



# Northeast Hop Alliance Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2018

## Highlight

### Northeast Hop Alliance New York Chapter receives a 2018 New York Farm Viability Grant to bring feral hops into the market place.

We recently were awarded funds to bring some of New York's treasure trove of feral hops into the market. At the 2017 December Hops Conference we identified more than 25 growers who are interested in developing new hop varieties from the genetics we have all over New York. We are now looking for cooperators who have identified feral hops that they have possession of that they believe are showing some promise of being valuable for brewing or potentially for breeding. I am the project leader and the following board and grower members are on the advisory committee. Larry Fisher, Dietrich Gehring, Chris Holden, Danna Knuth, Chad Meigs and Rick Pedersen.

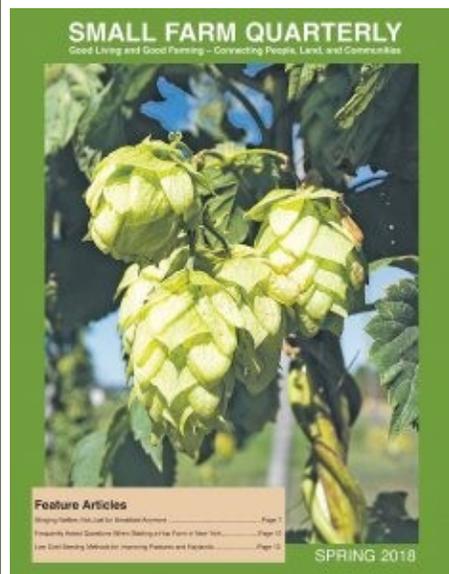
If you are interested please contact me ( hops.educator@gmail.com ) asap so we can get the project fully underway. Parts of the project have to do with educating any hop grower who is interested and those will be announced in this newsletter periodically and other aspects deal directly with actual feral hop plant material evaluation. Below you can see part of the grant application to give you more detail on what we will be doing.

The goal of this project is to provide the growing NY hop industry with varieties that offer unique brewing characteristics, while at the same time have some disease resistance and agronomic potential. The project will result with at least 6 new varieties for New York growers.

Check out page 2 for a complete list of milestones and objectives

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## Hops in the NEWS

The Spring issue of the Small Farm Quarterly featured an article by Steve Miller where he addresses some of the most frequently asked questions about starting a hopyard in New York State. The article covers everything from start up cost and return on investment to trellis design and irrigation. Even for the established grower, this article provides a solid overview of growing hops in New York state.

To learn more, or to read the article, check out this link: <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2018/04/06/frequently-asked-questions-when-starting-up-a-hop-farm-in-new-york/>

**Milestone:** The project leader will identify growers who have found feral hops that they wish to evaluate. In December 2017 as many as 28 growers expressed an interest in participating.

**Activity:** The project leader will begin an outreach to growers through a regular NeHA newsletter to members as well as on the hop Alliance website. There will also be connections made with Cooperative Extension staff around the state that might be working with hop growers be it a major or lesser amount of their time.

**Date to Achieve:** 12/30/2018

**Milestone:** Promising clones will undergo hop quality testing for Alpha, Beta acids, total oils and hop oil profiles. These are important measures that are used to set one variety apart from another for brewing characteristics. This will be done after harvest in 2018 and 2019.

**Activity:** Growers will be provided with information on when to harvest from their clones. Two samples will be taken from each clone, one early in harvest and a second later. This will help identify the peak time to harvest for this clone. They will submit samples to a lab that the project leader will identify as a cooperator. In addition several brewers will be identified to produce pilot brews of these hops to help identify the best beer style uses of each clone.

**Date to Achieve:** 10/30/2019

**Milestone:** Growers will learn how to best evaluate any feral hops they have found so that they may identify those that have the most promise. This milestone will continue throughout the project as new participants are found. Any grower may participate in this portion of the project even if they have not yet identified a candidate plant.

**Activity:** The project leader will develop education materials that will assist growers in evaluating the potential for a feral hop "variety". These will be provided to growers who have found a feral hop or have an interest in doing so. This will be done through presentations, newsletter articles and on farm visits as well as through outreach to Cooperative Extension staff.

