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Seneca County

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BACKYARD GARDENER

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Seneca County, NY

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Welcome to another gardening season! As I hope you have heard, we have changed the format and frequency of our newsletter for 2008. This two-page format will come to you bi-weekly starting now (April) and continuing through September. We hope we can give you more current, up to the minute information to help you take better care of your lawn, gardens and landscape.

- Watch for Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles (MALB) as they come out of their winter hiding places. There are no pesticides registered for control of lady beetles. They emerge on warm days in winter and early spring and gather around windows and lights. Long term control is achieved by sealing the cracks or crevices in siding of rooms that face south. For now, collect the beetles and release in a protected spot outdoors. They will help keep your garden free of aphids and other soft bodied insect pests.
- Many people are dealing with storm damaged trees from ice and wind. If the damage is major, the tree may need to be removed. If it's just some broken limbs, they can be removed with a clean cut and allowed to heal themselves. Treating with tree paint or tar is not necessary. Research shows that painted areas can lead to increased rot and decay due to trapped moisture in areas where the paint cracks open. To have a complete fact sheet mailed to you, call the office at 315-539-9251.

BEST VEGETABLE VARIETIES FOR 2008

ITHACA, N.Y. – Gardeners looking for help sorting through seed catalogs this winter can turn to Cornell's Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners website for help.

"It's like an Amazon.com for vegetable varieties, only we don't sell the seeds," says Lori Bushway, the Senior Extension Associate in Cornell University's Department of Horticulture who coordinates the website.

Gardeners can register at the site (<http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu>) to rate and review their favorite vegetable varieties, as well as those that didn't work so well for them. Anyone can visit the site to read those reviews and ratings to find varieties that will work best in their gardens.

Launched in 2004, the site has grown to include:

- More than 5,600 vegetable variety descriptions with seed sources.
- More than 3,400 reviews/ratings from more than 2,300 registered users.
- Online tools to help you find the best varieties for your garden.

"We're calling on passionate vegetable gardeners to help us spread the word about the site and improve it by contributing more ratings and reviews," says Bushway. "The more ratings and reviews we get, the more reliable and valuable the site becomes."

The site also links to other Cornell gardening resources, including online growing guides for more than 60 vegetable crops, and a new project, Vegetable Varieties Investigation (VVI). This intergenerational citizen science project bridges the technology divide, helping youth connect with gardeners in their community, learn survey skills, and explore biodiversity through the whimsical world of vegetable varieties.

Visit the Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners website at: <http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu>.

Upcoming workshops and events of interest:

Plant Swap, Seneca County CCE Master Gardeners, Saturday, May 10th, Floral Hall, Seneca County Fairgrounds, Corner Swift St. & North Road, Waterloo, NY

Be there by 9:45AM and start swapping at 10AM. Bring as many plants as you'd like and swap for other plants you would like. Houseplants, flowers, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, trees & shrubs. Call 315-539-9251 for more information.

Working Lands: An Agroforestry Sampler, Saturday April 12, 8:30-6:30 135 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Download program and registration brochure at <http://www.nyfoa.org>

A one-day intensive workshop for farmers, forest and land owners, fruit and nut growers, conservation, environmental and agricultural agencies, non-profits, and interested individuals.

Camp Mushroom, April 18 & 19, Arnot Forest Lodge

Detailed information at www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot

This is a unique beginner/intermediate level workshop for those interested in small scale forest mushroom cultivation. A few common techniques will be demonstrated, then you will go into the field and put those skills to use.

Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are always possible. Read the label before applying any pesticide. CCE and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied. CCE of Seneca County provides equal employment and program opportunities.

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