



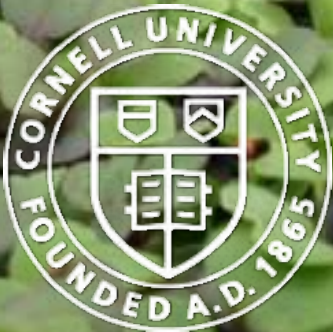
Cornell Cooperative Extension



Commercial Urban Agriculture in New York City: Opportunities and Challenges

Yolanda Gonzalez

Urban Agriculture Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Harvest NY



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Presentation Overview

- Background
- Overview of Urban Agriculture in NYC
- Case Studies
- Challenges
- Resources



Background: About me



Background: What is Extension?

➤ Cornell Cooperative Extension



Cornell Cooperative Extension

CCCE deploys 60 agricultural specialists across the state and partners with nearly 300 Cornell faculty and staff. New York City is home to the nation's largest 4-H club with over 6,300 participants.

1.5K+
STAFF AND EDUCATORS EMPLOYED

400K
CHILDREN AND YOUTH ENAGED IN 4-H PROGRAMMING

26K
RESIDENTS VOLUNTEER WITH CCC EVENTS

<https://youtu.be/-RsTtCHbG0A>

Harvest New York

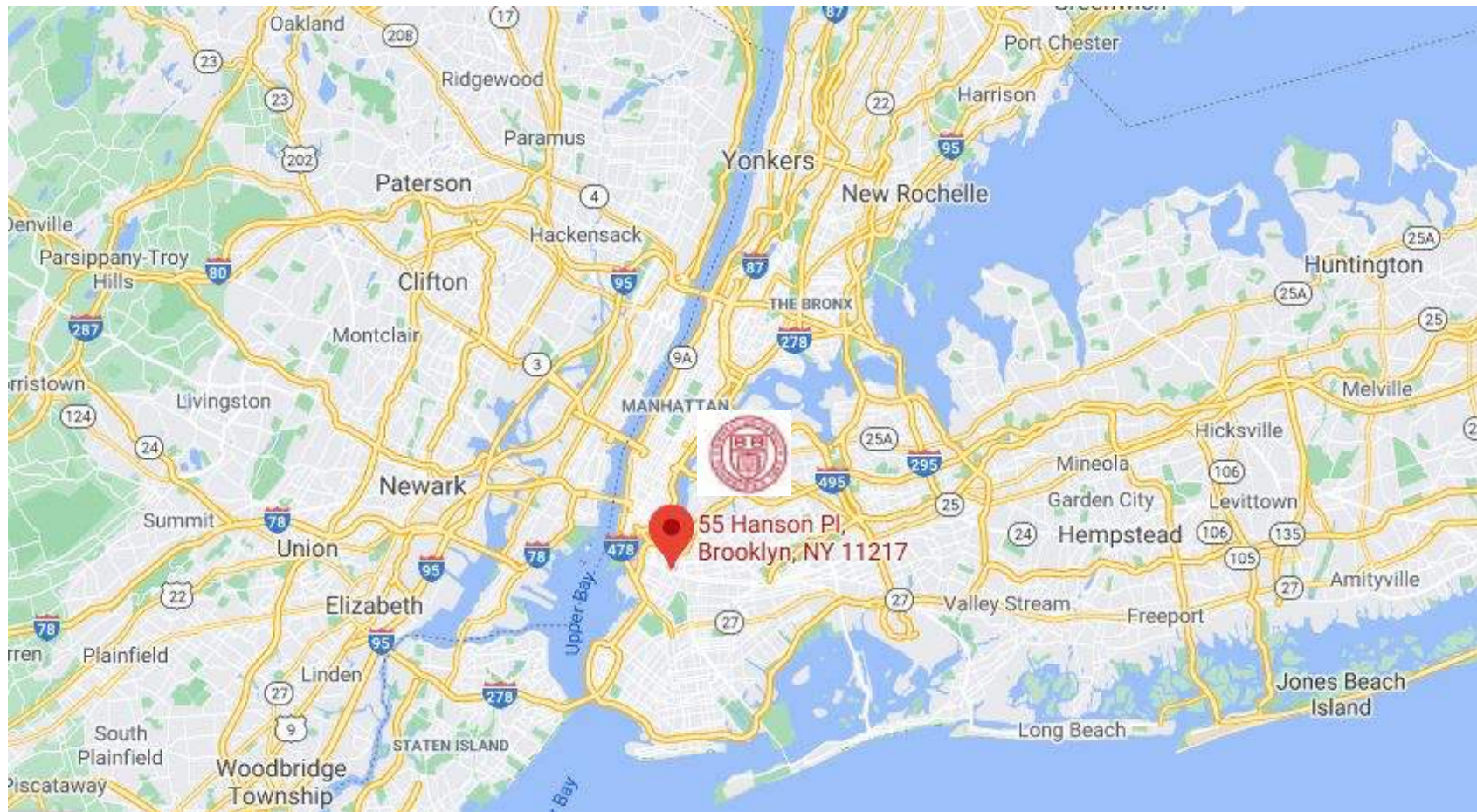
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Harvest New York



