

# WEEKLY CROP UPDATE



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

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## Vegetable Crops

### Vegetable Crop Insect Scouting

David Owens, Extension Entomologist,  
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#### Sweet Corn

This will be the hardest crop to keep clean that we will have all year. Pheromone and blacklight trap captures continue to increase. We have not experienced such large blacklight trap counts in a while. Spray interval thresholds can be found at our website:

<https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/cann/cooperative-extension/sustainable-production/pest-management/insect-trapping/silk-stage-sweet-corn/>. Several of

these locations are exceeding the 38 moths, in 7 days blacklight interval for indicating a 2-day spray schedule. Pheromone trap counts are extremely high right now. There are a few locations where counts are low, one is a trap next to silking sweet corn but be advised that silking sweet corn is the most attractive to moths and we do not move our traps. If you have a trap or you know a consultant has a trap next to silking sweet corn and is closer to your location, use the more conservative spray interval. Vial test results from earlier this month resulted in 38% survivorship in cypermethrin. We are starting to test individual pyrethroid active ingredients, and the trend that we have seen is close to the last several years' spray trials which suggested that among pyrethroids, Hero (high rate) > Baythroid >= Brigade >= Warrior. If using Elevest, Hero or Brigade (or other generic

bifenthrin) be aware that there are active ingredient restrictions on bifenthrin and that only a couple of applications can be made. Even if you treat with a high rate, tank mixtures with another active ingredient such as methomyl (ex Lannate), spinosad (Blackhawk), or spinetoram (ex-Radiant and Intrepid Edge) is recommended. Besiege or Elevest are premixes with chlorantraniliprole and are our most effective worm materials. Looking back on 14 years' worth of spray trials, there have been 6 years in which Besiege, or its equivalent was applied three times in a row versus alternating treatments. In 2 of those years, up front application was slightly better, in 2 years alternation was better, and in 2 years they were equivalent.

Thursday trap counts are as follows:

Trap Location	BLT CEW	Pheromone CEW
	<i>3 nights total catch</i>	
Dover	22	153
Harrington	7	115
Milford/Canterbury	35	243
Rising Sun	22	116
Wyoming	43	94
Bridgeville/Redden	8	39
Concord	29	85
Georgetown	25	201
Woodenhawk	9	123
Laurel	32	188
Lewes	-	18
Goldsboro	-	153

## Factors Affecting Bell Pepper Fruit Size and Shape

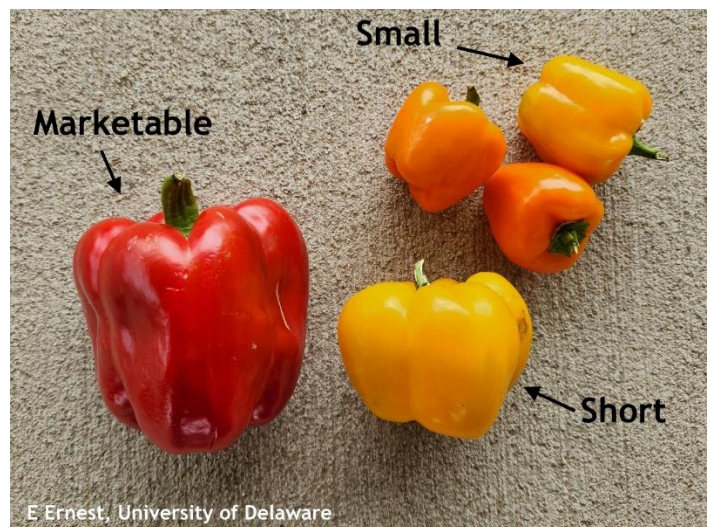
Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; [emmalea@udel.edu](mailto:emmalea@udel.edu)

Bell pepper fruit must reach adequate size, have a symmetrical shape, and have an acceptable height to diameter ratio in order to be marketable. Bell pepper fruit characteristics are influenced by variety, but also by environmental factors that occur during flower formation and early fruit development. Horticultural researchers have attempted to identify specific environmental factors that affect pepper size and shape, but some mysteries remain.

High and low nighttime temperatures are known to impact pepper fruit set, size, and shape. Both high and low nighttime temperatures result in poor pollination which can cause small and lopsided pepper fruit (Figure 1). Night temperatures that are below 64 °F reduce pollination and increase the incidence of parthenocarpic (seedless) fruit. Parthenocarpic fruit tend to be smaller and are likely to be unmarketable. Low night temperatures also cause ovary enlargement during flower development that results in short fruit that do not elongate properly (Figure 2). These short, flattened peppers are also likely to be unmarketable. Longer pepper fruit develop from flowers that form during warm nighttime (68-75 °F) conditions. Excessively high nighttime temperatures (90 °F) applied to peppers in experimental situations cause fruit set to cease because of damage to pollen; high temperatures do not induce parthenocarpic fruit. The nighttime high temperature threshold for damage to pepper pollen has not been established but is probably higher than the typical night temperatures experienced in Delaware.



