



# VEGETABLE IPM MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 18

## LOSS OF A FRIEND AND FARMER

John Ogonowski, of Dracut, was the pilot on American Airlines Flight 11 to Los Angeles that crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11. At this time of immense tragedy, all our hearts go out to his wife Peggy, to their three children and to other family and friends. But it is also a time to remember John for his generous efforts on behalf of farming in Massachusetts, and particularly for immigrant farmers from Cambodia whom he assisted as part of the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project.

John became involved with this project at its very inception over three years ago, when Paul Fischer of Farm Service Agency in Westford contacted him looking for land to make available for Southeast Asian families living in nearby Lowell who wanted to farm. John recognized this immediately as an opportunity to help a worthy group of beginning growers to practice another kind of agriculture. He not only made land behind his home available to these farmers, but White Gate became our first all-commercial "mentor farm" - a training site for these beginning growers. In practice he was involved in every activity on the farm involving this project. He ploughed and harrowed the land and fertilized it with well-aged compost he would have otherwise used for his own crops. He excavated a pond as a water source, and set up an irrigation system connected to it and to existing wells. He ordered materials and set up a greenhouse so the growers could raise seedlings and do extended season production. He provided advice to them on managing production, pest control, harvesting and other

production practices. He participated at project steering committee meetings; in fact, he and Peggy hosted a number of these meetings at their beautiful home where they would serve dishes made from their farm grown vegetables and fruits in addition to other great foods.

All John Ogonowski was asked to do was to rent land to these growers, which he did. But he'd rarely collect the rents and he did so much else for the growers that took up his time and created out-of-pocket expense for which he often never asked for reimbursement. John did all this while he was a full time pilot for American Airlines, while he raised his own crops on an additional 200 acres spread around Dracut, and while he helped raise three wonderful children. He was a founder and active member of a local land trust that has helped to save a substantial amount of local farmland in Dracut from development.

This year, the land trust negotiated the purchase of about 50 acres of land about a mile from his house. With much of John's own land out of commission due to a major gas pipeline installation, he made this land available to our project and because of that, a dozen Cambodian households got a new start farming this year.

John was interviewed by Susan Shepherd of NPR's *Living on Earth* just a few weeks ago. In that interview he talked at length about how much he loved to farm and how he got involved with the immigrant farming program because he wanted to offer an opportunity to others who also loved agriculture. He praised the hard work of the participating Cambodian families and how it meant so much to him to be able

to offer them this opportunity.

John was a personal friend to many of us and a true friend to Massachusetts agriculture - we will indeed miss him greatly.

*Hugh Joseph, Coordinator, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project*

**John A. Ogonowski**, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1951. John had a BS Degree in Nuclear Engineering and was an avid farmer. He had worked with the former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Gus Schumacher, to secure a plot of 150 acres of farmland on Marsh Hill Road in Dracut, through the APR Program. John raised hay, corn, pumpkins, blueberries and peaches. He worked actively in preserving open space in Dracut for future generations.

He was a pilot in the United States Air Force achieving rank of captain. He was a Vietnam veteran who went to pilot training in Texas and was then assigned to Charleston AFBSC where he flew C-141. Captain John A. Ogonowski was a member of the Allied Pilot Association, and flew a Boeing 767 aircraft for American Airlines for 23 years. John was an active member in the Dracut Historical Society Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau, and the Board of Directors for the Dracut Land Trust, Inc. among many other organizations. He participated in the Partners with Nature IPM program and was active in the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association.

**Contributions** in memory of John Ogonowski may be made to: Dracut Land Trust, Inc. c/o Enterprise Bank and Trust Co., 1168 Lakeview Ave., Dracut, MA 01826.

## **W**TC GREENMARKET FARMERS **SUFFERED LOSSES**

---

On Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 2001, as the first plane hit the WTC in New York City, approximately 25 market farmers had their produce displays set up at the WTC Greenmarket at Church and Liberty Streets. These market farmers come in from Long Island and upstate NY, NJ, PA and MA. The WTC Greenmarket had opened as usual at 8 am. EST.

