Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association

Spring 2021

You are invited to:

The 2021 Nutrien Zoom Grower Meetings

There will be 3 Zoom Grower Meetings

Each session has been approved for 1 Pesticide Recertification Credit by the Maine Board of Pesticide Control.
There will be at least 2 poll questions during the meeting for you to answer to verify your attendance.

All sessions are 1 hour on Wednesdays at 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Presentations and Dates are:

March 17th Certis – Judy Collier
Valent – Jim Wargo

March 24th Syngenta – Jonathan Stevens
Bayer – Steve Cummings

March 31st BioSafe – Michael DeRubbo
Trece' – Kaley Catlin – Pheromones and Insect Monitoring

Register in advance for the 1st webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hgmjq3G4SjCtAxhunmDbog
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
The next two meeting invitations will follow shortly.
If you have any problem with advanced Registration or questions, please let me know.

Brian McCleary 207-740-1911
brian.mccleary@nutrien.com

Spring Recertification Credit Meetings—'Pesticides and the Environment'

The following programs are being offered through a combined effort of U Maine Cooperative Extension and the Board of Pesticides Control.

Each of the following programs are worth **two pesticide recertification credits**. Pre-registration and participation in the program is required to receive credit. Here is the zoom link you can cut and paste. https://maine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudeCorjstHNfTuokiHnDAzb5i17kag9Zu**)** The link you receive in your confirmation email is unique to you. Do not share your access link. Doing so may prevent you from receiving credit.

Tuesday April 6, 2021—9:00-11:00 AM

- 'Pesticides—Decay and Off-target Movement' - Steve Johnson, UMaine Extension Crop Specialist
- 'Environmental Stewardship in the Treatment Strategy for Mosquito Control' - Jeffery R O'Neil, Northeast Regional Manager Vector Products, Central Life Sciences
- 'BPC Annual Update' - John Pietroski, Manager of Pesticide Programs, Board of Pesticides Control

Wednesday, April 7, 2021—9:00-11:00 AM

- 'Weather, Water Quality and Other Factors Leading to Poor Herbicide Results in Forestry Applications' - Ronald C Lemin, Jr., Vegetation Management Sales Consultant, Nutrien Solutions
- 'Growing and Maintaining Turfgrass in Changing times' - Jesse O'Brien, Partner, Downeast Turf Farms

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2021 Maine Farm Worker Compensation Survey

Have you been wondering how your worker compensation compares to other farms in the state? UMaine Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association and the Maine Dairy Industry Association, has developed *The Maine Farm Worker Compensation Survey* to provide statewide information regarding common farm worker compensation practices. The survey is open to all Maine farms and will collect wage and benefits information by farm and worker type. All information is submitted anonymously and no identifying information will be recorded or shared in the final report. The data will be made publicly available as soon as it has been summarized. **Please complete the survey by March 26, 2021.**

Here is the direct link: **https://umaine.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9SMIOOfb4NGvG5w**

University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Maine Vegetable & Fruit School 2021

(Virtual via Zoom)

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, March 31

12:00 noon	Swede Midge & Leek Moth, Emerging Pests in Maine David Fuller, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
12:30 p.m.	Squash Vine Borer & Western Bean Cut Worm: More Emerging Pests Dr. David Handley, University of Maine
1:00 p.m.	Irrigation strategies for Diversified Farmers Dr. Rachel Schattman, University of Maine
1:30 p.m.	What's New in Irrigation? Trevor Hardy, Brookdale Farm, NH
2:00 p.m.	Disaster Relief and Whole Farm Insurance Update Christina Howard, University of Maine
2:15 p.m.	Adjourn

Thursday, April 1

12:00 noon	Fertigation Strategies for High Tunnels Dr. Mark Hutton, University of Maine
12:30 p.m.	Birds in Corn: New Tools for an Ancient Problem Dr. Rebecca Brown, University of Rhode Island
1:00 p.m.	Ticks, Browntail Moth; Problems for Public & Farms Griffin Dill, University of Maine
1:30 p.m.	Cultivation to Maximize Weed Management Dr. Peyton Ginakes, University of Maine
2:00 p.m.	Adjourn

$15.00 Registration for both days
1 pesticide applicator re-certification credits for each day (proposed)

Below is a link to help you find the registration.
https://extension.umaine.edu/register/product/maine-vegetable-fruit-school-2021/

MOFGA SPRING GROWTH CONFERENCE

Spring Growth Conference

Food Safety Training with Atina Diffley

Produce farmers are food handlers! Let's do it safely and effectively.

Whether your primary goal is to establish or improve produce safety practices on your farm or to pass a food safety audit, a written food safety plan is a critical business tool. A food safety plan, written specifically for your farm, provides a valuable road map to guide and reinforce practices effectively. It also serves as an effective training tool for your employees.

This hands-on, produce safety class is spread over a 6-week period. Farmers are guided step-by-step through the process of writing a food safety plan. Utilizing Family Farmed's food safety plan templates and other free online materials, participants create farm maps and perform risk assessments, establish their policies, standard operating procedures, logs, and record keeping/traceability systems.