**Figure 1.** Small and misshapen peppers (left) have inadequate or uneven pollination compared to marketable fruit (right).



**Figure 2.** Conditions during flower development affect pepper size and length. Low night temperatures can cause short, unmarketable pepper fruit.

Pepper fruit size is also influenced by photosynthate availability during fruit development. The photosynthate availability will depend on plant size and leaf area and fruit load. Plants that do not reach adequate size before flowering begins will not produce marketable size fruit (Figure 3). Plants that set many peppers at the same time will also tend to produce small fruit because of competition between fruit. To avoid small fruit size, provide adequate nutrients and irrigation early in the season to promote leaf and stem growth in pepper plants. [Use of shade cloth](#) in peppers can

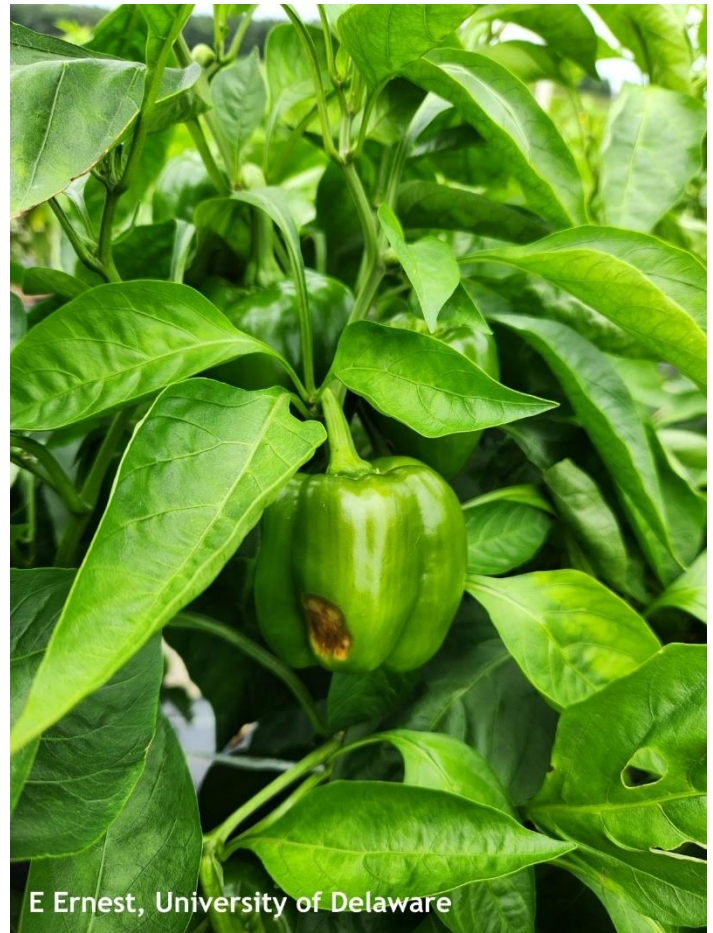


help to promote early season vegetative growth. Later in the season, damaged, undersize, and misshapen fruit should be removed from the plant as early as possible so that they do not compete for resources with fruit that have potential to be marketable (Figure 4). Bell pepper plants tend not to abort fruit that has survived 14 days post pollination, even after significant damage. Pepper fruit that have a short, flattened appearance early in development will not develop a marketable shape later and should be removed. Pepper fruit that have begun to ripen will not grow larger so undersize peppers that begin to change color should also be removed.



E Ernest, University of Delaware

**Figure 3.** Small pepper plants tend to make small pepper fruit.



E Ernest, University of Delaware

**Figure 4.** Small fruit with sunscald or other types of damage should be removed to reduce competition with potentially marketable fruit. Pepper plants will not naturally abort such fruit.