Our last report from Manhattan stated that all of the participating farmers & their helpers escaped uninjured – but most of them lost all of their vehicles, displays, produce, cash and personal belongings. The World Trade Center market was a two-day market that is now gone for these farmers. In addition, other markets in Manhattan may remain closed because of concerns about security risks, or because some of the public areas where the greenmarkets were located have been taken over to be used for other needs related to the search and rescue and investigation. Insurance coverage for these losses is limited at best. Thus, farmers are faced with overcoming the loss of their material goods at that same time that they have lost their source of income.

The Farmers' Market Federation of New York has established a "Fund for WTC Greenmarket Farmers". **Contributions** and donations can be made to this fund at any time and all proceeds will be distributed to those farmers affected by the tragedy at the World Trade Center. Please write a check or money order payable to: "Fund for the WTC Greenmarket Farmers" and send it to: The Farmers' Market Federation of New York, 2100 Park St., Syracuse, NY 13208. The website for The Farmers' Market Federation of New York is [www.nyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com). Contribution information and possibly other means to help these farmers will be posted there.

*From Diane Eggert, Exec. Dir., Farmers' Market Federation of NY*

## **U**PCOMING EVENTS

---

### **Introduction To Permaculture: September 22-23 & October 27 & 28, 2001**

On both September 22-23 and October 27-28 "An Introduction to Permaculture" weekend workshop will take place in Shutesbury, Massachusetts. Permaculture is a growing movement worldwide. It offers a positive vision and practical skills to integrate humanity back into the balance of nature.

Hands on Training for creating a Sustainable Culture at Sirius Community Shutesbury, Massachusetts. Through a lively mix of hands-on activities, lecture, tour and video, we will cover: Permaculture principles and ethics, Permaculture Design, Forest Gardening, Tour Sirius Community organic gardens, orchards, greenhouse, ecologically designed buildings, cob building, solar and wind energy systems.

Workshop Fees: \$150 includes four organic vegetarian meals, and lodging in the beautiful eco-designed guest building Saturday night. Please inquire about tenting and commuter fees.

### **What Is Permaculture?**

1. Design system for ecological living.
2. An ecological science - the study of nature and natural systems.
3. Integration of water, people, animals, land, plants, agriculture, technologies, and community for productive and beautiful environments.
4. Global grass roots movement applicable on all scales and situations, worldwide.

### **Why Permaculture?**

By having people and ecosystems that work well together, we can ensure a healthy, sustainable future.

**Teachers:** Jono Neiger and Kemper Carlsen bring to their teaching a diverse toolbox of experience. They have been studying and teaching Permaculture for the last five years at Lost Valley Educational Center, a Permaculture site and community in Oregon. They are both field biologists with experience in restoration of native habitats, conservation, landscape design and site assessment.

For information and registration contact Jono and Kemper at (413) 259-3734, or talltree22@hotmail.com.

*--John M. Gerber, Plant & Soil Sciences, UMass*

### **Plasticulture Short Course Offered in October**

A two-day short course on Plasticulture and High Tunnel production will be offered on **October 24 and 25, 2001** at the

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office in Clayton, Gloucester County, NJ. The short course is presented by the American Society of Plasticulture and is sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Attendees can register for one day or two days. Fees include program materials, breakfast, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. Participants are urged to register by October 12, 2001, since space is limited. Key topics include: irrigation design, water and fertigation management, colored mulches, strawberry and small fruit plasticulture, weed management, soil fumigation, row covers, high tunnels, integrated pest management, cut flower production, and marketing and economics of plasticulture crops.

Producers and agricultural industry representatives will not want to miss this informative, one-time short course. To receive more information or a registration form contact Pat Heuser at the American Society for Plasticulture at (717) 238-9762 or Michelle Infante-Casella at (856) 307-6450 ext. 1.

### **New England Vegetable and Berry Growers All Day Meeting: November 3, 2001**

#### **Location: Comfort Inn, Portsmouth, NH.**

**10:00** Raspberry Variety Update, David Handley, University of Maine.

**10:30** High Tunnel and Greenhouse Raspberries, Sonia Schloemann, University of Massachusetts

**11:00** Control of Insects, Diseases and Weeds in Raspberries. Sonia Schloemann, Alan Eaton, University of New Hampshire, Rich Bonanno, UMass.