**Date to Achieve:** 12/30/2019

**Milestone:** At least 4 feral hop candidates will begin evaluation in 2018. Follow up with these will continue throughout the project. At least 3 more clones will be added in 2019. At the time of this application several more have been identified.

**Activity:** These have already been identified at the time of this proposal. The project leader will work with the 4 growers to plant test plots on farm premises. The project leader will work with a tissue culture lab in NY that is already propagating hops, Pioneer Plant-Tech near Utica, NY. At least 100 plants of each will begin trials.

**Date to Achieve:** 12/30/2019

**Milestone:** All clones in the project will undergo virus testing to make sure they are not carriers of a virus that is harmful to growers in NY.

**Activity:** Samples will be collected by growers and submitted for lab testing. If the plant is showing good potential and grower wants to pursue propagation of the clone, they will be encouraged to run it through a process to remove the virus from a mother plant. The Pioneer Plant-Tech tissue culture lab has the ability to do so.

**Date to Achieve:** 12/30/2019

**Milestone:** Growers will learn how to trademark and name their "new" hop variety.

**Activity:** The project leader will provide work with legal professionals to develop materials on the options for trademarking their "new" hop variety. This will be done through newsletter articles and directly with those growers who have clones to develop.

**Date to Achieve:** 12/30/2019



There are certain areas of the world — notably the Pacific Northwest, Germany and New Zealand — that are known for producing the types of hops that make your mouth water and your face melt. Often, the East Coast isn't on that list.

Until now. **The East Coast Hop Project** is a first-of-it's-kind variety pack that highlights a different farm and the regionally-viable hops they produce:

- **IPA with Black Locust Hops** *Starting small and now expanding to a full-service hop harvesting facility outside of Baltimore, Che and Lisa Carton's hops have been featured in our Secret Stash Harvest Ale for many years in a row. In this beer, the citrus, pine and resin of their Cascade and Chinooks dominate, proving how well popular West Coast varieties grow on the East Coast.*
- **Pale Ale with Pleasant Valley Hops** *Dan Carroll is betting big on sustainable hop production in Maryland. His insight has shaped major academic studies in the field and proved that hop farming south of the Mason Dixon has plenty of room to grow. In this pale ale, big citrus (notably orange and grapefruit) from his Cascade and mild herb and spice from his Nugget hops play beautifully with Maryland-grown Synergy and Scala malt.*
- **Rye Pale Ale with Pedersen Farms Hops** *A scientific approach to cultivation has led Pedersen Farms to thrive in the Finger Lakes. With 18 varieties of hops on 20 acres, Rick and Laura Pedersen were the first to grow hops commercially in New York since before World War II. Their Centennial, Mt. Hood and Chinook bring floral and citrus to a spicy and malty-sweet grist.*

The East Coast Hop Project will hit shelves starting April 16 for a limited time. [Try it first in our tasting room on Friday, April 13.](#)

## Growing Hops in Maryland

In an effort to support the new and rapidly growing brewing industry in Maryland, 24 varieties of hops have been established at the University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station in Keedysville, Maryland. Although not the first hops planting on a research farm, this planting is about ½ acre and contains 24 varieties replicated three times. It is being managed intensively with regard to fertility and irrigation, as well as insect, disease and weed management using IPM principles. Current varieties in the trial are:

Planted May 2016: Alpharoma, Cascade, Centennial, Chinook, Crystal, Mt. Hood, Mt. Ranier, Nugget, Sorachi Ace, Southern Cross, Tahoma, and Ultra.

Planted April 2017: Canadian Red Vine, Galena, Glacier, Amallia, Neo 1, New Port, Multi Head, Southern Brewer, Teamaker VF, Willamette, Vojvodina, and Zeus.

The following information is being generated from what we are learning from the planting in Maryland. This will be a living document and will be updated as we continue to learn about the ins and outs of hop production in Maryland. This document is intended to be less a recipe for production but rather a menu for growers to select what works in your own operation, and ideas for solutions to challenges that limit production in our hot, humid, pest rich environment.