Photo: RJ Anderson

Goal: expand and enhance Cornell Cooperative Extension's regional agriculture programs to **spur agricultural economic development** in New York State

- Dairy Food Processing and Marketing
- Local Food Distribution and Marketing
- Urban Agriculture
- Farm-Based Beverages
- Livestock Processing and Marketing
- Farm Strategic Planning



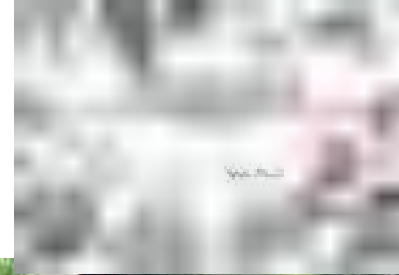
Harvest NY Urban Agriculture Specialists

- Work directly with commercial farmers to deliver educational programming
- Certifications and regulations, especially food safety
- One-on-one consultation around pest and disease issues



Our Work

- Community Mushroom Educator course
- The Urban Farmer-to-Farmer Summit (TUFFS)
- Ginger trials





NYC Urban Agriculture



NYC Urban Agriculture

Soil-based

- Outdoors, ground-level or rooftop
- Often nonprofit/mission-driven

Controlled Environment Ag (CEA)

- Hydroponic greens & herbs
- Startups, educational nonprofits



Empress Green is a 4,500-square ft urban farm located at Urby Staten Island, a 900-apartment complex

Source: <http://modernfarmer.com/2016/09/empress-green-urby-staten-island/>



Rooftop Reds introduced the world's first commercially viable urban rooftop vineyard in New York City in Spring of 2015