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**Plectosporium Blight Found in Pumpkin Fields**  
*Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland; [jbrust@umd.edu](mailto:jbrust@umd.edu)*

By this time of the season (mid-August) I usually see pumpkin fields infected with powdery mildew commonly throughout the mid-Atlantic. And while powdery is present in many pumpkin fields it does not seem as bad as in previous years. The one disease I am seeing is plectosporium blight. This fungal disease of pumpkin, zucchini and squash can cause yield loss if left uncontrolled. Plectosporium blight prefers warm, humid, or rainy weather conditions. It overwinters on crop residue and can persist in the soil for several years. Plectosporium blight can be recognized from the



small white to light tan spots on leaves (Figure 1) and elongated lesions on stems and leaf petioles (Figure 2). On green fruit the lesions are very small white to tan flecks (Figure 3) on more mature fruit the lesions are round to irregular shaped pimples on the surface of the pumpkin that often makes them unmarketable (Figure 3). These fruit lesions also allow soft rot pathogens to penetrate the pumpkin, that will cause the fruit to 'melt-down' into a deflated mess. When stem and foliar lesions occur in large numbers, they can give a light gray or white appearance to the foliage. As the lesions increase in numbers and merge, they turn the vines and leaf petioles white (Figure 2). Severely infected pumpkin stems or petioles will become brittle and can split or shatter if disturbed (Figure 2).

When Plectosporium blight occurs, rotate away from summer squash and pumpkins for 2 years. Scout for disease and apply fungicides when disease first occurs. Thorough coverage of foliage, vines, and fruit is necessary for good control. Most of the time a protective spray of chlorothalonil or mancozeb will give you good protection from this disease, however in years like this one the disease control needs a kick with the addition to the protective sprays of using something in rotation such as Cabrio or Flint Extra or Pristine. These 'extra sprays' should not be rotated with each other.

**Figure 1.** Plectosporium yellow-tan spots (lesions) on pumpkin leaf



**Figure 2.** Plectosporium on pumpkin leaf petioles-the petiole to right has split.





**Figure 3.** Plectosporium lesions on small green fruit and on more mature orange fruit



## Fruit Crops

### Fruit Crop Insect Scouting

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Scout for signs of brown marmorated stink bug activity. This is the time of year in which we begin seeing more of them migrating to ‘greener pasture.’ Also keep an eye open for spotted lanternfly adults as they go on mating dispersal flights.

### Sooty Blotch and Flyspeck in Apples

*Gordon Johnson, Retired Extension Specialist;*  
[gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

August and September are the times for sooty blotch and flyspeck (SBFS) diseases of apples to build up. These problems are caused by many different fungi and are managed together.

Sooty blotch appears as dark, irregularly shaped areas of black smudges on fruit. Flyspeck develops distinct black, pinhead-sized spots, generally clustered in groups of 10 to 50. These signs are fungal growth on the surface of apples and often appear together. Other than causing cosmetic damage, SBFS is not technically a disease, as it does no real harm to apples. However, these surface fungi can cover the fruit and are difficult to remove, making fruit not to be saleable. Washing these fungi off is difficult; however, chlorine in wash water can help with minor infestations. SBFS blemishes may be removed or significantly reduced using postharvest fruit dip treatments in low-concentration chlorine bleach solutions (500 to 800 ppm chlorine) followed by brushing on a commercial grading line. Underlying fruit color may be lightened in red varieties.

The different life cycles for the many fungi that may contribute to the SBFS disease complex are not well understood. Different species of fungi predominate in different apple production regions, but all have life cycles that are similar enough that symptom development can be reasonably well predicted, and a single management approach used.

Infection by SBFS fungi occurs soon after fruit set, though symptoms may take several weeks to show, depending on weather. Disease development is dependent on high levels of humidity in the tree canopy. Extended wet weather or periods of high humidity enable SBFS fungi to colonize apples and grow, but they grow slowly if at all during dry periods. New infections can occur throughout the summer to harvest. The fungi may remain invisible for several weeks, first appearing in late summer or early fall. Some SBFS fungi apparently have secondary

spore production and infection cycles related to rain and high humidity, with higher rates of disease occurring in years with heavy or frequent rain. These fungi appear to overwinter on plants adjacent to apple orchards. The source of many of the SBFS fungi is wild plant hosts in woods or hedgerows adjacent to orchards such as wild and cultivated brambles.

Fungicides applied approximately every two to three weeks, starting with second cover, will generally control SBFS. The most effective fungicides against SBFS include the strobilurins, Flint, Sovran, Pristine, and thiophanate-methyl, (Topsin). Captan is not as effective, but provides good control, and is a useful multi-site fungicide to mix with the more effective single-site materials for resistance management. Inspire Super and other pre-mixes that contain a QoI (Luna Sensation, Merivon) also provide good control.



Sooty blotch and flyspeck of apple

Anything that slows drying in apple tree canopies encourages SBFS development. So larger trees that are poorly pruned develop more disease. Similarly, trees in areas where air circulation is poor develop more disease. Cutting back these border plants, particularly well-known hosts such as wild blackberries, reduces disease pressure. Keep grass in the orchard mowed to reduce humidity in tree canopies.

Apple cultivars vary in the amount of SBFS at harvest, but this is primarily related to harvest date rather than resistance pathogen colonization. Later harvested cultivars have the highest SBFS incidence. Lower SBFS incidence on the earlier maturing cultivars apparently results from disease avoidance, as these apples are exposed to fewer hours of wetting and high relative humidity, environmental factors favorable for growth of SBFS fungi.

