When all the business fees went up in 2009, applicators in most categories saw their renewal fee double to $450 for 3 years, and 3A and 3B also doubled to $200 per year. There was a broad, concerted objection raised about this, and it did not only come from our industry."

-Larry Wilson

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Category 3A and 3B Applicator Fees To Be Reviewed

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Nature Made GMO’s?

A Botanical Requirement Knowing Poison Ivy
Every year, I have the unenviable task of going hat in hand to several large and distinguished applicator companies asking them to support us. I had heard nothing from them either, and they have been very generous with us, we could not survive without them. Because I have not heard anything negative about lowering fees, I continued to ask Rick Zimmerman and Todd Vandervort from The Vandervort Group, LLC to ask officials to sponsor a bill to bring 3A and 3B fees in line with the rest of the industry.

We have finally succeeded. As he had promised us, Senator Tom O'Mara, Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee introduced Senate bill number S5477 and I have been told that Assembly Member James Skoufis (D), Orange County has agreed to carry the bill in the Assembly. That bill should be introduced shortly.

Again, it is a sign of our experience, developed over the years in representing you, that we are able to get legislation introduced to begin with. While we tried this year to take the budgetary route to eliminating this inequity, and hit roadblocks when the Assembly Budget Committee asked how the NYSDEC was going to replace the funds lost as a result of this small change, now we will have legislation, in both houses asking for this change, a big difference.

I have only you to thank, the supporters and contributors, for enabling us to go this far. Please feel free to send me any comments, good, bad or indifferent!

I will have more for you soon.

Larry Wilson - Chairman
New York Alliance For Environmental Concerns, nyafec@optonline.net

Nature Made GMO’s?

Chuck Schmitt, Sr. Resource Educator, Capital Area Ag. & Horticulture Program

Terms like “nature made” and “all natural” tend to give consumers a sense of wellbeing. When it comes to food, we feel safe and generally happy to consume foods just the way nature intended them to be.

What if you discovered that a food that is considered a staple in some parts of the world turned out to be a naturally occurring Genetically Modified Organism, (GMO)? A vegetable that has been consumed for thousands of years by millions of people around the world? Can GMOs occur naturally? GMOs produced without man tinkering with nature?

The following article can answer all these questions. This article, written by Michaelleen Doucleff for Health News Florida was originally published on May 5, 2015.

Natural GMO? Sweet Potato Genetically Modified 8,000 Years Ago

The first genetically modified crop wasn't made by a megacorporation. Or a college scientist trying to design a more durable tomato. Nope. Nature did it — at least 8,000 years ago.

Well, actually bacteria in the soil were the engineers. And the microbe's handiwork is present in sweet potatoes all around the world today.
Scientists at the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru, have found genes from bacteria in 291 sweet potato varieties, including ones grown in the U.S., Indonesia, China, parts of South America and Africa. The findings suggest bacteria inserted the genes into the crop's wild ancestor, long before humans started cooking up sweet potato fries.

"People have been eating a GMO for thousands of years without knowing it," says virologist Jan Kreuze, who led the study. He and his colleagues reported their findings last month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Kreuze thinks the extra DNA helped with the domestication of the sugary vegetable in Central or South America.

Sweet potatoes aren't tubers, like potatoes. They're roots — swollen, puffed-up parts of the root. "We think the bacteria genes help the plant produce two hormones that change the root and make it something edible," Kreuze tells Goats and Soda. "We need to prove that, but right now, we can't find any sweet potatoes without these genes."

When our ancestors started to farm sweet potatoes, Kreuze says, they very likely noticed the puffed up root and selected plants that carried the foreign genes. The genes stuck around as the sweet potato spread across the globe — first to Polynesia and Southeast Asia, then to Europe and Africa.

Today, the sweet potato is the world's seventh most important crop, in terms of pounds of food produced, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says.

"In the U.S., it seems to be important only at Thanksgiving," Kreuze jokes. "But in parts of Africa, it's a staple crop. It's very robust. When every other crop fails, sweet potatoes still grow."

In China, sweet potatoes are used to feed livestock. And in many other places, people saute the plant's leaves to make a yummy dish called sweet potato greens.

All these farmers — whether they're tending to backyard plots in Rwanda or megafarms in China — are raising a natural GMO.