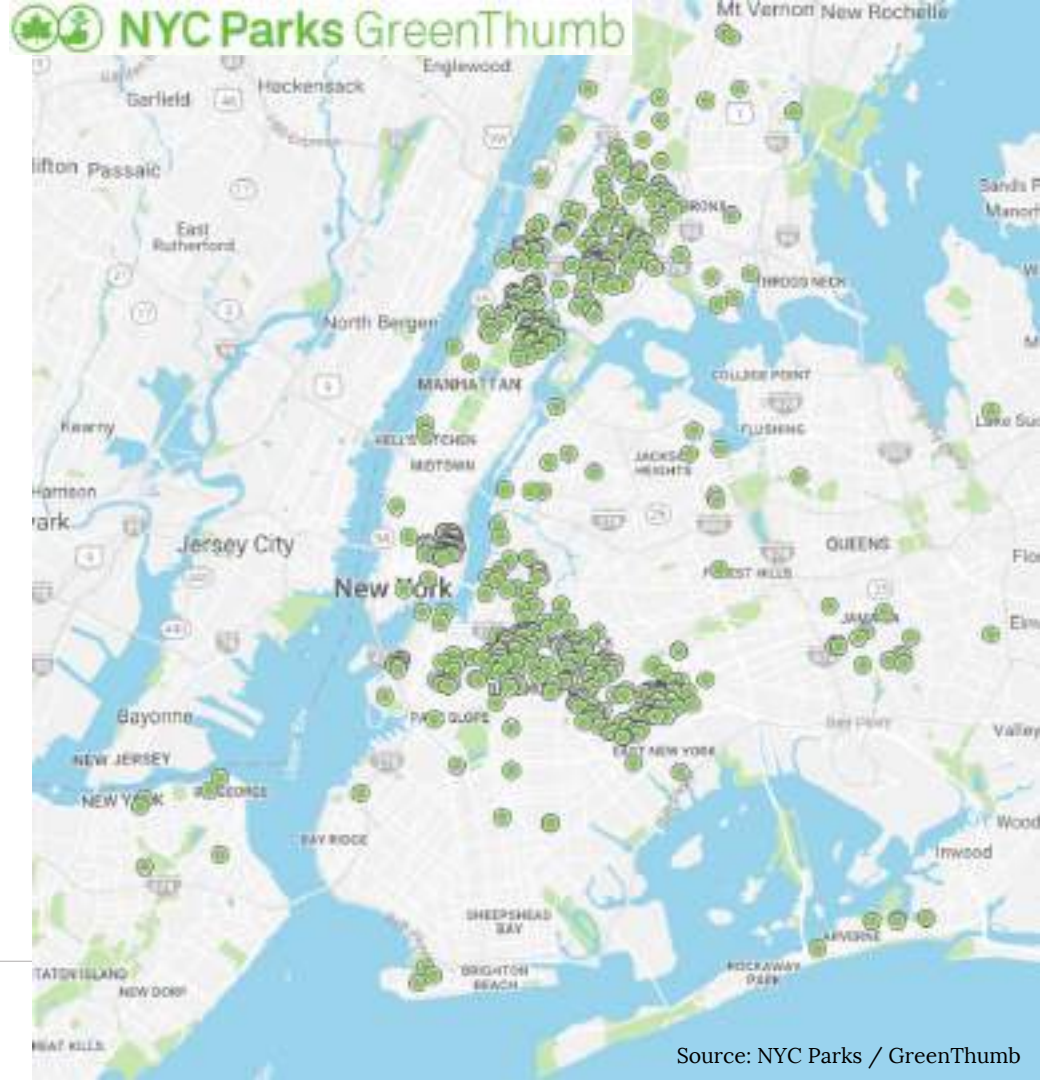
Source: <http://rooftopreds.com>



Community Gardens

Beautification | Agriculture | Recreation

- 700 + community gardens and urban farms across 5 boroughs
- NYC's garden movement has played important role in building community and connecting citizens to their food source



Case Study: La finca Del Sur Garden



Source: <https://www.moregardens.org/la-finca-del-sur-campaign>

- Founded in 2009 through a cooperative led Black and Latina farmers in the South Bronx and guidance from MoreGardens
- A movement organized by local residents to reclaim unused lot
- Approximately ¼ acre
- Farms culturally relevant crops such as **papalo**, **epazote** and **cilantro** that are enjoyed and made accessible by local community members via South Bronx Farmers Market
- **Goal(s): honor heritage, increased nutrition awareness, education, social and political advocacy for equality and food justice, economic empowerment**

NYC Urban Agriculture

Community gardens + some sales

- Micro-enterprises; produce grown in community garden plots and home gardens
- ex: East NY Farms, Bronx Hot Sauce

Source: <https://www.6sqft.com/will-the-bronx-be-the-next-branded-borough-this-hot-sauce-says-yes/>
<https://www.hellgatefarm.com/local-deliveries>



Commercial Urban Farms

“Commercial” for our purposes = growing for market (or for other distribution at a similar scale)

A catalogue of urban farms and gardens in New York City

Read more about the project on the [About](#) page. Are you running a farm/garden in the city? [Sign](#)



Case Study: Brooklyn Grange

- 4 sites (Sunset Park, Long Island City, Navy Yard, and Javits Center)
- 50,000 lbs of organically-cultivated produce per year
- National model for rooftop farming



Brooklyn Grange <https://www.brooklyngrangefarm.com/about-brooklyn-grange-1>

Case Study: Red Hook Farms

- Serves over 5,000 Red Hook NYCHA residents annually
- Summer youth farm crew and educational programming
- Produce sold within community
- 2.75 acre production and compost site and 1.1 acre education farm at Red Hook Houses West (NYCHA)



Red Hook Farms

<http://www.added-value.org/aboutus>

Photo credit: Oko Farms



Yemi Amu

Case Study: Oko Farms

- 8000 sq ft aquaponic farm, focus on West African vegetables, herbs, and freshwater fish
- [Video](#) topic: *pest management in aquaponic systems*



Photo credit: Vogue.com

Photo credit: Oko Farms

Case Study: New Roots

- Immigrant & refugee farmers in South Bronx
- Workshops and financial literacy classes
- Produce sold at farm stand, community food box site (connects w/ upstate farmers)



New Roots / IRC

<https://www.rescue.org/announcement/new-roots-community-farm-full-bloom>

Yolanda Gonzalez/ European Forum on Urban Agriculture / April 20, 2023

Food sovereignty and resilience

- Community/Solidarity Fridges
 - Combat food waste
 - Ex. Mott haven community fridge, Chelsea Fridge
- Bronx Community Farm Hubs
 - 18 farms, payment is sliding scale

<https://www.nybg.org/planttalk/get-to-know-our-bronx-community-farm-hubs/>
<https://www.motthavenfridge.com/>



The Future of Urban Agriculture in NYC: Green Infrastructure



Source: <https://www.dattner.com/projects/view/via-verde-the-green-way/>

- Low-income housing unit build on former brownfield in South Bronx
- Community engagement through gardening and interactive green spaces
- Green Roof: Reducing “urban heat island” effect



Indoor Farming



Incubator projects such as Square Roots, located at the former Pfizer factory feature an urban farming campus of hydroponic, climate controlled container farms.



