

# NYS Vegetable Research Association and Council

## Priorities for 2021

These priorities were established by processing vegetable growers, crop consultants, and field representatives from Seneca Foods, Farm Fresh First (representing Bonduelle USA), Dewey Produce (table beets), and Love Beets USA in New York. The list was reviewed and updated at the annual Processing Vegetable Commodity Advisory meetings held December 15–16, 2020 (virtual meetings).

*These priorities are ranked in order of importance by crop.*

### Beet Research Priorities

High Priority:

- **Weed Control.** In particular, pigweed, common lambsquarters, nightshades, jimsonweed, velvetleaf, ragweed, and fall panicum. Maintain current chemicals and continue evaluation of new products and adjuvants. Evaluate alternative methods of weed control such as electric discharge systems.
- **Reducing Decay in Beets.** Includes chemical and cultural controls as well as ways to assay fields to determine decay potential.
- **Maintaining Foliage Health.** Timing of fungicide sprays, fertility treatments or growth regulators to optimize beet tops for harvest. Registration of new mode of action fungicides. Organic disease control options using OMRI certified products.
- **Stand Establishment and Managing Size.** Ways to maximize small beets and minimize large beets, including methods of suppressing large beets (including plant growth regulators), varying spacing, or varieties. Better and more uniform germination.

Medium Priority:

- **New Products.** Food or non-food products, especially for utilizing larger beets.
- **Seed Quality.** Seed age, germination, and vigor.
- Reduced tillage practices.