**12:00** Lunch: by reservation only. Phone reservations can be made until Wednesday, October 31 by phoning 508-378-2546.

**1:00** Business meeting

**1:15** Vegetable variety trials. David Handley, University of Maine. Dave received a research grant from the Association this year and will present a report on the results of his trials.

**1:45** Crop Storage Practices Update. Bill Bramlage, University of Massachusetts

**2:15** Control of Atrazine Resistant Weeds. Rich Bonanno, University of Massachusetts

**2:45** Greenhouse Tomato Culture. John Howell, University of Massachusetts.

For those who are not members of the NEVBGA, there is a \$10 registration fee. Pesticide applicator re-certification credit has been requested and will be reciprocal with all New England states. The Comfort Inn is located on the Route 1 By-Pass, 2 miles south of the (Portsmouth) traffic Circle. For more information contact Dom Marini at (508) 378-2546.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Vegetable and Berry Conference and Trade Show: December 11-13, 2001**

This three-day conference is held every other year in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. It will offer twenty-four sessions of educational programs as well as an extensive Trade Show. - hat makes this conference exceptional is the close collaboration of growers and Extension programs throughout New England. We gather the best speakers from within our region and from other parts of the country to tell you about on the best practices in vegetables and small fruit. Every session includes both farmers and researchers or Extension personnel, so you are getting the 'best of both worlds'. Sessions cover every major vegetable and small fruit crop as well as special topics ranging from labor and food safety to trickle irrigation, biotechnology, organic farming, and cover cropping. Special crop sessions will include fall ornamentals, bedding plants, cut flowers, and alliums.

For a complete program listing, see the NEVBC website, [www.nevbc.org](http://www.nevbc.org). Program booklets will be mailed out in mid-October. For registration information call Dr. Anne Carter at (413) 545-5216 or [akcarter@pssci.umass.edu](mailto:akcarter@pssci.umass.edu). For conference information call Dr. Vern Grubinger at (802) 257-7967 or [vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu](mailto:vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu). For Trade Show information call Dom Marini at 508-378-2546. For Sturbridge Host Hotel Reservations call 1-800-582-3232

## **SCHOOL VISITS: NEW RESOURCE**

---

This is the season for hosting farm tours for school children

and for family groups. The people at the University of California Food Systems Division, just put up a useful resource on their Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SAREP) website ([www.sarep.ucdavis.edu](http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu)). It is **A Farmers' Guide to Hosting Farm Visits for Children**, written by Sibella Kraus. This very practical guide for those of you who help facilitate farm tours, is available by clicking on Community Development and Public Policy from the home page; then go to Selected Project Reports; then Community Devt and Public Policy projects. It is the last one on the list.

*--Gail Feenstra, Food Systems Coordinator, Univ. CA*

## **CUCURBITS**

---

Conditions for maturing and harvesting fall crops have been excellent. Many crops have been brought in without significant losses from chilling, frost or fruit rots. Refer to previous newsletters for information on curing and storing butternut and pumpkin.

### **Squash Peeler available**

Ronald J. Widelo, owner of Ronny's Welding Service Inc., has formally announced his invention of an Automated Butternut Squash Peeler. The RJW Automated Butternut Squash Peeler is capable of efficiently peeling butternut squash and turnip (rutabaga). Compact in size, this all stainless steel commercial quality unit is reported to be capable of peeling 180 butternut squash (based on an average length of 14") per hour with 97% product yield. It is a variable speed machine which requires a 110 volt receptacle and requires no compressed air or water to operate. It is quiet, lightweight yet rugged, has a very small footprint and requires minimal maintenance and lubrication. One person can operate a three-peeler unit.

For more information on the RJW Automated Butternut Squash Peeler please call Ron Widelo at (413) 247-5410.

Appointments are necessary for quotes and demonstrations.