This article was adapted from the New England Tree Fruit Management Guide <https://netreefruit.org/apples/diseases/sooty-blotch-and-flyspeck>

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### **Storm Damage in Orchards**

*Gordon Johnson, Retired Extension Specialist;*  
[gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

There has been significant storm damage in orchards over the last two years on Delmarva. Severe weather is expected to increase in the coming decades and orchardists should be prepared to take measures to reduce damage to tree fruits. High strait line winds and rotational winds (most severe as durachos and tornados), heavy rain, and hail can all cause major damage to trees. Damage losses come in several forms: limb breakage, fruit drop, tree uprooting, fruit damage by hail, foliage loss, and flooding.

#### **Hail Damage**

Hail can cause complete loss of fruit crops. In young trees, severe hail can damage branches and stems by injuring the bark and may cause tree decline or death. Bruised stems will also be susceptible to infection by opportunistic fungi and bruises may turn to pox marks. Older fruit trees can withstand the force of hail strikes because bark is thicker and protective, and damage will consist of injury to new growth, leaf loss, and fruit damage. Trees will produce new leaves from dormant buds if loss occurs early in the season but will not later in the season. It is advised to apply a broad-spectrum fungicide mixed with a copper product to protect against



fungal and bacterial infections after a hailstorm. In the dormant season selective pruning may be needed to remove severely damaged growth and fruit loads may need to be reduced by additional thinning to speed tree recovery and prevent decline.

Fruit damage by hail soon after fruit set will cause fruit drop. Later fruit damage with small hail may consist of dimples, small dents, bruises, or discoloration of the fruit. This fruit will remain on the tree but will be distorted. With large hail, severe injury including breaks in the fruit skin, cratering, or severe bruising will occur with injured fruit often dropping off the tree as ethylene is released after wounding.



Hail damage on apple fruits.

In hail prone areas, growers are investing in hail netting. Hail netting is an effective tool to protect orchards from both hail damage and major insect pests when draped and secured around trees. It also can improve the quality of fruit such as apples by reducing sunburn. Netting is draped over rows of trees and secured around the base of trees to limit insect entrance. Apply draped hail netting as soon as possible after petal fall, once flower pollination is complete. Netting can be applied and removed using a tractor-operated applicator or by hand in small orchards.

Along with hail protection, draped netting has been shown to exclude pests such as codling moths and apple maggots reducing the need for insecticide applications. It also can improve grades of apples, particularly in varieties such as Granny Smith that can discolor and other sunburn susceptible varieties.



Draped and tied hail netting around apple trees.

#### **Limb or Branch Breakage**

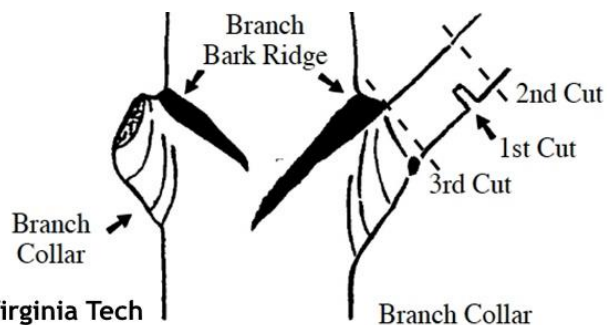
Storms can also cause limbs or branches to break. This is most severe later in the season when trees have heavy fruit loads. Limbs with narrow branch angles and ingrown bark are also susceptible to limb breakage.

In trees with heavy fruit loads, if fruits are sufficiently mature, fruits should be harvested before a storm arrives. This is possible where advanced storm warnings have been issued such as with tropical storms or hurricanes. Props made of notched 2 x 4's can be placed under lower branches to prevent breakage and in high density orchards, extra ties can be added to support wires on longer branches.

Thinning and pruning practices can also limit branch damage by storms. Thin trees to lower fruit loads in storm prone sites or wind exposed orchard edges and prune branches to shorter lengths. Train branches to wider branch angles when trees are young (using clothes pins, branch spreaders, or weights) and avoid having branches

with ingrown bark which leads to greater potential for breakage.

Once storm damage occurs, broken branches should be removed immediately by cutting to the branch collar which allows for proper healing. Do not leave stubs or cut flush to the stem, both can lead to decay organisms infecting the tree.



Proper pruning of damaged limbs to the branch collar and not flush. Also note the bark ridge where ingrown bark can weaken limbs. This should be avoided by creating a wide branch angle when training young trees.

In open pruned trees such as peaches, branches can split at the trunk and the tree must be removed entirely.



