

HLA HAPPENINGS

Issue 22-26 / July 15, 2022

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CELEBRATING CARY MITCHELL'S 50 YEARS WITH HLA



July 14 was a day of celebration for Dr. Cary Mitchell's 50 years with our department. Purdue HLA faculty, staff, students, and guests joined together to honor Dr. Mitchell's work in controlled environment agriculture, outer space agriculture, and as an advocate for women in

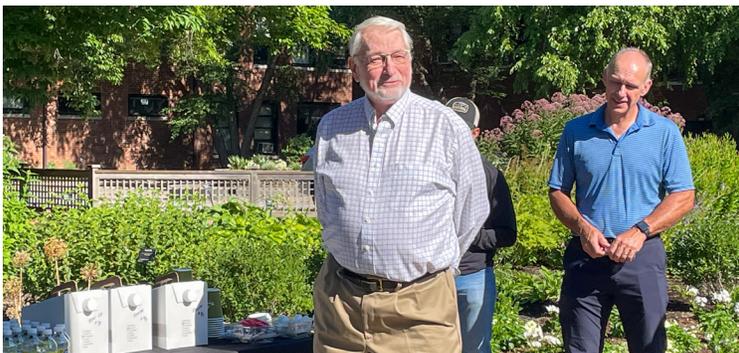
agriculture. Retired HLA Professor Dr. Jules Janick recited his poem dedicated to Dr. Mitchell and retired HLA Department Head Dr. Bruno Moser recalled his memories of him.

JULES JANICK'S POEM FOR CARY MITCHELL



For Cary Mitchell

Cary, in celebration of fifty years at old Purdue
 We honor the many splendid things you do
 For you are a world leader today
 In horticulture, plant physiology and CEA
 To train aspiring PhDs you swore an oath
 You rubbed plants and stopped their growth
 You pioneered growing plants in space
 You did this all with charm and grace
 You revolutionized lightsickles with LEDs
 You've accomplished this with skill and ease
 A raft of research papers you have penned
 You've been a mentor and a friend
 With Lette you raised a splendid family
 You're the distinguished head of a family tree
 Cary, we appreciate all you've done
 We love you, colleagues, students, everyone



WELCOME ALEXANDRA JEWELL!



Alexandra Jewell is our new Senior Greenhouse Technician who joined the department on June 20th. She graduated from Purdue HLA with a degree in Horticulture in May 2021 and worked at a horticulture production facility in Fort Wayne for a year. When she saw the opening for this position, she knew that this is exactly where she wanted to be. She will assist Nathan Deppe with the HLA Plant Growth Facility operations.

WELCOME REBECCA TRALDI!



Rebecca Traldi is a new postdoc in the department. She will be working closely with Dr. Linda Prokopy on the #Diverse Corn Belt project. She comes to us from the University of Maryland where she just completed her PhD, which focused on measuring the impact of agriculture and land-use change sustainability interventions. Rebecca has previously worked with the World Wildlife Fund, where she focused on agricultural supply chain sustainability and plastic pollution. She also has experience researching farm livelihoods and payment for environmental services programs with the World Agroforestry Center in Hanoi, Vietnam. Rebecca loves cooking, spending time with her two dogs, and walks in nature.

STAFF PROMOTIONS



Congratulations to **Nathan Deppe** who was recently promoted to Lead Laboratory Operations Specialist in recognition of his extremely competent leadership of the Plant Growth Facility during COVID, an almost-catastrophic power outage, and many other challenges.

Congratulations to **Pam Fisher** who was recently promoted to Lead Extension Administrator in recognition of her excellent work supporting the Purdue Master Gardener program and her role coordinating the communication efforts for HLA.



MIKE DANA AND KAREN MITCHELL HOSTED IRELAND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM FOR MASTER GARDENERS



Dr. **Mike Dana** and **Karen Mitchell** hosted The Garden History in Ireland Study Abroad Program for Master Gardeners and their guests from June 28th through July 9th. A couple participants may have lost their luggage, but they all gained the experience of a lifetime, 40 continuing education hours, and new friends.



VICKI STIRM TO HOST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM C-PASA PROGRAM

On Monday, July 18th, **Vicki Stirm** will host 8 high school students from the C-PASA (Carghill -Purdue Agribusiness and Science Academy) program. The program is in conjunction with the Office of Multicultural Programming in the College of Ag. They will tour the Purdue Student Farm and the Hort Greenhouse, and learn about urban agriculture and horticulture, plant propagation, and DNA extraction. The students are here for a total of 2 weeks and visit several different departments in the College.