## CRUCIFERS

---

Watch for late-season infestations of caterpillars, especially **imported cabbageworm**. Cabbage butterflies are still actively laying new eggs. Although feeding and development rates are slower under cooler temperatures, damage can still be significant. Scout for signs of feeding and for caterpillars. If using an insecticide that must be ingested (eg, Bt's) apply in the morning of a sunny day when larvae are actively feeding, to ensure an adequate dose is ingested. **Cabbage aphid** may also build up in late-season crucifers.

## SWEET CORN

---

Most corn is harvested, but a few late plantings are still maturing. **European corn borer** flight has dropped to very low levels in the past two weeks. Most of our trapping sites have closed down, but those that are still reporting had captures in the 0-1 moths/week range. **Corn earworm** was reported to be zero in Bolton and Sutton, 2 moths in Dracut. Thirteen moths were reported in South Deerfield, but all were dead. Given the cooler temperatures and low flights, continuing sprays are not recommended for late corn crops. **New Resource!**

### **Ecological Sweet Corn Video:**

For many vegetable farmers, sweet corn is a staple crop, one that must be supplied to their customers on a regular basis, with good size and flavor - and no worms. That means controlling insect pests, managing weeds, and providing good soil fertility. In a new video, ten farmers from five different states describe in their own words how they grow top-quality sweet corn using a minimum of pesticides and fertilizers.

"Farmers and their Ecological Sweet Corn Production Practices" is a 42-minute video produced by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension and Ruth Hazzard, University of Massachusetts Extension with funding from SARE, the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program of USDA. Keith Silva of CTR did the videography

and editing, with assistance from intern Alex Martin. Topics covered in the video are: Hairy Vetch as a Cover Crop, Organic Soil Fertility, Soil Heat Monitor, Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test, Floating Row Cover, Scouting for European Corn Borer, Getting Good Spray Coverage, Mechanical Cultivation for Weed Control, Spraying Bt for European Corn Borer, Banded Herbicide Application, Mapping Fields for P and K Fertilization, Pesticide Mixing and Loading Facility, Crop Consultant, Trichogramma ostrinae for Corn Borer, and 'Zea-Later' Oil Applicator for Corn Earworm. Each video costs \$15, postage-paid within the continental US. To order, contact the Center for Sustainable Agriculture (802) 656-5459 or [susagctr@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:susagctr@zoo.uvm.edu). Video may also be purchased from the UMass Extension Bookstore (413-545-2717, credit cards accepted).

## DR. BOB YOUNG DIES AT 93.

---

Bob Young passed away September 1, 2001, at the age of 93. Bob worked at the Waltham Experiment Station for 47 years. His major focus was plant breeding and he developed about 25 well-known varieties. One of the most successful was the Waltham Butternut squash, which received the All-America Award. He was in charge of the Soils Lab at Waltham. He was a frequent speaker at grower meetings from 1931 until he retired in 1978. Growers are still benefiting from the life work of this longtime, devoted contributor to agriculture.

## MANY THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS!

---

This is the last of the regular Vegetable IPM newsletters for 2001. We will publish one October issue. **Vegetable Notes** will be published during the fall and winter months.

This newsletter is a team effort, which depends upon input of field data and information from many people and sources. I would like to offer my appreciation and thanks to our many contributors. These include members of the UMass Vegetable Team (Rich Bonanno, Anne Carter, Frank Mangan, Robert

Wick, and John Howell); authors from other Extension programs in New York, Maine, Connecticut, Vermont and other states; private IPM consultants (Ray Pestle, Dale Riggs, Jim Mussoni, and Mike Yates), farmers (including Paul Willard, Elaine Atmore-Droescher, Matt Rulevich, Dan Kaplan, Dave Dumaresq, John Bagdon), and IPM staff (Pam Westgate, Rosalind Cook, Devin Leopold, Matt Verson, Caryn Andersen, Andrew Rogers, Tim Andenmatten). We also appreciate the many growers who participated in our various field projects. And thanks to those growers who asked questions and raised issues that prompted many articles!

*--Ruth Hazzard*

*Vegetable IPM Newsletter*, Ruth Hazzard, Editor. Stephanie DeGray, Assistant Editor. Authors of articles are noted; author is R. Hazzard if none is cited.