Nectarine tree split at trunk that will need to be removed.

### Tree uprooting

Tree uprooting occurs with high winds such as with hurricanes. Most trees can tolerate heavy winds if they are well rooted and uprooting often is a sign of poor root structure, waterlogging, or improper planting. Deep or shallow planted trees do not develop good root systems initially. Plant so that the root collar is at ground level and the graft union is above ground. Break up hard pans and install drainage systems prior to planting for proper rooting and use irrigation patterns that encourage wider rooting.

When uprooting does occur, if trees are fully downed with more than 75% of the root system exposed, they cannot be reset and must be removed.

If trees are leaning or have minimal exposure of roots (less than 50% exposed) they can be reset if done immediately after the storm. Trees should be pushed upright without damaging the trunk and props should be placed to support the tree until new roots can grow. This can be done with notched 2 x 4's or 2 x 6's or wooden pallets. Put soil over any depressions and tamp soil around the roots around on the side that was exposed. Trees may need to have fruits removed the following year to allow for recovery. Avoid heavy pruning. It can take 2-3 years for trees to fully recover.



To reset a fruit tree, push upright, place props, cover exposed roots with soil and tamp the soil. Prune off broken branches but leave undamaged wood.



## Agronomic Crops

### Fruit Drop

I am often amazed at how much wind fruits can stand without dropping. However, if fruits are near harvest, particularly in apples, storms can cause significant fruit drop. As stated previously, if heavy storms are forecast, and fruits are ready, harvest ahead of the storms. Do not harvest dropped fruit for sale or for processing even though they look good. When dropped, they often will have hidden bruises and they are a high risk from a produce food safety standpoint.

### Flooding

Some tree fruit crops, such as peaches and many of the stone fruit, have a very limited tolerance for saturated soils during the growing season (they are more tolerant in winter dormancy). During the growing season saturated soils for as little as three days can result in significant tree death in peaches and nectarines.

Modify the orchard site to allow for proper drainage. Avoid planting in poorly drained areas. In sites prone to drainage problems with heavy rainfall pattern tile fields or plant on wide raised beds, shape fields to allow for quick runoff during heavy rains and provide good outlets for drainage.

### Storm Preparedness

Late summer and fall are when tropical storms can hit Delmarva causing severe damage to orchards and severe thunderstorms are to be expected during the summer. Tree fruit growers should prepare for these storms with all the methods described previously. When new orchards are planned, storms should be considered. Consider planting wind breaks along field edges. Choose varieties and rootstocks with storm damage in mind. For example, some fruit varieties are more prone to fruit drop than others.

### Agronomic Crop Insect Scouting

*David Owens, Extension Entomologist,*  
[owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

#### Soybean

Corn earworm moths are active in some double crop soybean fields. Although earworm tends to be attracted to, and have picked up in, double crop soybean, we have only found rather limited numbers of larvae. That could easily change next week. The next 3 weeks are critical for soybeans

#### Sorghum

We picked up a couple more isolated sugarcane (or sorghum) aphids in fields. Thresholds are 30% infested plants through the soft dough stage. While checking for aphids, we did flush quite a few moths out of the crop. Just as in soybean, the next 3 or so weeks are critical to ensure large populations do not build up in the late planted sorghum.

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### Curious about Nitrogen Modeling Tools? DE, MD, and PA Corn Farmers Can Participate in a Short Online Study and Earn Money

Many corn farmers in DE, MD, and PA can expect to receive an invitation in the mail to participate in a university study this month. The study is being conducted by researchers with the University of Delaware, University of Maryland, and Penn State University.

The goal of this study is to understand farmer interest in using an in-season nitrogen modeling tool to guide nutrient management decisions. During the study participants will have the opportunity to learn about and engage with in-season nitrogen modeling tools. Results from this study will help us develop strategies to better serve farmers in this region.

Eligible farmers may participate from home on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Internet access is required. In the online activity, participants will be asked to make in-season nitrogen management decisions for a simulated

corn field. In addition to a \$50 participation payment, participants will earn additional money (up to \$100 extra) based on decisions during the 30-35-minute activity. Participants will receive their payment as a Walmart or Amazon gift card or via PayPal within one week of completing the online activity.

Participation requires a unique participant code, which can be found on the mailed invitation letter. If you do not receive a letter in the mail but you would like to participate, you may contact the research team to receive a login code and instructions. Please contact Badri Khanal at the University of Delaware (302-455-7555; bkhanal@udel.edu).

