjs.omafra@ontario.ca (If you require Adobe Acrobat Reader you can install it on your computer for free by downloading the program from Adobe at www.get.adobe.com/reader.)
- There is no need to print the application and send it in.
- Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a letter or email confirmation by May 31, 2013.
- The application deadline is **April 30, 2013**.

2. Alternatively, if you cannot use the online application process, you may print the application form and mail or fax it in to:

Rural Summer Jobs Service
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Ministry of Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West, 4th Floor NW
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Fax: (519) 826-3170
Email: rsjs.omafra@ontario.ca

For full details about the Rural Summer Jobs Service program and application forms, please visit the OMAF website at: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/rsjs/index.htm

OMAF and MRA Funding Programs and Support for the Food Industry

OMAF and MRA's Business Development Branch has pulled together relevant funding programs for the food industry and compiled them all in one place. Please visit the [OMAF and MRA Funding Programs and Support](#) webpage for more information on relevant programs and services.

Export Market Access: A Global Expansion Program What is it?

Export Market Access (EMA) is a \$5 million initiative,

jointly sponsored by the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC). It is designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) increase their access to global markets.

What is the benefit to your company?

Generally the EMA program will cover 50% of the eligible costs in four specified areas. Non-repayable contributions generally range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 (with the exception of capital bidding projects which generally would not exceed \$35,000).

Who Qualifies?

- SMEs in Ontario currently offering a product or service
- A new or emerging exporter - minimum of five employees to a maximum of 500 employees - or partnerships/consortium of small to medium sized new or emerging exporters meeting the following criteria:
 - Annual sales of \$500,000 or more.
 - Currently established and operating in Ontario.
 - Registered (federally or provincially) for minimum of two years.
- In full compliance with all government laws and regulations.
- Not receiving any other contributions from public funds towards the activities contained in the funding application.

How do I apply?

All of the forms required to submit an application can be accessed, completed and submitted online at <http://exportaccess.ca/howtoapply.shtml>.

You can apply for more than one category and you can apply more than once in a 12-month period.

You will be advised within 30 business days regarding your eligibility for EMA and will receive 25% of the projected eligible costs when you sign your contract. When you have completed the activities/ project, you will submit a final report along with other required documents. Upon approval and acceptance of the final report, the OCC will provide you with the balance of their contribution.

Where can I find more information?

General information can be found on the OMAF website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/exp-mkt-access.htm>

More detailed information, a guide and application forms can be found at the Export Access website: www.exportaccess.ca

Learning Opportunities

IPM Scout Training Workshops for 2013:

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.

For more information contact: Margaret Appleby, OMAF and MRA IPM Systems Specialist Tel: 613.475.5850 or Email: margaret.appleby@ontario.ca

Workshop	Date & Time	Location	Workshop Leader	Materials needed	Follow-up field training
Tomatoes & Peppers	Fri., April 26 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Willson Hall Conference Room at Ridgetown Campus	Janice LeBoeuf	Lunch on your own Handouts provided	
Introduction to IPM	Tues. April 30 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Guelph Turf Grass Institute, Guelph	Margaret Appleby	Lunch on your own Handouts provided	Spotted winged drosophila ID training provided at workshop
Lettuce, Celery, Onions, Carrots	Wed., May 1 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.	1 Stone Rd W., Guelph ON Room 407	Marion Paibomesai	Handouts provided Lunch on your own <i>Have to pay for parking</i>	
Cole Crops	Thurs. May 2 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Boardroom Woodstock OMAF and MRA resource Centre	Marion Paibomesai	Handouts provided Lunch on your own	
Tender Fruit & Grape	Fri., May 3 9:00 a.m. to Noon	Rittenhouse Hall Vineland OMAF and MRA resource Centre	Wendy McFadden-Smith	Handouts provided. Lunch on your own	Spotted winged drosophila ID training provided at workshop
Apples	Wed., May 8 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Following with field visit	Auditorium Simcoe OMAF and MRA Resource Centre	Kristy Grigg-McGuffin	Handouts provided If possible bring copy of Pub #360 & 310 Lunch on your own	
Ginseng Scout Training	Thurs. May 16 9 :00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Boardroom Simcoe OMAF and MRA Resource Centre	Sean Westerveld	Bring ginseng disease samples for diagnosis. NOTE: Workshop will only be held if there are a minimum of 5 registrants by Friday, May 10.	
Cucurbit Crops	Thurs, May 16, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm,	Auditorium Simcoe OMAF and MRA Resource Centre	Melanie Filotas	Lunch on your own	
Strawberries and raspberry (blueberry training upon request)	Fri May 17 9:00 am sharp to 3:00 p.m.	Auditorium Simcoe OMAF and MRA Resource Centre	Pam Fisher	Required: OMAFRA Publication #360 <i>Guide to Fruit Production</i> \$20 Lunch on your own.	Spotted winged drosophila ID training provided at workshop
Potatoes	Fri., May 31 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Room TBA OMAF and MRA 1 Stone Rd., Guelph	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

Learning Opportunities (Cont'd)

Permit to Take Water (PTTW) Workshops

The OF&VGA will be hosting PTTW workshops in the OMAF and MRA Simcoe auditorium in 2013 and 2014. The format will be a half day session from 9am-12pm working through the application form in a group setting.

To register please contact: George Shearer, Tel: 519.763.6160 ex. 219 **Registration fee:** \$20.

2013 Dates: April 26, October 25, November 29

2014 Dates: January 31, March 28

International Maple Syrup Grading School

Date: July 9-10, 2013

Location: Cornwall, Ontario

For more information and registration please visit: <http://umaine.edu/maple-grading-school/>

Conferences, Meetings and Tours

Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Summer Tour

Date: July 11-13, 2013

Location: Cornwall, Ontario

For more information please visit: http://www.ontariomaple.com/pages/summer_tour/

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of

Canada <http://www.oacc.info>

OMAF and MRA Organic Agriculture

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

FarmStart www.farmstart.ca

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