

A REPORT FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
March 2020

Direct access to NJAES Rutgers Cooperative Extension offices may be limited as emergency measures are put into place across the state. However, NJAES remains committed to serving its stakeholders by continuing to provide information critical to your operations as well as providing online educational opportunities. With several county offices closed for the foreseeable future, electronic communications may be NJAES' only means of sharing information. The following online resources continue to be available to assist you:

- [NJAES web: Commercial Ag section](#) (includes Commercial Grower Production Recommendations); [County Offices](#)
- [Plant & Pest Advisory](#): daily alerts to your email or mobile devices; with crop editions – vegetable, fruit, landscape/ornamental, forage & livestock; Commercial Ag Updates & Food Safety; general news & meeting announcements
- [Rutgers On-Farm Food Safety](#) resources: [COVID-19 information](#); Information sheet [Build Your Own Handwashing Station](#)
- [Rutgers Agriculture and Natural Resources Facebook](#)
- [Rutgers Soil Testing Lab](#) and [Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab](#)



William Meyer

William Meyer, professor in the Department of Plant Biology and the inaugural C. Reed Funk Endowed Faculty Scholar in Plant Biology and Genetics at Rutgers, is the 2020 United States Golf Association Green Section Award recipient for his work in sustainability through agronomic advancements. Presented annually since 1961, the award recognizes an individual's distinguished service to the game of golf through their work with turfgrass, including research, maintenance, and areas that positively impact the landscape upon which golf is played. For more than 47 years, Meyer has made a significant impact on the turf industry through his turfgrass breeding work, which focuses on developing grasses for golf and other playing surfaces that are resistant to adverse factors. Since 1996, he has led the Rutgers turfgrass breeding program at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, where he serves as associate director. The center has released more than 400 turfgrass cultivars and Meyer's [impact on the industry is captured in a video produced by the USGA](#).



Bill Kreuser, specialist at the University of Nebraska, Bruce Clarke, and Roch Gaussoin, past president of the Crop Science Society of America and specialist at the University of Nebraska.

Bruce Clarke, extension specialist in turfgrass pathology in the Department of Plant Biology, was awarded the Nebraska Turfgrass Association Presidential Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the turfgrass industry in Nebraska and the nation. The director of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers since 1994, Clarke's research and extension programs focus on the cause and control of turfgrass diseases and integrated pest management strategies to reduce fungicide use. His work with the biology and control of summer patch and anthracnose, and his introduction of effective cultural management and fungicides are cited as

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some of the most important achievements affecting the playing conditions of golf courses worldwide. Clarke is a frequently invited speaker to national and international turfgrass conferences. The graduate students whom he's mentored have established a reputation of significant positive impact in turfgrass pathology.

The team of founders, farmers, managers, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County's Family & Community Health Sciences (FCHS) SNAP-Ed nutrition educators were honored with the Philip Alampi Industry Marketing Award for their contributions to the success of Trenton's Greenwood Ave. Farmers Market. The award was bestowed at the Agricultural Society Luncheon at the 2020 New Jersey Agricultural Convention & Trade Show in Atlantic City. The Alampi Award is presented to a member of the agribusiness industry whose innovative ideas create or enhance new markets to increase farm sales. Rich and Debbie Norz of Norz Hill Farm and Market in Hillsborough, which has been a farmer vendor since the market's inception in 2015, nominated the market for the award. The Mercer County SNAP-Ed team is led by **Joan Healy**, senior program coordinator, and **Michelle Brill**, FCHS educator and county SNAP-Ed director. The Greenwood Ave. Farmers Market opened five years ago when the Trenton Healthy Food & Fitness Network and the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids conceived the idea to turn a vacant lot into a thriving healthy community space. FCHS and SNAP-Ed, which provide nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, and tastings, have been integral to the success of the market.

Of Interest:



Commercial growers can purchase bulk seed of four varieties of Rutgers downy mildew resistant (DMR) sweet basil seeds (Rutgers Devotion DMR, Rutgers Obsession DMR, Rutgers Passion DMR, and Rutgers Thunderstruck DMR) from several seed companies listed on the [basil availability page](#) on the [NJAES breeding website](#). Information and availability on Rutgers varieties of asparagus, cranberries, dogwood, hazelnut, holly, oyster, hot peppers, strawberries, tomatoes, tree fruit, and turfgrass are also posted.

Events:

The [Marine Extension Program Seminar Series](#) of Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides stakeholders with the opportunity to learn about research and programs that are addressing issues related to New Jersey's marine fisheries, aquaculture industries, and coastal marine resources. The next seminar will be a free webinar on April 14 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Kris Ohleth (Ørsted), who will be presenting "Offshore Wind is Coming to the U.S.: An Update for New Jersey." Learn about Ørsted and its Ocean Wind offshore wind energy project, which will be New Jersey's first utility-scale offshore wind farm. The 1,100 megawatt project will be located 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic City and provide more than half a million New Jersey homes with clean and reliable energy. Register for the seminar by contacting Kelly Jurgensen at kjurgensen@co.ocean.nj.us.