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### **Soybean Planting Population Survey**

Jarrod O. Miller, *Extension Agronomist*,  
[jarrod@udel.edu](mailto:jarrod@udel.edu)

Please answer this 5-question survey on soybean population decisions:

[https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4SkJWOkIDzcpQO2](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4SkJWOkIDzcpQO2)



## General

### **Guess the Pest! August 18 Answer: Small Hive Beetle**

David Owens, *Extension Entomologist*,  
[owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

Unfortunately, Bob Lieby knows what small hive beetle is. This pest gets under my skin more than Varroa mite. Strong hives in full sun tend not to deal with them in our area but watch out for hives that get afternoon shade! I have lost a few hives over the last two years to them, and they quickly turn an otherwise healthy-looking colony (from the outside) into a stinking, slimy mess of unusable comb and missing bees. Nematode soil drenches help, as does GuardStar soil drench around hives. Inside hives, folks use oil pans, hive beetle traps, traps with pollen patty, and Swiffer dusting sheets to trap beetles.





## **Guess the Pest! August 25**

David Owens, Extension Entomologist,  
[owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

This week we are focusing on soybean. What is this worm at the bottom of my sweep net?

Click on the link to log your answer!

<https://forms.gle/AjQxxk9QzhegzCw48>



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## **Applications for the 2023-2024 Producers Growth Program Are Now Open**

*CAIC program gives growth-ready local producers tools and resources to scale their businesses*

The Chesapeake Ag Innovation Center (CAIC) is excited to announce that applications are now open for the second cohort of our Producers Growth Program. Over the course of six months, the program gives [value-added producers](#) and

consumer packaged goods (CPG) entrepreneurs the knowledge, resources, and tools they need to scale their businesses. Through one-on-one work with an advisor, classes taught by subject matter experts, and hands-on assignments, each producer will develop and execute their own scaling strategy.

“This program is uniquely valuable because it gives participants the chance to talk about the future of their business in a way that’s both realistic and aspirational,” said CAIC Program Director Emiliano Espinosa. “Everyone is assigned an industry advisor who’s already been there—who has a proven track record of building and leading successful companies. As you develop your growth strategy, your advisor will help you mitigate a lot of the risks that founders often encounter.” Participants will meet with their advisors on a weekly or biweekly basis, and will be given hands-on assignments challenging them to apply what they learn in their program classes to their scaling plan. “Our nine-module curriculum is developed and taught by subject matter experts, with the overall goal of giving producers everything they need to know to scale,” Espinosa explained. This includes a class on working with institutional and wholesale buyers taught by a consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the specialty food industry, while a founder of three successful companies will teach a session on attracting and securing investors. Other expert-taught topics will include risk assessment and management, supply chain and logistics, and legal considerations, among others. During each class, the small group size allows for personalized attention and interaction with lecturers.

In addition to their classes, tours of local companies, and advisor sessions, producers will have access through CAIC to essential professional services that will facilitate their business growth: five hours of legal consulting, 15 hours of graphic design services, 20 hours of bookkeeping and accounting services, and 23 hours of marketing consulting. Said Espinosa, “This gives everyone a chance to develop some of the aspects of their business that they might have neglected, whether that’s business plans, pitch decks, balance sheets, or promotional materials.” Producers Growth Program

participants will also have preferred access to a \$3.5 million loan fund through a CAIC partner; after working with their advisors to perfect their presentation and business plan, they'll have a greater likelihood of securing funding from other sources, too. "The program is perfect for people who want to scale their businesses, but haven't been able to access the resources and knowledge that they need in their communities," Espinosa said. "That's where we come in. And as these small businesses grow and scale, you end up seeing the economic impact on entire communities."

CAIC launched an eight-company pilot cohort of the Producers Growth Program last year, with founders from Delaware and Maryland taking classes, networking, and touring innovative local companies. The program culminated in the inaugural Producers Unveiled showcase, where participants presented their business growth plans and products to prospective buyers, service providers, and other stakeholders. One cohort success story was Gayle Galbraith, the founder of Federalsburg, Maryland-based Federal Brewing Company. "During the cohort, I was introduced to and accepted into the Union Kitchen Accelerator in Washington, D.C.," Galbraith said. "Participation in the Union Kitchen Accelerator is a natural progression from the CAIC cohort, and will give me access to proven strategies for successfully scaling my kombucha business and further develop[ing] my business skills—so that the business is no longer reliant solely on me for every decision or for its long-term success." Alumni also appreciated the insights and contacts that instructors shared with them. "I love the program," said Brady Shuert, co-founder of the Claymont, Delaware-based Hope's Caramels. "The connection to insiders and their knowledge is by far the best part."

The 2023-2024 program will begin on October 4, 2023, and applications are currently being accepted. Eight places are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a tuition discount available for value-added producers. Producers operating in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia who meet the [qualifications](#) can fill out the first part of the application online; if selected to move on to the

next round, they'll be asked to interview with the program advisors. "We invite everyone to see if they qualify," Espinosa said. "It's a very straightforward application, and it could end up being the first step in your scaling journey."

