



## August 2023

### Rutgers Nursery and Ornamental Related Research and Demonstrations



Tim Waller in the high tunnels at RAREC.  
Photo: Kaylynn Hyson, Rutgers Master Gardener program, Cumberland County.

With the help of **Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC)** farm crew and funding through RCE leadership, **Tim Waller** (Cumberland, Nursery Crops) has been diligently working to bring four Quonset-style high tunnels back into production for [nursery and ornamental related research and demonstrations](#). Two of the four high tunnels are currently in use, with one each flagged for nursery and ornamental plant pathology, entomology, plant physiology/propagation, and headhouse use. There are multiple trials related to fungicide efficacy towards *Phytophthora* and other root diseases utilizing economically important conifer varieties. Two corresponding

trials are housed in the greenhouse bays of RAREC. Also, 15 conifer varieties are being grown to outplant a Christmas tree demonstration area early next spring that will enable growers to observe growth habits, year-over-year maturity, and ultimately final presentation of trees. In addition, economically important new-use native plants and key nursery standards will be outplanted to provide opportunities for trials and grower demonstrations.

### North American Strawberry Growers Association Annual Tour



Research plots of cranberries at the P.E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension.  
Photo: Kate Brown.

The North American Strawberry Growers Association [visited New Jersey on August 15 and 16 for its annual tour](#). Executive Director Kevin Schooley, who is based in Ontario, Canada, organized the tour with suggested stops from RCE agricultural agents, **William Hlubik**, **Peter Nitzsche**, and **Gary Pavlis**. Tour stops included farms in Gloucester, Atlantic, Burlington, and Monmouth counties agents and involved RCE agents **Michelle Infante-Casella**, **William Bamka**, **Richard VanVranken**, and **Gary Pavlis**, who provided information about each farm and highlighted topics about New Jersey agriculture to participants. RCE Program Associate **Kate Brown** also assisted with discussions on the tour.

### Food Innovation Center Co-Hosts Inaugural NJ FoodTech 2023 Conference

Rutgers **Food Innovation Center**, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and Middlesex County, partnered on the first annual [NJ FoodTech 2023 Conference](#). The conference was designed to promote the growth of New Jersey's food technology sector by building awareness of its strength in food innovation, leading to business retention and attracting business opportunities. A variety of experts presented on industry trends, indoor vertical farming, the state of the market, and investor strategies.

The event also featured dynamic panel discussions on innovative sustainability, funding through private equity, food manufacturing survey results, and ample networking opportunities.

### **RCE Agents Coordinate Northeast SARE Summer Meeting and Tour**

The Northeast USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) Program Summer Meeting and Tour took place this year in New Jersey, from July 25-27. **Stephen Komar**, agricultural agent in Sussex County, is the Rutgers State Coordinator for SARE in New Jersey, and **Michelle Infante-Casella**, agricultural agent in Gloucester County, is the co-coordinator. State Professional Development Program Coordinators and co-coordinators from 11 states met along with the NESARE Administrative Council. On July 26, tours for the more than 50 participants of this summer meeting took place at Chickadee Creek Farm, recipient of 2018 Northeast SARE grant: *FNE18-892, Analyzing the Profitability of Seasonal Wreath Production*; Beneduce Vineyards, recipient of a 2018 Northeast SARE Farmer Grant: *FNE18-885, Comparison of Five Methods of Crop Thinning in Pinot Noir and their Effects on Fruit Composition and Wine Quality*; and **Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm**, whose 390 acres feature several agricultural studies, including agrivoltaics, fiber hemp, leafy green amaranth, and hazelnut production.

### **2023 Turf Field Days Attract More than 500 Participants**

[Rutgers 2023 Turfgrass Research Field Days](#) comprised three events that were held on July 25-26, during which faculty, staff, and students in the **Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science** presented their current research findings. The two-day event attracted more than 537 attendees from Finland, Canada, and 18 U.S. states. The Golf and Fine Turf Field Day took place at **Hort Farm 2** in North Brunswick, NJ, while the Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day and the evening Sod Tour Field Day were held at the **Rutgers Plant Science Research and Extension Farm** near Adelphia, NJ. Partners in this annual event included the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, and Cultivated Sod Association of New Jersey.

### **Of Interest**

The following new and updated bulletins and fact sheets are available on [NJAES Publications](#):

[E375: The Equine Hindgut Microbiome](#)

Weinert-Nelson, J. (*USDA-ARS Post-Doc*) and **Williams, C.**

[FS019: How to Hire a Tree Care Professional](#)

**Grabosky, J., Polanin, N., Zipse, P., and Dvorin, R.**

[FS138 - Unit Pricing: What It is and How to Use It](#)

**Salt Taylor, J.**

### **Recent Honors**

**Tracy Anthony**, professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, was awarded the Osborn and Mendel Senior Investigator Award by the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and the ASN Foundation, in recognition as one of the nutrition field's top researchers, clinicians, and educators.

*Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.*