



University
of Vermont

Extension
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower 2025 Winter Webinars

Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm February 5 - April 30

Attendance is free; please pre-register [here](#) to receive a Zoom link

February 5. Greenhouse production for healthy transplants and retail sales.

Growers describe growing healthy, profitable starts, including crop selection, fertility, labor, watering, marketing, and work efficiency. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Jack Manix, Walker Farm, Dummerston; Andrew Knafel, Clearbrook Farm, Shaftsbury; Eli Hersh, Honeyfield Farm, Norwich.*

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February 12. Tips for improving organic high tunnel tomato yields.

Growers describe their organic production systems including infrastructure, environmental controls, pruning, fertility, and irrigation. An update on research into using alyssum strips alongside tunnels as beneficial habitat is also provided. In addition, a summary of findings from the recent high tunnel tomato benchmarking is shared. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Christa Alexander, Jericho Settlers Farm, Jericho; Phoenix O'Brien, Hall Brook Farm, Maine; Cheryl Frank Sullivan, UVM; Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension.*

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[Alexander slides](#)

[O'Brien slides](#) [Sullivan slides](#)

[Grubinger slides](#)

February 19. Understanding the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Did you know that basic NAP coverage is free to underserved farmers? That's beginning farmers, low-income farmers, people of Color, women and veterans. You can also buy up the coverage. Learn how the program works, and how to get the most out of it if you ever need it. *Speakers: Jacob Mills, McDonald Farmstand, Danville and Julie Jacque, Farm Service Agency, Vermont.*

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February 26. Best practices for managing diseases and pests in organic onions.

This webinar focuses on organic management of thrips and the common onion diseases bacterial bulb rot, bacterial leaf blight, downy mildew, and Stemphylium leaf blight. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speaker: Christy Hoepting, Cornell Cooperative Extension.*

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March 5. What's new for strawberry growers.

Growers discuss planting systems, rotations, varieties, soil fertility, labor requirements, marketing, and insect pest and disease management. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: David Marchant, Riverberry Farm, Fairfax; Kevin O'Dwyer Langwater Farm, North Easton, Massachusetts.*

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March 12. Planning cover crop sequences for pollinators and growers.

Growers share experience with cover crops mixes and sequences to support pollinators and soil health. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Jake Kornfeld, The Farm at VYCC, Richmond; Spencer Hardy, The Farm Upstream, Underhill; Colin O'Brien, Common Roots Farm, S. Burlington; Laura Johnson, UVM Extension.*

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[Listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts](#)

[Johnson slides](#)

[O'Brien slides](#)

[Kornfeld slides](#)

[Hardy slides](#)

March 19. What's new in Colorado potato beetle control.

Growers and researchers describe methods of managing this very persistent pest. Explore mechanical bug beaters, data on delayed planting, and updates on spray efficacy. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Vic Izzo, UVM; Phil Mason, Crossroad Farm, Post Mills; Goran Johanson Goranson Farm, Dresden, Maine.*

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[Listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts](#)

[Izzo slides](#)

[Mason slides](#)

[Johanson slides](#)

March 26. Hang onto your soil!

Explore the spectrum of reduced tillage practices at all scales, covering equipment and methods that can improve soil health and save labor. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Julie Fine, American Farmland Trust; Natalie Lounsbury, UNH.*

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[Fine slides](#)

[Lounsbury slides](#)

April 2. Moving water away from fields and tunnels.

What strategies are effective for mitigating excess water during wet years? There are a range of techniques to help your crops stay drier and more productive, ranging from field layout to subsurface drainage. *Speakers: Joshua Faulkner, UVM Extension.*

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[Faulkner slides](#)



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April 9. Inter-seeding cover crops and living mulches.

Living mulches can provide many soil health benefits and reduce erosion. Learn innovative strategies and how these practices impact yield. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Jason Lilley, UMaine Extension; Ash Loehr, Hurricane Flats, South Royalton; Lincoln Fishman, Momentum Ag, MA.*

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[Lilley slides](#) [Loehr slides](#) [Fishman slides](#)

April 16. What you need to know about changes to the Worker Protection Standards (WPS), and Worker Housing Fire Safety Compliance.

WPS protect employees and others from exposure to pesticides. All farms that apply pesticides are required to follow the WPS. There have been changes to the WPS. This webinar explains what you need to do to be in compliance and how you can get assistance. *Speaker: David Huber, Deputy Director, Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division, Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Michael Desrochers, Executive Director, Division of Fire Safety, will explain the types of farm housing, and owner and occupant responsibilities regarding safety.*

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[Huber slides](#) [Desrochers slides](#)

April 23. Managing key Brassica pests and diseases.

Learn about research-based strategies to manage insects and diseases with a focus on cabbage root maggot and flea beetle, cabbage aphids and Alternaria. This webinar is supported by the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. *Speakers: Susan Scheufele, UMass Extension; Becky Sideman, UNH; and Ethan Grunberg, Cornell Cooperative Extension.*

[View recorded webinar](#) [Listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts](#)

[Schuefele slides](#) [Sideman slides](#) [Grunberg slides](#)

April 30. Neonicotinoid pesticide restrictions in Vermont.

Learn about Vermont's Act 182 related to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, and how it impacts sales and use of neonicotinoid treated seed and neonicotinoid pesticides. This law is similar to legislation in New York. *Speaker: Stephanie Smith, Deputy Director, Public Health and Agriculture Resource Management Division, VT Agency of Ag. Food & Markets. Stephanie manages a team addressing the consumer protection side of agricultural inputs: feed, animal health products, seed, fertilizer, lime, soil amendments, nursery stock, and pesticides.*

[View recorded webinar](#) [Listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts](#) [Smith slides](#)

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