CALE BIGELOW APPEARED ON WISH-TV 8 NEWS



Cale Bigelow discussed lawn care during drought conditions on Indianapolis's WISH-TV 8 News on June 30: <https://www.wishtv.com/news/local-news/how-to-keep-your-lawn-green-and-plants-healthy/>

NEW RESEARCH ARTICLE FROM JEANINE ARANA, STEPHEN MEYERS, AND WENJING GUAN



A research article from the HLA Specialty Crop Weed Science Lab is available ahead-of-print in *Weed Technology*. The article features work from **Jeanine Arana's** masters thesis with HLA co-authors **Stephen Meyers** and **Wenjing Guan**, as well as Bill Johnson (Botany and Plant Pathology). Dose-response of two Jack O'Lantern pumpkin cultivars to fomesafen applied preemergence. Jeanine Arana, Stephen L. Meyers, William Johnson, and Wenjing Guan. <https://doi.org/10.1017/wet.2022.49>

NEW EXTENSION PUBLICATION FROM ARIANA TORRES, SANCHEZ PHILOCLES, AND AARON PATTON



Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
<https://ag.purdue.edu/hla>
 HO-258-W



SOD PRODUCTION

Economics of Tall Fescue Sod Production in the Midwest

Introduction

This publication is the second in a series of articles assessing the economic feasibility of growing sod in the Midwest. (The first publication, "Projected Costs and Returns Associated with the Production of Kentucky Bluegrass," is available at <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-238-W.pdf>.) Using the Purdue Sod Financial Calculator, this article analyzes the costs and returns associated with growing turf-type tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.; syn. *Schedonorus arundinaceus* (Schreb.) Dumort., nom. cons.). Turf-type tall fescue has been categorized as a low-input turfgrass with benefits such as lower fertilization and improved drought and shade tolerance, when compared to Kentucky bluegrass. Yet farmers considering switching their acreage to plant tall fescue should understand the financial impact of diversifying their sod operation. This publication can help sod growers understand the capital needs, as well as the financial risk and uncertainty

of growing tall fescue. Existing farms can also compare their financial performance over time and with similar farms. Lastly, this publication provides beginner farmers with information to assess the viability of entering the sod industry.

Background of Sod

Production

Sod is an important specialty crop in the U.S., with an annual revenue reported at approximately \$12 billion in sales in 2017 (USDA-NASS, 2019). According to the 2019 Census of Agriculture, there were 1/65 sod farms operating in the U.S., harvesting collectively 340,000 acres in 2017 (USDA-NASS, 2019). Industry experts expect these numbers to grow due to an increasing demand for sod and the value of residential and non-residential construction. For example, 1.4 million new privately owned housing units were completed in 2021, representing a 4.4 % increase from the previous year (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2021).

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Ariana Torres, Sanchez Philocles, and Aaron Patton published an Extension article titled [Economics of Tall Fescue Sod Production in the Midwest](#), available at the Purdue Education Store.

YING LI ATTENDED PLANT BIOLOGY 2022 CONFERENCE

Dr. **Ying Li** attended the Plant Biology 2022 conference organized by the American Society of Plant Biology. Dr. Li chaired and spoke at the session "chromatin modifications and regulation of gene expression".

2022 PURDUE FRUIT, VEGETABLE & HEMP FIELD DAY

2022

Purdue Fruit, Veg, and Hemp Field Day

THURSDAY JULY 21, 2022

Purdue Meigs Ag Center
9101 S 100 E, Lafayette, IN 47909

REGISTER:
<https://tinyurl.com/ypfubpkp>

PRESENTED BY:  **PURDUE UNIVERSITY** Extension



2022 SMALL FARM EDUCATION FIELD DAY

Small Farm Education Field Day 2022

FIELD DAY JULY 29

In-person at Purdue Student Farm

www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/

PRESENTED BY: The Purdue Student Farm +  **PURDUE UNIVERSITY** Horticulture and Landscape Architecture



PINNEY PURDUE VEGETABLE FIELD DAY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Pinney Purdue Vegetable Field Day Aug. 9, 2022, 5 to 8 p.m. Central Time. Register at <https://puext.in/VegEvening2022>. More info at <https://extension.purdue.edu/events/county/porter/2022/08/pinney-purdue-vegetable-field-day.html>

PINNEY PURDUE VEGETABLE FIELD DAY

WHEN
August 9, 2022
5-8pm CDT

WHERE
Pinney Purdue Ag Center
11402 S County Line Rd
Wanatah, IN 46390

Sign Up Here:

<https://puext.in/VegEvening2022>



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TOPICS COVERED

Vegetable Farmers

Ashley Adair: *Are dry beans an option for Indiana Farmers?*

Stephen Meyers and Jeanine Arana: *Weed Management in No-Till Pumpkins*

Wenjing Guan and Lyndon Kelley: *Drip Irrigation Equipment and Scheduling*

Marian Rodriguez-Soto and Tatiana Gill: *High Tunnels and Cover Crops*

Laura Ingwell: *Sweet Corn Insect Management*

**Pesticide Credits Will be Available*

Vegetable Gardeners

Annetta Jones: *Preserving Your Produce*

Phil Woolery: *Cover Crops in Gardens*

Nikky Witkowski: *Irrigation Options for Home Vegetables*

Liz Maynard: *Sweet Corn: USDA Variety Trueness Test*

Laura Ingwell: *Sweet Corn Insect Management*

Other Information

Dinner will be provided with sign-up and topics will overlap. For more information, contact Nikky Witkowski at (219)-465-3555 or email nikky@purdue.edu

Upcoming Field Days

- July 21: [Purdue Fruit, Veg & Hemp Field Day](#)
- July 26: [Turf and Landscape Field Day](#)
- July 29: [Small Farm Education Field Day](#)
- August 9: [Pinney Purdue Vegetable Field Day](#)

Newsletters

- Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu/>
- Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>
- Purdue Landscape Report: <https://www.purduelandscape.com/>
- Greenhouse and Indoor Production of Speciality Crops: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/newsearch.asp?sub-CatID=425%20&CatID=10>

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