

Small Farm Education Field Day and Webinar Series

2021

Field Day
July 29

in-person at the
Purdue Student Farm

Webinar Series
August 2 - 13

live, online
education



PRESENTED BY:

The Purdue
Student Farm
and



Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

REGISTER TODAY: <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/>

Please join us for the 2021 Small Farm Education Field Day and Webinar Series!

This year we're happy to offer an in-person Field Day on July 29 at the Purdue Student Farm in West Lafayette and live, online education seminars August 2 - 13 as a webinar series.

FIELD DAY LOCATION

Purdue Student Farm
1491 Cherry Lane
West Lafayette, IN 47906
[website](#)



Scan QR code for Field Day location and directions.

QUESTIONS? Contact ...

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REGISTER TODAY!

[Click to register](#) or
scan the QR code →

A Zoom link for the
webinars will be
emailed to you after
registering.



2021 FIELD DAY SCHEDULE

In-person Event at the Purdue Student Farm

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Group 1: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (EST)

Group 2: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM (EST)

Each group will be limited to 120 attendees. Ten attendees allowed at each demo station.

Coordinator: Petrus Langenhoven

Extension Staff: Lori Jolly-Brown and Rachel Rawls

Demonstrations at the Field Day

Demo descriptions on page 2.

- Packinghouse Tour**
Amanda Deering and Scott Monroe
- Weed Identification and Understanding Thresholds**
Stephen Meyers and Jeanine Arana
- Onion Variety Evaluation and Small-scale Production Tips**
Chris Adair
- High Tunnel Sweet Pepper Variety Evaluation and Production Tips**
Petrus Langenhoven
- High Tunnel Hemp Variety Demonstration and Production Methodology**
Marguerite Bolt and Carolyn Travis
- Using Summer Cover Crops for Weed Suppression**
Ashley Adair
- Infield Soil Diagnostics and Soil Health**
Joe Rorick
- Vegetable Diseases. Prevention, Identification, and Management**
Dan Egel
- Scouting for Mites in High Tunnel Crops**
Laura Ingwell and Leslie Aviles
- Black Soldier Fly Composting**
Laura Ingwell and Caydee Terrell
- Open Field Eggplant, Pepper, and Tomato Production**
Petrus Langenhoven and Chris Adair
- Caterpillar Tunnels. How Useful Are They on the Farm?**
Petrus Langenhoven and Chris Adair

Demonstration Descriptions

Packhouse Tour

This session will give participants an overview of good agricultural practices (GAPs) that should be followed during postharvest operations. Basic concepts of design, product flow, use of sanitizers, and other issues will be discussed. The Student Farm packing room will be used as a backdrop for the presentation. Design features of the packing room will be discussed. This presentation is for anyone with an interest in reducing the risk of contamination by a foodborne pathogen during postharvest handling of produce.

Weed Identification and Understanding Thresholds

Sound integrated weed management requires proper weed identification and an understanding of when weeds become more than "inconvenient" and threaten your productivity and sustainability. Learn to identify common weeds and the best time to manage them.

Onion Variety Evaluation and Small-scale Production Tips

In 2020, we started to test different long day onion varieties at the farm. This year, we have included ten onion varieties in the demonstration. During this demonstration we would like to talk about seedling production, field preparation, planting techniques, nutrient management, irrigation, pests, and storage.

High Tunnel Sweet Pepper Variety Evaluation and Production Tips

Sweet pepper high tunnel variety trials have been conducted for the past three years at the Purdue Student Farm. Dr. Langenhoven will provide information about production techniques, variety selection, and variety performance.

High Tunnel Hemp Variety Demonstration and Production Methodology

Hemp produced for cannabinoids, which includes cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabigerol (CBG), has become the dominant type of hemp produced in Indiana and across the country. Purdue is conducting a cultivar trial consisting of 20 unique hemp genetics to identify which cultivars are best suited for central Indiana. This demonstration will focus on a high tunnel cultivar demonstration and what we have observed so far as well as a demonstration on how to propagate hemp clones. Other items up for discussion include time to flower, disease and pest susceptibility, potential plant and CBD/CBG yield, and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content.

Using Summer Cover Crops for Weed Suppression

Cover crops are used on small farms for a variety of reasons, including nitrogen fixation, nutrient scavenging, and improvement of soil structure. Another important function of cover crops is weed suppression. Different species have different capacities for suppressing weeds. Each has unique characteristics when it comes to competitiveness, biomass production and canopy closure. These factors not only influence how well cover crops compete with weeds, but also compete with each other when planted in mixtures. In this demonstration, you will see summer cover crop species planted both in monoculture and mixture. Species planted in the demo include: Caliente 199 mustard, sunnhemp, buckwheat, sudangrass, pearl millet, cowpea, soybean, and sunflower.

Infield Soil Diagnostics and Soil Health

Soils are available year-round, even when crops aren't, allowing for more flexible timing to assess function and address problems before they appear in crop. The management of our soil resource can have large impacts on how it works for us. We will demonstrate tools that can be used to look at our soils when assessing in-field soil function. These tools can improve the ability to understand overall soil function by looking at factors such as aggregate stability, compaction and root restrictions.

Vegetable Disease. Prevention, Identification, and Management

This presentation will be made on July 29 at the small farm field day and will thus depend on what disease and disease-like symptoms may be present. Emphasis will be on comparing possible disease symptoms that may be present with symptoms that may result from fertility or injury. How to tell which symptoms are from an infectious disease will be discussed. How and when to collect samples for the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab will be reviewed. Examples of how diseases may be prevented such as sanitation and host resistance will be discussed. Finally, management procedures such as when and how to apply fungicides will be considered.

Scouting for Mites in High Tunnel Crops

Two-spotted spider mites are one of the most damaging pests in high tunnel production systems, especially for cucumber and tomato production. In this demonstration, we will discuss the biology of the pest, paths to infesting the crop and best practices for monitoring your crop and detecting the pest early. We will also discuss cultural and biological control options.

Black Soldier Fly Composting

Black Soldier Fly larvae, *Hermetia illucens*, are voracious consumers that will feed on a wide variety of resources, including plant and food waste. They have been utilized as a source of protein in feed for animals and people. What is less studied is the application of their digestate to crop production. The product is similar to vermicompost, is high in organic matter, and can lead to waste reduction and recycling on-farm and in the community. This presentation will have a BSF colony on demonstration and will discuss food stocks and digestate quality in relation to its application to vegetable production.

Open Field Eggplant, Pepper, and Tomato Production

Included in our variety demonstration are 10 sweet pepper, 5 eggplant, 5 determinate tomato, 6 tomato spotted wilt virus resistant determinate tomato, and 12 determinate slicer, beefsteak, and roma tomato varieties. The demonstration will include discussions around variety specifics and production techniques.

Caterpillar Tunnels. How Useful Are They on the Farm?

Caterpillar tunnels are not new to growers, but renewed attention is being given to them, especially now that we know what can happen when we have a broken fresh produce supply chain. These structures are ideal for beginner growers and growers with a limited budget. During the demonstration we will talk about construction, maintenance, and utilization. Pepper and eggplant varieties will be on display in two caterpillar tunnels.

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