### Establishment of the Maryland Hop Yard

Soil/Site preparation: It is critical in our climate that you select the best site possible. This will help to reduce the negative effects of Maryland weather. The site should have well drained soil, full sun, good air circulation, avoid frost pockets, and accessibility. Soil should be tested at least one year in advance of planting to ensure time to develop a nutrient management plan, and for soil amendment to react in the soil to make the proper adjustments. Pay particular attention to pH, P, and K. Be aware of the previous crops, potential herbicide carryover and the existing weed population, i.e. perennials-these absolutely should be controlled prior to planting to help reduce weed challenges in the establishing hop yard. Sod establishment in the fall prior to the year of planting will help facilitate activities in the hop yard, prevent soil erosion and help to suppress weeds. Tall fescue should be planted between rows in spring or fall of previous year. Availability of water is needed for irrigation.

To read the rest of article, go to the beginning grower section on the Northeast Hop Alliance website

## Do you want consumers to know local hops are in the beer they drink? Of course!

Over the last year we have been working with the Department of Agriculture and Markets in New York on a LOGO program to identify beers with local ingredients. For New Yorkers it's the New York Grown and Certified program. Hop growers, maltsters and barley growers can now join this program. It is critical you do so soon so that this year's crop will be certified for brewers who will be joining later this Fall. The program has state funding for promotion to consumers so that they will recognize the logo and declare their preferences by choosing beers with local ingredients.



The New York State Grown and Certified program is a certification administered through New York State that allows growers to demonstrate to buyers that their products are grown using environmentally friendly practices and farm safe protocols. In order to use the New York Grown and Certified logo, growers must apply using the Craft Beverage Ingredient application and demonstrate that their hops are grown in New York State and that they have completed Tier 2 of the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management program. For more information about the New York Grown and Certified Program or to find the application, check out the website at <https://certified.ny.gov/get-certified>

## 2018 Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide AVAILABLE

Written by Cornell University specialists, this publication is designed to offer beginning and veteran hops producers practical information on growing and managing hops. Topics covered include site selection, nutrient management, use of cover crops, selecting varieties, and managing common hopyard pests. Also included is information on selecting, operating, and maintaining pesticide spray equipment. As an added feature, the book sports UV-resistant laminated covers and a spiral binding to add to its durability and practicality.

This Guidelines title is available in your choice of formats:

1) **Print Copies** are spiral bound for ease of use, feature laminated covers for durability, and are updated annually. They are well suited for use in the field or office.

2) **Online Access** versions can be viewed on any computer or mobile device (e.g., smart phone, tablet), contain hyperlinks to additional resources, and may be updated during the growing season. You will need to provide your own e-mail address when ordering the Online Access option; instructions for accessing the online version will be sent to your e-mail address from [PMEPMaterials@cornell.edu](mailto:PMEPMaterials@cornell.edu). (This will be separate from the purchase confirmation e-mail you will receive from The Cornell Store.) Please

allow ONE business day for processing and login information to be sent.

*NOTE: Online access for this 2018 Guidelines title will expire when the 2019 version becomes available (target date: March 2019). You can purchase online access to the 2019 version at that time.*

3) **Buy BOTH and save 30%! If you find advantages in both the printed and online versions, you can choose the **Bundle Print & Online** option, in which you will get both versions of a Guidelines title for 30% less than the cost of buying each separately. You will need to provide your own e-mail address when ordering the Bundle Print & Online option and gaining access to the online version will follow the procedure described above for the Online Access option. Please allow ONE business day for processing and login information to be sent.**

For more information, or to order a copy of the 2018 Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide, visit the Cornell Store at: <https://store.cornell.edu/p-201642-2018-cornell-integrated-hops-production-guide.aspx>



### 2018 Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide

Cornell Cooperative Extension

These guidelines are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Always read and understand the product label before using any pesticide.

## UVM Custom Built Hop Harvester for Sale

UVM has decided to sell their custom built hop harvester. The sale will be through the University of Vermont Surplus department that will be holding an **Online-Only Auction**. Bidding starts Thursday, April 26, 2018 and ends Thursday, May 10, 2018. Click on the link below for the details of this amazing hop harvester, as well as information on how the online auction works.