For more information on the Producers Growth Program go to <https://caic.org/caic-producers-growth-program/>. To view the highlights of last year's Producers Unveiled event, [click here](#). You can learn more about CAIC and our other initiatives [here](#).

## Announcements

### Small Grain Grower Meeting

September 5<sup>th</sup>

Carvel from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Weed, disease, insect management, fertility, and crop budgets. Also, there will be malted barley updates by Proximity Malt.

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### Marl Pit Farm Tailgate Session

Thursday August 31, 2023 5:00-7:00 p.m.

UD Cooperative Extension Research  
Demonstration Area

617 Marl Pit Road, Middletown DE 19709

Join your fellow producers and the UD Extension team for an in-person discussion of this year's current production issues. Other topics will include nutrient management, pest management and weed management. This session will inform producers of timely topics observed and occurring in 2023.

Pesticide and Nutrient Management Credits will be available.

The meeting is free, and everyone interested in attending is welcome.

To request more information, please call Nick Adams at (302) 476-1136.



## Maryland Grazing School

University of Maryland Extension and partners are excited to be bringing back the Maryland Grazing School this fall and invite grazers and livestock owners to attend!

The **Maryland Grazing School** will be held over two days on September 21-22, 2023, at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD from 8 AM to 5 PM each day. Designed with producer interests in mind, this 2-day grazing school will offer a more in-depth education on pasture and grazing management.

The course features multiple hands-on exercises to provide participants with opportunities to work with grazing tools and fencing materials. Topics covered will include forage selection, pasture assessment, grazing management, pasture allocation, fencing and watering options, extending the grazing season, and more! Enrollment is limited to 30 people to keep the group small and allow for more interaction and networking opportunities. For full details and registration information, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/grazingschool>.

This event is brought to you in partnership by University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council, Maryland Grazers Network, NRCS, and NE SARE. Thank you to our event partners!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your local county Extension office or Amanda Grev at [agrev@umd.edu](mailto:agrev@umd.edu) or 301-432-2767 x339. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Hope to see you there!



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## Webinar on Suicide in American Farming

September 12<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm-4:00pm

The suicide rate among American farmers is serious and worsening but may not be well explained by either a lack of access to care or demographic characteristics. This webinar will begin with a brief fact book about suicide and American farming that emphasizes the diversity present in farming and ranching. Discussion topics will include which hypotheses about agricultural suicide are more likely and less likely in the context of the current epidemiological research; where the likely points of leverage are; what is known and not known about the critical protective and risk factors; what is needed to make telehealth successful with this community; the impact of farming stress hotlines; and what the clinical opportunities and challenges are in addressing suicide in the agriculture community.

Register Here: [Coming Face to Face With Suicide in American Farming](#)

**Farmland Rental Rate Study**  
Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management  
Specialist, [nsbruce@udel.edu](mailto:nsbruce@udel.edu)

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension is conducting a farmland rental rate survey. The purpose of this project is to evaluate various farmland rental rates and how they impact a farming operations ability to cash flow. You must fill out the survey for each farm that is rented. Land that is owned, does not need to be included in the survey. Your local county agent can assist you in filling out the survey. Your response to the survey is greatly appreciated. Each individual response to this survey will not be shared to anyone in the public and kept private. If you have any questions about this project or survey, feel free to contact Nate Bruce at [nsbruce@gmail.com](mailto:nsbruce@gmail.com). Below is a URL link and QR code to the survey.

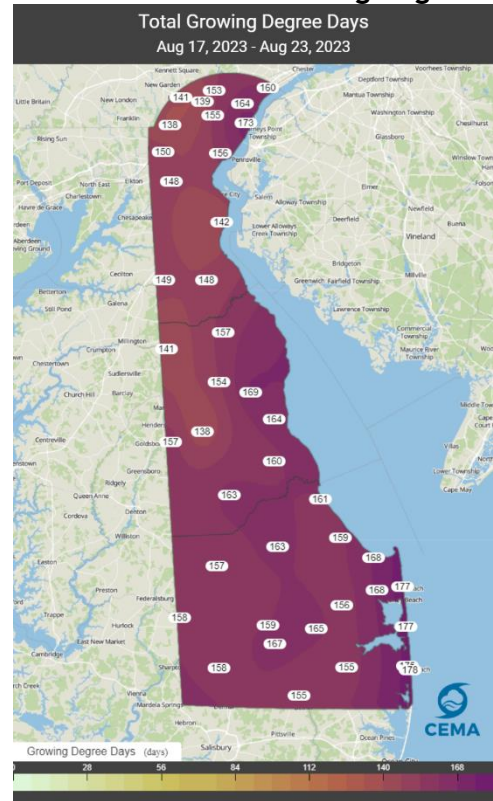
Survey URL:  
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c5fa508a182044359393b2a5e5251c47>