"I don't think that's all that surprising," says Greg Jaffe, the GMO expert at the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington. "Anyone who's familiar with genetic engineering wouldn't be surprised that the [bacteria] Agrobacterium inserted some DNA into some crops."
Making GM plants is surprisingly easy. Scientists take a few plant cells and mix them with a special bacterium, called *Agrobacterium*. The microbe acts a bit like a virus: It injects a little chunk of DNA into the plant cells — which eventually finds its way to the plant's genome.

Biologists then coax the engineered cells to replicate and grow into an entire plant, with roots and shoots. Every cell in that plant then contains the bacteria's genes. *Voila!* You have a GM plant. (Unlike animals, plants don't have to grow from an embryo. Many species can sprout up out from a variety of cell types.)

*Agrobacterium* is ubiquitous in soils all around the world — and infects more than 140 plants species. So it doesn't take much imagination to see how the bacteria's DNA could eventually find its way into our food. "I suspect if you look in more crops, you'd find other examples," Jaffe says.

So why does an 8,000-year-old GM sweet potato matter? The example might be helpful for regulators and scientists looking at the safety of GM crops, Jaffe says. "In many African countries, some regulators and scientists are skeptical and have some concerns about whether these crops are safe," Jaffe says. "This study will probably give them some comfort. It puts this technology into context."

But the study won't assuage many consumers' worries about GMOs, Jaffe says. "A lot people's concerns aren't just about whether what the scientists have done is natural or whether the crops are safe to eat."

Many people worry about whether GMOs increase the use of pesticides and herbicides. Or that some companies use the technology to make seeds intellectual property. "In these instance, you have to look at the GMO on a case-by-case basis," Jaffe says.

In the case of sweet potatoes, at least, the world seems clear on all those fronts.

*Health News Florida*, by [Michaeleen Doucleff](http://health.npr.org/), originally published on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 2:51 pm
Now that the regulations on invasive species are in place, when can we expect to see cultivar exemptions?

I will turn to the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association to answer this question. The following was originally published by the NYSNLA as an advocacy update.

Representatives of NYSNLA and Prides Corner Farms in Connecticut continue to meet and work with the NYS Department of Ag & Markets and the NYSDEC to discuss the newly published REGULATIONS ON INVASIVE SPECIES (6 NYCRR Part 575) which went into effect on March 10, 2015.

The NYSNLA representatives have sought clarification on the process to get cultivars removed from the banned list. A cultivar exemption protocol and form has been finalized and was reviewed by the Advocacy Committee.

Notice of Cultivars Exempt From the Invasive Species Regulations

On May 20, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation published its list of cultivars exempt from 6 NYCRR Part 575 -- the Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species regulations. These cultivars are listed below and can also be found on the Industry Advocacy page at NYSNLA.com.

Conditionally exempt status means that a person may legally possess, sell, import, purchase, transport or introduce these cultivars, and no labeling requirements apply. This status is subject to periodic re-evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Cultivar Name</th>
<th>Trademark Name</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Patent</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Barberry</td>
<td>Berberis thunbergii</td>
<td>'Aurea'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conditionally Exempt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prohibited Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Cultivar Name</th>
<th>Trademark Name</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Patent</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Silvergrass</td>
<td>Miscanthus sinensis</td>
<td>'NCMS1'</td>
<td>My Fair Maiden</td>
<td>H2008-091-004</td>
<td>PPAF</td>
<td>Conditionally Exempt*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Creeper</td>
<td>Euonymus fortunei</td>
<td>'Kewensis'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conditionally Exempt*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Creeper</td>
<td>Euonymus fortunei</td>
<td>'Vanilla Frosting'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conditionally Exempt*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ask Chuck continued -

This is just the beginning of a published list of exempt cultivars that will appear on the DEC website. Be sure to check back regularly for the latest information.

The Advocacy Committee plans to take steps to start the process of submitting other plants for cultivar exemption wherever possible as soon as we gather enough supporting documentation to do so.

The Committee asks that any member that has a desire to get a cultivar removed from the list please contact the NYSNLA office or the Advocacy Committee with any information they have that could support removing that plant from the list. Most importantly, there needs to be scientific evidence of the sterility or non-invasive characteristics of the cultivar as opposed to the strict genus species plant on the banned list. The Committee is working with plant breeders like Proven Winners to get supporting research to start the submission process. Proven Winners has research they can share for a sterile cultivar of Rhamnus. They are working on several barberry cultivars and will share this with us when it is ready.

