

Biodiversity, rodents, and adapting plants



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COMING UP THIS WEEK:

A New Biodiversity Highway
Adaptive Landscapes
Biocontrol Conference
Rodent Challenge
Salary & Benefits Survey
Report from the MT Outpost

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Whole Foods Helping Build a Wild Grid

While regenerative agriculture and plantings for biodiversity are familiar concepts in sustainable agriculture, Whole Foods and **Mad Agriculture** are packaging those ideas into a larger goal to connect strips of biodiversity on farms and build a “Wild Grid” of climate-resilient ecosystems. They announced this initiative to create a 1,000-acre biodiversity highway across U.S. Farmland, inviting other brands and food-system stakeholders to join them.



Whole Foods has pledged they will match contributions 1:1, up to \$500,000 across all Founding Members, with a goal of mobilizing \$1 million in 2025.

You can learn more about the Wild Grid idea [HERE](#).



Webinar: EcoBeneficial Landscape Strategies

Wild Ones, which “promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy and collaborative action,” is hosting a webinar on practical and evidence-based strategies for designing and maintaining native plant landscapes that respond to climate impacts like drought, flooding and biodiversity loss.



Attend and you will discover how ecological landscaping with native plants can make your landscape more resilient and help address the climate crisis. This webinar will highlight practical, evidence-based approaches to designing and maintaining landscapes that build resilience to climate change and support native biodiversity.

Environmental horticulturist and ecological landscape designer Kim Eierman will be the presenter.

It's slated for Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. Eastern/6 p.m. Central.

[Register HERE](#).



UConn's Biocontrol Conference

Looking to step up your biocontrol program? The University of Connecticut's Biological Control Conference for Ornamental Growers is always a solid choice. Commercial growers will learn how

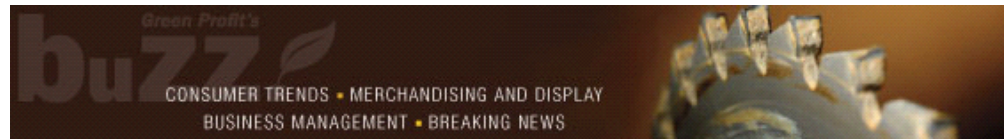
to properly implement a biocontrol program, discover the latest tools and products, and learn how to train staff to find pests and insects.

The full-day conference features speakers such as Suzanne "Buglady" Wainwright Evans; grower Chris Schlegal from D.S. Cole Growers; Dr. Michelle Jones from The Ohio State University; Dr. Michael Brownbridge from BioWorks; Doug Barrow from BioBee, Phil Gerry from Koppert and Liz Keyser from IPM Labs.

As a bonus, you can get six pesticide credits from the New England states and Pennsylvania.

It's slated for Thursday, September 28 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Learn more [HERE](#).



The Rodent Challenge

A few weeks ago in *GreenTalks*, I discussed possibly installing raised beds with mesh wire to keep rodents (voles in particular) out of my vegetables. *GreenTalks* reader Sky Hoyt of California had a few pieces of advice for me, noting that a former student had tested out this theory with half-inch galvanized hardware cloth.

In his trial, the wire failed at the five-year mark.

And thus, dear readers, comes my next question: Any advice on the best materials for a wire bottom? Surely someone has experience deterring gophers and voles long-term. [EMAIL ME](#).

It's Salary & Benefits Survey time!



Now available for you to participate in: *GrowerTalks/Green Profit* Salary & Benefits Survey (in partnership with AmericanHort, and with Industry Insights, who'll be crunching the data for us).

We are again partnering with AmericanHort on this decades-old survey to provide you with an even higher-level and more useful tool. Companies like yours that take the survey can better understand salary and benefit trends and see how their businesses compare to other survey participants. The survey includes company demographics, staffing and benefits and salary data on up to 34 different job titles across full-time, part-time and seasonal employees.

But in order for us to provide the best data to you, we need you to participate!

You don't have to be an AmericanHort member to benefit—all survey respondents will get the full report prepared by Industry Insights. And you don't have to be a certain-size operation—anyone and everyone can participate. Also, if you've taken the survey in previous years, some data will automatically be prepopulated for you, saving you time.

And, of course, key parts of the data will be published in the December issue of *GrowerTalks* (January for the retail report in *Green Profit*).

[GO HERE](#) to fill out the survey (which is confidentially collected and securely stored by Industry Insights' professional data team).

Report from the MT Outpost

The bounty of our high elevation gardens here in Montana has started to roll in.

A friend showed up for cocktails with a zucchini in hand. I picked up a neighbor's dogs for an overnight stay and found her kitchen counter covered in tomatoes and jars of pickles. This particular neighbor gave me nearly all of my tomato starts, and her selection of ripened heirlooms matched mine exactly. It's also the time of year when we share fish and venison with friends and family.

No one ever brings over a bag of tater tots or a spare jar of olives "just because I have extra." But garden harvests seem to naturally inspire a different kind of communal sharing—one we could all use a little more of in our lives.

Until next time,



Jennifer Duffield White

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