Virtual Training Schedule

- Wednesday, March 24, 10-12 AM and 4-6 PM (2 – 2-hour sessions)
- Wednesday, March 31, 4-6 PM
- Wednesday, April 7, 4-6 PM
- Wednesday, April 14, 4-6 PM
- Wednesday, April 21, 4-6 PM
- Wednesday, April 28, 4-6 PM

This program is offered free of charge, thanks to funding from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

For more information and to register visit mofga.org

More reasons for soil testing

Ron Goldy, Michigan State University Extension - March 11, 2016

Improper pH and higher than adequate nutrient levels are reasons for regular soil testing.

There are currently 20 nutrients known to be essential for plant growth (Table 1). Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are obtained from air or water while others are obtained from the growing media, whether that is soil in the field, a hydroponic system or something in between. Nutrients obtained from air and water are largely beyond producer control, although in greenhouse situations CO_2 levels can be enhanced, but those obtained from the growing media can, in most situations, be adjusted if needed.

Table 1. List of the 17 nutrients essential for plant growth, their Periodic Table symbol and where the nutrient is generally obtained.

Primary	Symbol	Source
Nitrogen	N	Soil
Phosphorous	P	Soil
Potassium	K	Soil
Secondary	**Symbol**	**Source**
Calcium	Ca	Soil
Magnesium	Mg	Soil
Sulfur	S	Soil
Micronutrients	**Symbol**	**Source**
Boron	B	Soil
Chlorine	Cl	Soil
Cobalt	Co	Soil
Copper	Cu	Soil
Iron	Fe	Soil
Manganese	Mn	Soil
Molybdenum	Mo	Soil
Silicon	Si	Soil
Sodium	Na	Soil
Vanadium	V	Soil
Zinc	Zn	Soil
Others	**Symbol**	**Source**
Carbon	C	Air
Hydrogen	H	Water
Oxygen	O	Air/Water

Most producers are aware soil pH influences nutrient uptake and have seen Figure 1. This figure shows that if soil pH is not within the proper range – 6.2 to 7.2 for most crops – nutrient uptake is inhibited. That doesn't mean the nutrient is not in the soil, it just means the soil chemical environment is not suitable for uptake of that nutrient. This usually takes place in highly alkaline (greater than 7.5) or highly acidic (less than 5.5) situations. If the pH is outside the desired range, recommendations will be made to either add sulfur to lower pH or lime to raise it. High organic soils, however, are well buffered and resistant to pH changes so plants grown in these soils will generally need foliar applications of limiting elements. Outside the desired pH range it is also possible

for some non-essential nutrients to become more available, which can lead to nutrient toxicities. Aluminum (Al) is best known for this at lower pH.

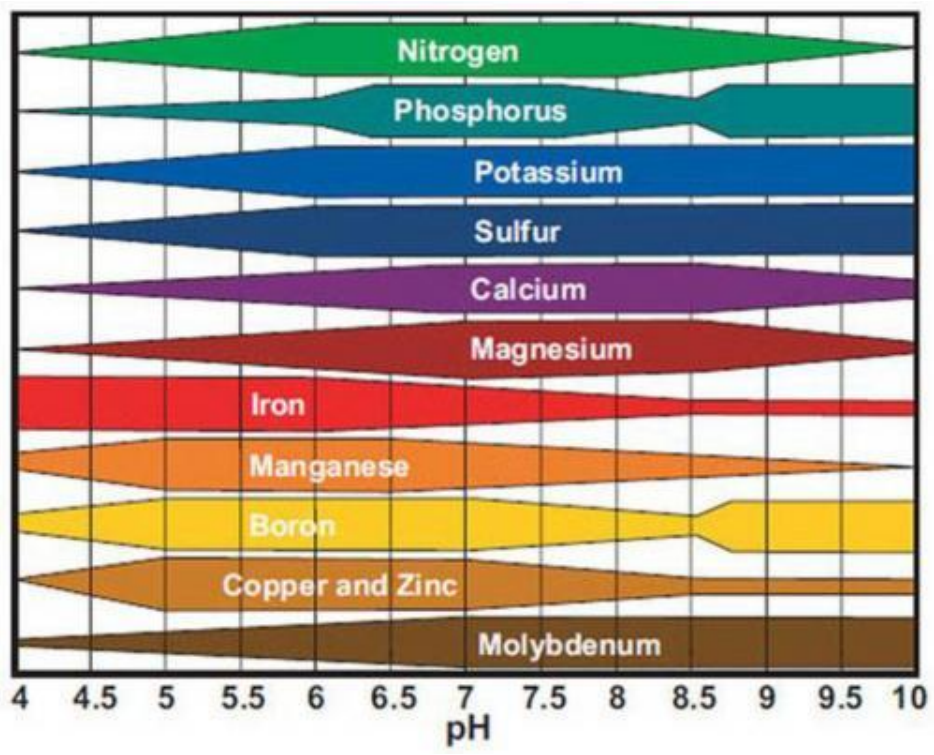

Figure 1. *Nutrient availability in relation to pH. The thicker the bar the more available the nutrient.*