Please note that Berberis thunbergii has a one year grace period for the prohibition until March of 2016. IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO LABEL THESE PLANTS AS INVASIVE FOR THE GRACE PERIOD.

Questions should be directed to Dave Adams at DEC - Division of Lands and Forests, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4250. Phone 518.402.9405; email isinfo@dec.ny.gov

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2015 Pest Management Guidelines

Available upon request

Guidelines for Commercial Turfgrass
Guidelines for the Integrated Management of Greenhouse Floral Crops
Guidelines for Commercial Production and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs
Guidelines for Production and Maintenance of Herbaceous Perennials

Guides for:
Berry Crops
Grapes
Vegetables
Tree Fruit
Field Crops

Contact Cornell University Bookstore at https://store.cornell.edu/e-875-pmep-guidelines.aspx
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

**July 16-18, 2015**

*23rd Annual ReLeaf Conference*

*When:* July 16-18, 2015  
*Where:* SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York  
*Program:* Urban Forestry in a Changing Climate, American Chestnut Research, Tours Workshops and much more!  
[Read Complete Program Here](#)  
[Register Online Here](#)

**July 17-18, 2015**

*Christmas Tree Farmers’ Association of NY, summer meeting*

*When:* July 17-18, 2015  
*Where:* Bob’s Trees in Galway NY  
[Summer Meeting Programs](#)  
[Register Online Here](#)

**July 22, 2015**

*IPM In-depth: Hands-on Greenhouse Workshop*

*When:* Wednesday July 22  
Registration at 10:45 and program to 4:30  
*Where:* Plant Science Building, Cornell University Campus, Ithaca NY  
*Program:* DEC credits have been applied for.

**The Doctor is IN:** Bring plant samples with pest, disease or nutrient issues. We'll try to determine the problems and discuss effective management plans.

**Pint-Sized Predators – Mites for Biocontrol:**  
In this session, we will learn about the identification, biology, behavior, and use of predaceous mites that are used for biocontrol of greenhouse pests, with an emphasis on *Amblyseius cucumeris* for biocontrol of thrips.

**Control freaks – using Plant Growth Regulators successfully:** Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are extremely useful tools for some greenhouse crops, but if used incorrectly, you might not get what you hoped for. Bill Miller will cover all the aspects of using PGRs safely and accurately to get the perfect plant – choice of PGR and what they do, proper mixing and application, and how to do those calculations correctly!

**Get Smart! – using your smartphone to manage insect pests:** Learn how to use the Greenhouse Scout app to identify pests and figure out which beneficials to use to manage them. Then put your scouting results right in your smartphone or pad and check the graphs to see what the populations are doing! You will receive a copy of the app when you register for the IPM In-depth.

**Registration:** Preregistration, required by July 13 via check or credit card (online form coming soon). Cost is $65 (includes lunch and parking fee). There is no onsite registration for IPM In-Depth. Please contact Elizabeth Lamb for more information at (607) 254-8800 or email her at: eml38@cornell.edu

**August 11, 2015**

*Floriculture Field Day*

*When:* Tuesday, August 11. Registration 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. Program 8:30AM-3PM  
*Where:* Morning program at Cornell Veterinary College Education Center, afternoon at Bluegrass Lane Turf and Landscape Research Facility, Ithaca, NY  
*What:* Grow your business by capitalizing on market trends and using your greenhouse space year-round.

**Program:** This year's morning educational program features:  
- Allan Armitage on new must-have plants  
- Chris Wien on high tunnel cut flowers  
- Peter Konjoian on greenhouse vegetables  
- Margery Daughtrey on diseases every edibles grower must know.
Lunch at Bluegrass Lane will be followed with guided tours of annual flower plants landscape performance trials and pest and disease identification*. New for this year are: patio vegetable varieties and displays, combination flower/edible containers, and a comparison of retail potting mixes. Be sure to enter the Pufahl Container Design Competition. The day ends with our annual ice cream social with Cornell Dairy ice cream.

*DEC Pesticide Recertification Credits have been applied for

Don’t miss this opportunity to network with top industry professionals.

Be sure to attend our Cornell Alumni and Friends (and we are all friends, right?) event the evening prior to Field Day, August 10 at 5:30 p.m. More details to be posted shortly.

