



## *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

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*Founded 1875*

*Putting science to work for society*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Plant Science Day**

New Haven, CT July 1, 2008 - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will hold its 98<sup>th</sup> annual Plant Science Day open house on Wednesday, August 6, at Lockwood Farm in Hamden.

The featured program will begin at 11:15 a.m. in the main tent. Steve Grant, Staff Writer, The Hartford Courant, will give the Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture entitled "Are We Making Progress? A journalist's perspective on more than three decades of environmental and agricultural change in Connecticut." at about 11:40 a.m.

Other speakers, from the Experiment Station Staff, are: Dr. Sandra L. Anagnostakis "Chestnuts Are Coming Back!" at 10:15 a.m.; Dr. Jeffrey S. Ward on "Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* DC)" at 10:45 a.m.; Mr. Gregory J. Bugbee on "Invasive Plants: Our Lakes And Ponds In Peril" at 1:15 p.m.; and Dr. MaryJane Incorvia Mattina on "Communication And Cooperation Through Laboratory Network: Positive Outcomes Of 9/11" at 1:45 p.m. In addition, there will be technical demonstrations by Dr. John F. Anderson "Bed Bugs In Connecticut" at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Dr. Abigail A. Maynard on "Growing Your Own Transplants For Your Vegetable Garden" at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

There also will be barn displays on a range of topics and about 70 other field plots and exhibits available for viewing throughout the day.

The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

An additional feature of Plant Science Day is the presentation of the Century Farm Award to a Connecticut farming family in operation for more than 100 years. The recipient, Buell's Orchard in Eastford, was selected by the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council.

The barn displays will feature "Analysis of Pesticides in Pollen Collected by Honey Bees," "Suppressing Soil-borne Nematodes with Biofumigants," "Can you smell me now? Chemical communication in long-horned beetles," "Partial Saturation Ebb and Flow Watering for Potted Plants," "Integrated Pest Management for Winegrapes in Connecticut," and "Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plant Problem."

The field plot displays on fruit and vegetable crops include: sweet potatoes, calabaza squash, Chinese cabbage, wine grape cultivars, personal-sized watermelons, beach plums, heirloom tomatoes, and Japanese plums.

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Displays on crops and forests include cultivar trial of greenhouse tomatoes grown in coir dust, using soybean meal and corn gluten on turf, pest management using biodiesel oilseed crops, control of blight on American chestnut, inducing *fusarium* disease resistance in gladiolus, the use of earthworms to suppress *fusarium* crown rot of asparagus, white birch research, commercial chestnut cultivars, and environmentally-friendly control of powdery mildew on landscape plants. Mosquito trapping and testing program for West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses, serum antibodies to West Nile virus in naturally exposed and vaccinated horses, Lyme Disease in ticks submitted by Connecticut citizens, natural products for the control of the tick *Ixodes scapularis*, changing caterpillars and their natural enemies on crops in the cabbage family, exotic insects in Connecticut and nearby states, integrated pest management of Eurasian watermilfoil, and subtleties in chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid are some of the entomological and acarological topics to be highlighted.

Predominant molds on water-damaged drywall, factors affecting composition of hydroponic lettuce, table grape demonstration plot, biochar—a by product of a biomass-to-fuels technology—as a possible soil amendment: consideration of its ability to adsorb agriculturally-important chemicals, pinot gris cultural trials, composting leaves using the static pile method, phytoremediation: using plants to clean contaminated soil, and ebb and flood watering of potted ornamental plants will also be included in the field plots.

The bird and butterfly garden, the Connecticut Nurserymen's Garden, displays on weeds and wild plants, and exhibits on nursery and bee inspections will also be available to visitors.

Pesticide credits for Connecticut will be offered to those persons who attend Plant Science Day. No pre-registration is required for attendance. However, individuals interested in obtaining pesticide credits must sign in at the registration table at the start of the day, between 9:30-10:00 a.m., collect signatures for accredited talks and tours attended, and sign out to pick up pesticide credit forms between 2:45-4:00 p.m. The pesticide credits for the respective programs are as follows: all categories and private applicators (PA) 4 hours, applicators can assign 4 credit hours to one category or split hours among more than one category.

Lockwood Farm is in the Mt. Carmel section of Hamden. From Interstate 91, take Exit 10 and follow the Route 40 connector to the end. Turn right onto Whitney Avenue and proceed north for 0.6 mile. At the traffic light, turn left onto Evergreen Avenue; proceed 0.1 mile and turn right onto Kenwood Avenue. The farm is on the left. Enter the second driveway.

For more information, refer to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station web site: <http://www.ct.gov/caes> or call (203) 974-8500 (New Haven) or (877) 855-2237 toll-free (statewide).

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