A lesser known but equally important interaction is the one shown by the Mulder's Chart (Figure 2). The Mulder's chart represents the interaction between 11 of the essential plant elements. Some interactions are positive (synergistic) and others are negative (antagonistic). A synergistic relationship is one where the elements involved help each other by aiding uptake or utilization. In contrast, an antagonistic relationship means the elements hinder each other in uptake or utilization. For example, adequate potassium aids in use of iron and manganese, but if it is too high it will hinder (antagonizes) utilization of magnesium, boron, nitrogen, phosphorous and calcium. An antagonized element may be present in adequate levels, but there is so much potassium present the plant doesn't have access to it. Elements that act as antagonists can do so in a couple ways. If calcium is in excess it can simply out-compete other elements such as potassium and magnesium for uptake sites on the roots, or it can change soil chemistry by elevating pH to the point iron and boron become unavailable.

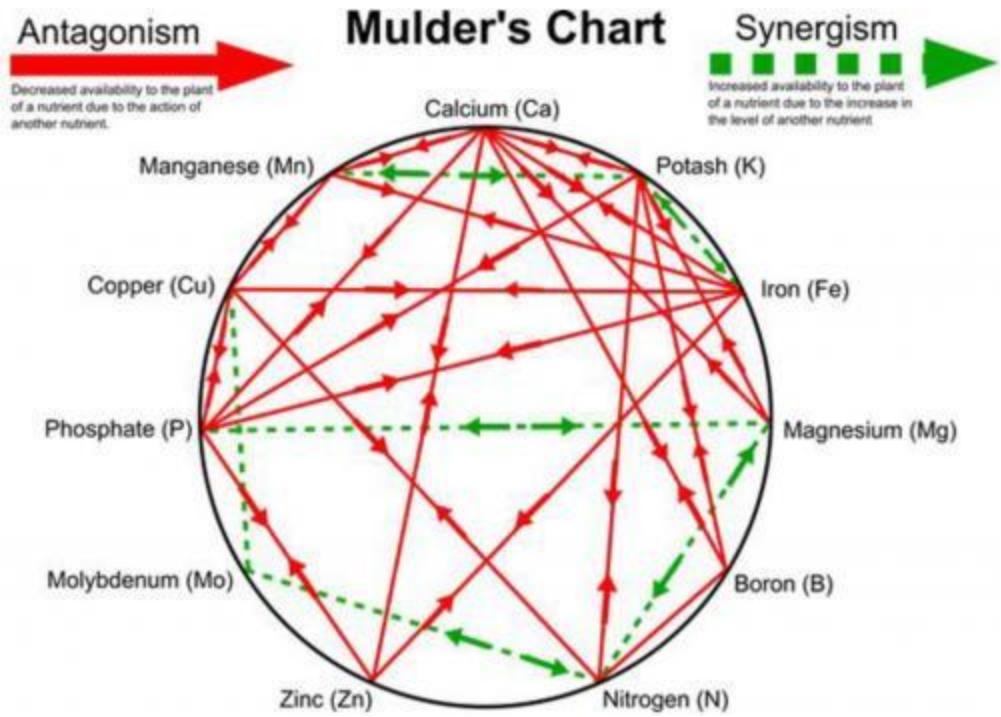

Figure 2. *Mulder's chart of antagonistic (solid lines) and synergistic (dashed lines) elements.*

Improper pH and higher than adequate nutrient levels provide more reasons for the need for regular soil testing. To apply nutrients without first establishing a base nutrient level is one of the biggest mistakes growers can make. I have known growers who have applied potassium without soil tests only to have their plants show symptoms of magnesium deficiency. Farming is risky enough, so don't ignore the simple and inexpensive step of performing a soil test.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**.

For Soil testing in Maine visit the University of Maine Soil Testing Lab. (https://umaine.edu/soiltestinglab/)

Testing forms and a video of the procedure is on the Maine Soil Testing Lab online site.

MVSFGA

MVSFGA is an association of vegetable and small fruit growers dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of the vegetable and small fruit industry in Maine. MVSFGA supports research education, and promotion and political advocacy. The association has provided important testimony at legislative hearings on such issues as pesticide regulation, labor, IPM, farmland preservation and technology transfer.
MVSFGA members receive the annual New England Vegetable Production Guide, and the New England Small Fruit Production Guide. Members also receive the association newsletter. To become a member of the MVSFGA please write to: William Jordan Jr. Treasurer, 21 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107,
email: whjjr30@aol.com
MVSFGA Directors are: Lisa Turner (President), Bill Bamford (Vice-President),, William Jordan (Treasurer), Tomi Chipman (Secretary), Tom Stevenson, Justin Gray, Paul Peters, Mathew Matson, Pete Karonis, and Harold Grams.

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