Registration: For more information see www.greenhouse.cornell.edu

Questions? contact Tara Reed at 607-255-2131 or tln2@cornell.edu.

**November 17, 2015**

**Leadership Forum on Strategic Planning**

**When:** November 17, 2015

**Where:** Saratoga Springs, NY

Mark your calendars now for the 2015 Leadership Forum, which has a new home and a new focus this year. It will be in Saratoga Springs. The topic will be "Strategic Planning."

Leadership Forum is where company owners and managers further their knowledge of subjects related to running a business, but all NYSNLA members are welcome, especially if you’re interested in becoming an owner or manager someday.

For the first time in many years, Leadership Forum will be a self-contained, one-day program not held in conjunction with any other NYSNLA event. We chose Saratoga Springs as the new location because it is easily accessible from anywhere in the state. (It's also gorgeous!)

These changes were implemented as a result of your responses to the Education Committee's survey -- we thank everyone who participated.

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Want to see your picture in print in the next issue of Growing Trends?

Send your horticulture picture to tff24@cornell.edu

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A Botanical Requirement

Visit your childhood neighborhood and things are bound to look very differently. On a recent walk down memory lane, I was amazed at how poison ivy had taken over my New Jersey village. How was it that we weren’t continuously covered in an oozing, itchy rash? Once out of the womb, we learned quickly how to identify it. Recognizing poison ivy is a skill I believe everyone should acquire, even the most indoorsy couch potato, and should be required knowledge along with the Pledge of Allegiance, Seinfeld plotlines and basic hygiene.

Poison ivy (Rhus radicans) can be a groundcover, shrub, or vine. It grows in an amazing variety of locations, from rich soil to dry places to rock outcrops, full sun to deep shade. Areas which have been disturbed by human activity, such as along roadsides and railroad tracks, and in hedgerows and old fields are the most common poison ivy haunts. Given this adaptability, you find poison ivy almost anywhere.

A casual brush against poison ivy transfers the chemical urushiol (the “poison” in this “ivy”) onto the skin, which produces redness, blistering, and incredible itching. While on wrists or ankles the resultant rash is annoying, poison ivy in the eyes or on more sensitive body parts is downright dangerous. I learned this as a boy after peeing in the woods.

Let’s examine the old poison ivy ditty: “Leaflets of three, let it be. Berries white, take flight. Hairy rope, don’t be a dope.”

The leaf of poison ivy is composed of three leaflets. These can be light green, dark green, glossy or dull, toothed or smooth on the edge. In autumn, they turn brilliant yellow, deep orange, scarlet or purple. Another common woodland plant, Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), resembles poison ivy, but has five leaflets and is harmless to most people.

The berries of poison ivy, produced in the fall, are indeed white, waxy and small. Birds love to eat them, so poison ivy may pop up anywhere in your garden.

If the particular poison ivy in question is a vine, it will often have aerial rootlets attaching the stem to the plant’s climbing surface. Rock walls, tree trunks, fences and buildings are commonly covered in poison ivy. Poison ivy is an equal opportunity climber, rambler and scrambler.

Ridding a property of poison ivy can be a tremendously tough job. Small plants can be pulled out, especially in early spring when the ground is moist, but gloves and other protective clothing are a must. Clothes must be washed thoroughly after exposure, since the oil may move from the cloth onto your bare skin weeks after the removal project is over. Vines can be simply cut and left to die in the trees, but dead pieces that fall or are pulled down later can still give you the rash. Broad spectrum herbicides applied in summer are very useful for poison ivy control, but they will also kill desirable plants nearby, so use caution. Lastly, never burn poison ivy: the smoke can cause lung infections.

For more on poison ivy, visit: http://ccetompkins.org/environment/invasive-nuisance-species/poison-ivy
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Sincerely,

Chuck Schmitt

Senior Resource Educator,
Capital Area Ag. & Hort. Program

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Have an idea for this newsletter or need additional information? Please contact the contributors below:

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Growing Degree Day Update

Albany, NY…
654 GDD’s base
50˚F as of 6/9/15

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Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Individuals with questions or special needs requiring accommodation should Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County at (518-765-3500)

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This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations or human errors are still possible. Some materials may no longer be available, and some may no longer be legal. These recommendations are provided only as a guide. All pesticides distributed, sold, or applied in New York State must be registered with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension office or regional DEC office. Read the label before applying any pesticide. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by Cornell Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical.

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