

'Growing In The New Millennium' Theme For 2001 Mid-Atlantic Fruit And Vegetable Convention

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Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Maryland State Horticultural Society, and the New Jersey State Horticulture Society.

This year the fruit growers will be joined by peach growers from across the nation as the National Peach Council will conduct its annual meeting at the convention.

The Great American Hall at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the Trade Show with more than 130 exhibitors. The trade show is again expected to be completely sold out.

Six or more concurrent educational sessions will be offered on all three days of the convention. The following sessions are planned for the first day: tree fruits (including light relations, varieties, postharvest handling and insect control topics), season extension technology, back to basics, labor management, promising vegetable crops, leafy greens and herbs, wholesale marketing, greenhouse vegetables, sweet corn, organic production, potatoes, and grapes.

On the second day, sessions will cover tree fruit, peaches (including plum pox virus topics), roadside marketing, irrigation, general vegetables, bedding plants/perennials, potatoes, alternative markets, small

fruit, snap beans, and computer use.

The convention will close on the third day with sessions on peaches (including varieties, handling and fertigation topics), family business management, pumpkins, melons/cukes/squash, tomatoes (processing and stake), small fruit, cut flowers, fall ornamentals, marketing, and tree fruit insect identification workshop.

Besides the opportunity to attend the sessions of the National Peach Council, growers will have the option to attend three half-day workshop sessions. On the first day Norine Larson from Minnesota will present a workshop on "Managing Teen and Senior Workers." On the last day, Dr. Cindy Iannarelli of Bridgeville will present a morning workshop on "Keeping Your Family Business Peaceful and Profitable."

An afternoon workshop on identifying and monitoring tree fruit insect pests will also be offered. There is no extra fee for the workshops. In addition, sessions on computer use will be offered on the second day of the convention.

Many pesticide applicator update training credits are available to growers attending the sessions. The program covers nearly every aspect of fruit, vegetable, potato, and berry production. Commercial growers should not pass

up this educational opportunity.

On the first evening, fruit and vegetable growers will be treated to a reception followed by the annual fruit and vegetable growers dinner. The dinner will include awards, recognitions, and entertainment by the United Voices of Praise from Messiah College. On Jan. 31, two receptions for growers will be held. The processing tomato growers with the highest yields for the 2000 season will be honored at the annual tomato awards luncheon on the closing day, Feb. 1.

For more information on the fruit program and registration, contact Maureen Irvin, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, (717) 677-4184; William Tietjen, New Jersey State Horticultural Society, (908) 475-6505; or Robert Black, Maryland State Horticultural Society, (301) 271-7491.

For more information on

the vegetable, potato or bedding plant program and registration, contact William Troxell, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, (717) 694-3596.

Persons registered for either the fruit or vegetable program can attend all the

sessions offered (fruit, vegetable, and small fruit sessions) plus the trade show. Registration either through the mail or at the door is required to attend both the trade show and educational sessions.

Popular Pumpkins May Sprout New Snack Food Ideas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pumpkins are popular. American farmers have tripled planted pumpkin acreage since 1982 to meet rising demand in what is now estimated to be a \$150 million per year industry.

Demand may grow even more, as new USDA-funded research help open new markets for hull-less pumpkin seeds.

"The rising popularity of urban pumpkin patches and fall festivals has helped spur demand for pumpkins and increase income for some farmers," said U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "Research holds the key to developing new and exciting products from this traditional symbol of fall."

The new strain of seed, developed by Dr. Brent Loy of

the University of New Hampshire, will be promoted in North America for use in puffed snack products, granola products, trail mixes, sandwich spread, and a specialized oil.

Tiny pumpkin seeds are cholesterol free and loaded with vitamins and minerals. Seeds are rich in protein and unsaturated oil and contain significant zinc, potassium, and phosphorus.

There were 10,483 farms reporting 74,354 acres of pumpkins planted, according to the 1997 Census of Agriculture released last year. That is a significant increase from the 5,191 farms reporting 25,985 acres of pumpkins planted in 1982. The top pumpkin producing states are Illinois, New York, and California.

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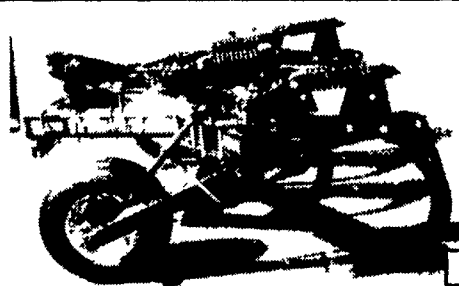


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