<https://www.auctionsinternational.com/auction/13853/item/2012-custom-designed-and-built-hops-harvester-with-trailer-84512>



- Year: 2012
- Make: Custom Designed and Built
- Body Style: Hops Harvester with Trailer
- VIN/SN: 5VGFA1825BL002140-Trailer
- Hours: 100
- Engine Make/Model: Runs off tractor power
- Fuel Type: Gas and Diesel
- Tire Condition: Fair
- 2WD/4WD: N/A
- Does the unit operate?: Unknown
- Are keys available?: Yes
- Ownership Documents: Clean Title
- Mechanical Notes: The harvester was stopped being used when one of the dribble belt shafts broke, it has sat for a couple of years, Harvester is powered by a 1000 RPM tractor PTO driven Prince hydraulic pump. It needs dribble belts (6) rebuilt and hydraulic restrictor valves should be replaced with bypass valves. All roller chains needs tighteners installed.
- Body Condition: Fair
- Body Notes: Harvester semi-mounted on a 2011 Kaufman 8000# GVWR trailer which was purchased new when the harvester was built.
- Titled: Yes

## Classifieds

**2018 Hop Rhizomes - US Hop Source LLC** has provided over 500,000 top quality hop rhizomes to Hop farmers across the country since 2010! 2018 Varieties Cascade / Chinook / Centennial / Cluster / Comet Columbus / Fuggle / Northern Brewer / Willamette. 50 piece minimum per variety. For pricing and delivery details Contact Randy Flores 970-497-0691 [randy@ushopsource.com](mailto:randy@ushopsource.com)

**Homestead Hops in Starksboro, Vermont** is looking for help in the hop yard. Willing to train someone with a genuine interest in learning and maybe managing the yard. Must be hard worker, willing to work in all kinds of conditions as this is farming. Contact: [knorrismapple@gmail.com](mailto:knorrismapple@gmail.com)

**Pioneer Hops and Smokedown Farm, the largest hopyards in Connecticut,** are looking for a farm manager. Contact: Doug Weber, Connecticut Hops, LLC, 203-952-8542 [deejaydubya@ct-hops.com](mailto:deejaydubya@ct-hops.com)

Details: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gkzoTTctk6Q7Abnqu6IMMz\\_IMGcfprPb](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gkzoTTctk6Q7Abnqu6IMMz_IMGcfprPb)

**Zerillo's Greenhouse** is selling plants again this year. Contact: [zerillogardens@gmail.com](mailto:zerillogardens@gmail.com)  
Order Form: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1HLdxZVD7Furz1rLPv6H96en4hSaKmmXp>

**Hop Yard Manager Wanted:** Seeking someone to care for and manage a 3 acre hopyard with irrigation in Cayuga County near Union Springs, NY. The yard is well established and grows Cascades, Brewers Gold and Willamette hops, producing over 1400 lbs of dried hops in 2017. Manager will keep 100% of the profits. Contact: Katie Carmichael, [katie@kjcproductions.com](mailto:katie@kjcproductions.com), 1-970-948-6681

**21 Sterling Hop plants** in half gallon pots, \$3.50 each. Contact: Rick Pedersen, 315-374-2170 [pedersenfarms@gmail.com](mailto:pedersenfarms@gmail.com)

*Interested in placing an ad in the classifieds? Contact  
the Northeast Hop Alliance at  
[northeasthopalliance@gmail.com](mailto:northeasthopalliance@gmail.com)*



## Spring Preparations Checklist

- ☐ Trellis: Check your trellis for needed repairs. It is much easier to make repairs before you string.
- ☐ Irrigation: Check your irrigation system and/or re-install any lines that were rolled up for winter storage. Test your lines, valves and pumps. Does your pond need to be cleaned out or enlarged?
- ☐ Strings: Do you have enough coir or paper twine to string your hopyard? Multiple strings per hill?
- ☐ Rhizomes or Plants: Are you expanding? Do you have plants that need to be replaced?
- ☐ Herbicides: Weed management and diseased plant eradication are critical to a healthy productive crop. Start now and keep at it.
- ☐ Fertilizer: The earlier you apply your fertilizers, the quicker they will be ready for your plants to use.
- ☐ Fungicides: Be prepared ahead of time. You can use fungicides prophylactically to minimize disease.
- ☐ Logs / Notebook: Do you have a scouting and field management notebook? Are you techie? You might want to look into using [www.FarmLogs.com](http://www.FarmLogs.com)
- ☐ Facilities: Are you set for harvesting and post-harvest processing? Do you need to be planning or building facilities now to be ready for late summer?