Farm One, unique indoor farm in Manhattan growing rare herbs and greens, year-round is an example of vertical farming.

Urban Agriculture Policy Landscape



NYC Urban Agriculture website

Source: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/agriculture/index.page>



New York State Study of Urban Agriculture

Source: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-agriculture-department-announces-statewide-study-urban-agriculture>



The New Agrarian Economy

Source: <https://twitter.com/bkborohall/status/1363536176217542659>

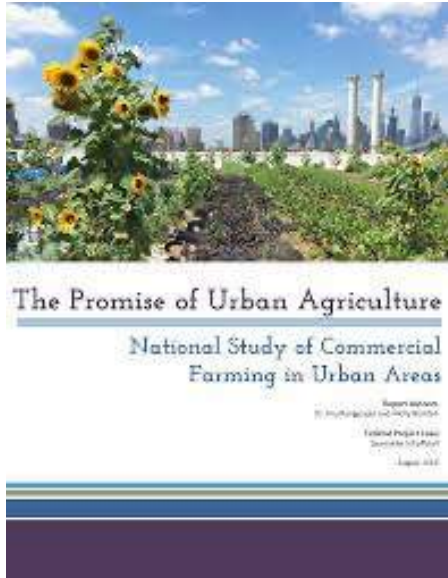
Challenges for NYC Farmers

- Space
- Funds
- Knowledge



Randall's Island Urban Farm

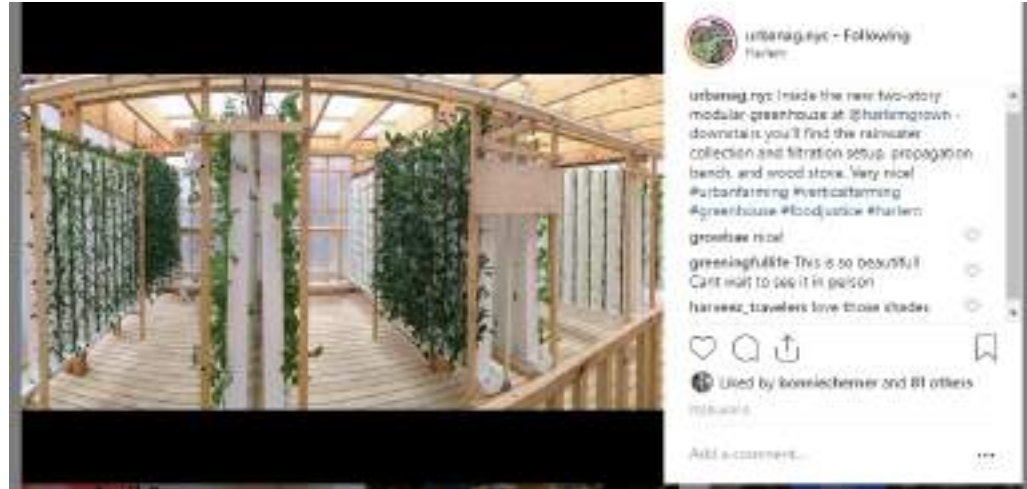
Urban Farmer Online Curriculum

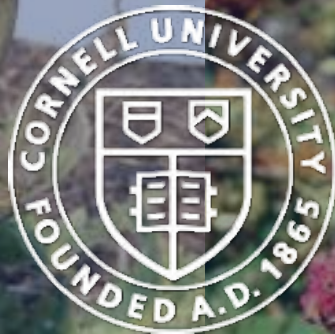


- **Module 1:** Location- Siting Commercial Farms in Urban Spaces (6 weeks)
- **Module 2:** Business Structuring for a Commercial Urban Farm (How to Be Both a Commercial Urban Farm and a Social Enterprise) (6 weeks total)
- **Module 3:** Business Strategies for Commercial Urban Agriculture (6 weeks total)
- **Modules 4 & 5 :** CUA by Community Nonprofit Organizations (8 weeks total)

Ways to stay in touch

- **Market Growers Update**
Sign up on our website
- **Instagram- @urbanag.nyc**
- **Harvest NY website-**
<https://harvestny.cce.cornell.edu/>





Instagram: @urbanag.nyc
yg88@cornell.edu