

May 2022



*Rutgers D'Light strawberry*

The team that launched the Rutgers Scarlet strawberry in 2015 has just released its second strawberry cultivar, Rutgers D'Light. Derived from plant biology professor emeritus Gojko Jelenkovic's 30 years of testing hundreds of varieties to develop a better tasting strawberry, Rutgers D'Light is coming to market after many years of field trials conducted by agriculture and natural resource agents **Pete Nitzsche** and **Bill Hlubik** on New Jersey research and commercial farms, and in collaboration with other universities. The cultivar was selected for its flavorful, sweet fruit and has a unique holiday lightbulb shape. Rutgers D'Light strawberry is a plant patented variety licensed to Indiana Berry & Plant Co. Gardeners and farmers interested in Rutgers D'Light

plants can order them now: [Bare Root Strawberry Plants](#) | [Blueberry Plants for Sale](#) | [Indiana Berry](#). Read more at: [Bred for Flavor, NJAES Researchers Release New Rutgers D'Light Strawberry : Newsroom](#)

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JC NERR) is working with a Rutgers team to develop a Resilience Checklist for New Jersey's Commercial Fisheries to help fishing businesses evaluate and improve their preparedness for coastal hazards and fisheries changes. Funded by New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, the project team includes members from JC NERR, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, and Rutgers Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis. As a new tool, the checklist allows New Jersey's commercial fishing businesses to assess steps to prepare for current and future risks associated with coastal hazards and changing fisheries dynamics. While it can be used by individuals, it is most effective when completed collaboratively by several fishing businesses or fishermen from a New Jersey port or dock. The Resilience Checklist is intended to start conversation and coordination among dock managers, fishermen, processors, dealers, and others involved in the industry about planning and preparing to address vulnerabilities.

The New Jersey Bag Ban that began May 4 rules that retail stores, grocery stores, and food service businesses may not provide or sell single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service products. Agriculture and natural resources agents **Meredith Melendez** and **Michelle Infante-Casella** created educational materials on the ban for farmers with retail markets. In addition to an online decision tool, materials include a printable sign for customers and cashiers, and a video with information on how the rule affects markets. Read more: [The NJ Plastic Bag Ban and Your Retail Farm Market — Plant & Pest Advisory \(rutgers.edu\)](#)

## Of Interest



*Rutgers oyster research vessel Cynthia, circa 1915.*

A box containing historic data from the Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory (HSRL) was returned to the lab after long-time HSRL associate **Walt Canzonier** passed away in June 2021. Canzonier had designed and overseen much of the construction of the current lab in Bivalve, according to professor **David Bushek**, director of HSRL. The box contained old weather and tide information collected from the *R/V Cynthia*, a research lab built on a houseboat that was towed and anchored to different locations. The data will be archived and preserved by New Jersey State Climatologist **Dave Robinson**. Read more: [Rutgers Oyster History Preserved!](#)

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Department is currently recruiting for the following position: County Agent III (Assistant Professor) - Commercial Ornamental Horticulture tenure track faculty position, located in Morris County, <https://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/160287>.

The following new publications are available on [NJAES Publications](#):  
[FS1341: Nutsedge Life Cycle Disruptions for Effective Control \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#). **Melendez, M.** and **Besancon, T.**  
E373: [Does My Horse Need Supplements? \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#). **Williams, C.**

## Events

Registration is now open for the second annual online course of *RU Ready to Farm*, the beginner farmer training program offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE). This online course is the first step for new and beginner farmers who wish to learn what it takes to succeed in New Jersey agriculture. The program, led by Middlesex County agent **Bill Hlubik** and the RU Ready to Farm team, will provide participants with a wealth of information on how to become a part of the next generation of New Jersey farmers. This course features speakers from Rutgers NJAES, agricultural support agencies, and the farm community, and will provide insight and guidance to new and beginner farmers from around the state. [Rutgers NJAES Beginner Farmer Training Program Kicks Off Its Second Year : Newsroom](#)

The [2022 Coastal Stewardship Course](#) is being offered as a part of RCE's Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program and collaboration with ReClam the Bay. Participants will learn how to be responsible stewards of our coastal marine resources and to get involved with local efforts to improve the health of our coastal ecosystems. Classes will meet weekly via Zoom webinar on Tuesday evenings (7–9 p.m.) from June 7 through August 9.

Rutgers [Grape and Wine Science Certificate Program](#) provides students with the foundational knowledge of grape and wine science – grape growing, winemaking, and business operations – following the path of grapes from the field to the winery and to the glass. The course will be held August 1–26 at the Institute of Food Nutrition and Health building in New Brunswick. The course is developed by food science professor **Beverly Tepper** along with associate extension specialist in pomology **Dan Ward**. Course instructors represent various agencies in the industry and include agriculture and natural resource agents **Gary Pavlis** and **Hemant Gohil**.