Survey QR Code:

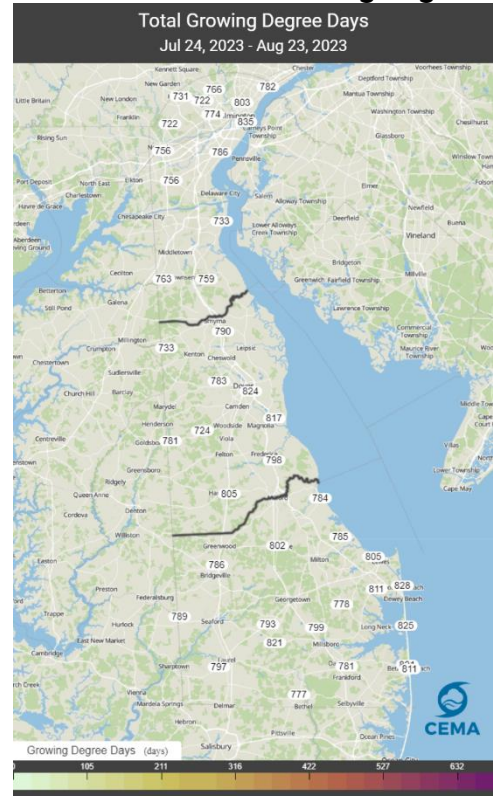


# Weather Summary

## 1 Week Accumulated Growing Degree Days

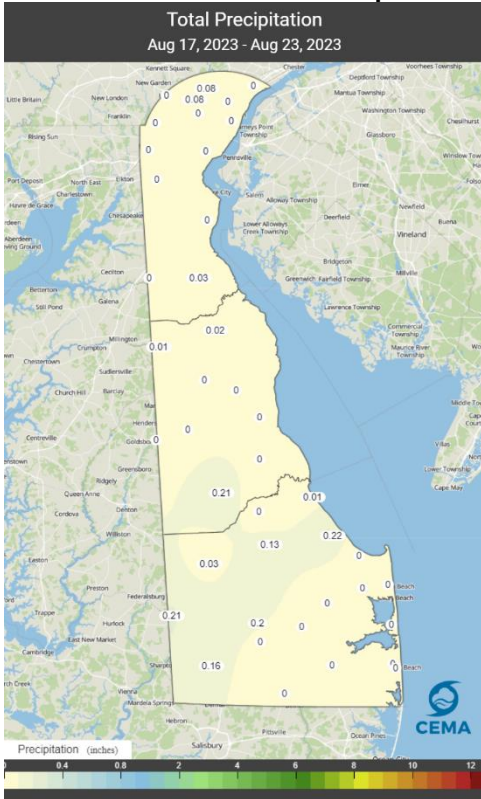


## 1 Month Accumulated Growing Degree Days

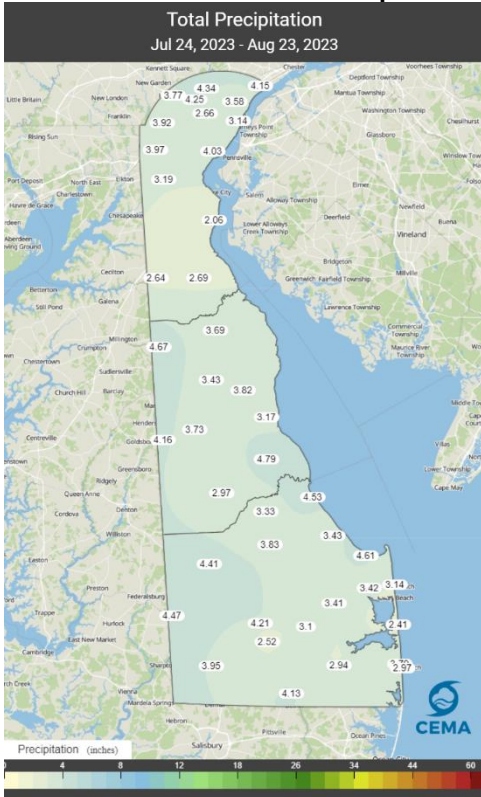




## 1 Week Accumulated Precipitation



## 1 Month Accumulated Precipitation



These weather maps are generated from DEOS weather station data and are part of a new Ag Weather website that is under development: <http://deos.udel.edu/almanac/> Your feedback is welcome!

**Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist and Drew Harris - Kent Co. Ag Agent**

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