



Vineland's e-Newsletter – Fall 2019

New partnerships will advance automation in Canada's agriculture

The Canadian government announced July 22, 2019 an investment of up to \$49.5 million in the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN). The two main leaders for this project, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (Vineland) and Alberta Innovates, will start a collaboration with eight partners in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia to focus on: smart farms; automation and robotics; data integration and analytics; and sustainability, traceability and producer premiums.

CAAIN is a network of private sector, academia and research institutions to help improve the competitiveness of Canada's agricultural industry through advanced automated and digitized solutions.

For more information read the media release [here](#), visit the [CAAIN website](#) or contact:

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Ontario Trillium Foundation's support leads to new control tool against invasive plants

Thanks to a seed grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Vineland has discovered a new approach to control and eradicate invasive plants and weeds. Vineland's innovative solution utilizes the unique natural chemistry of invasive plants as a source of new sustainable control tool.

"This exciting discovery shows the value that Vineland Research and Innovation Centre brings to Ontario," said Sam Oosterhoff, MPP for Niagara West. "I am proud to see how the centre collaborates with industry and community to bring forward solutions to real-world problems, while providing value for money to taxpayers. Niagara West is honoured to have this type of forward-looking research taking place in our community."

"Using *Vincetoxicum rossicum*, commonly known as Dog Strangling Vine as a model system, our team assessed whether natural plant chemistry can control invasive species threatening our natural and agricultural spaces," said Darby McGrath, PhD, Vineland's Research Scientist, Nursery & Landscape.

Vineland collaborated with Curator Jon Peter and the Invasive Plant Committee at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) to explore some of their sites invaded by Dog-Strangling Vine and understand how these invasive plants affect soils and plant communities.

"Royal Botanical Gardens is excited to have assisted Dr. McGrath and Dr. David Liscombe and their teams at Vineland on this important research. Understanding and controlling invasive species is a high priority for us. Dog Strangling Vine in particular is a serious threat to natural habitats in our area," said David A. Galbraith, PhD, RBG's Head of Science.

Click [here](#) to view the report on results from this project that will help combat invasive species and provide new effective tools for municipalities and landowners to reclaim natural areas.



MPP Sam Oosterhoff (centre) and Vineland staff (L-R): Charlene Williams, Christine Kempthorne, Dr. David Liscombe, Jason Henry, Ryan Munroe and Kevin Hooton (missing from photo Dr. Darby McGrath)

Government of Canada invests over \$475,000 in tender fruits and fresh grape research



In late August, the Government of Canada announced an investment of up to \$476,908 for the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers and Fresh Grape Growers.

The funding will support research projects on developing new tender fruit (apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums and pears) and fresh grape varieties better-adapted to our growing season to improve the competitiveness of the industry.

“This collaboration is a long-term commitment from growers, researchers at University of Guelph and Vineland Research and Innovation Centre to bring new varieties of locally grown fruit to consumers across Canada. These

partnerships have resulted in new growth opportunities that not only provide benefit for family farms, but also all of our partners, including marketers, retailers and nurseries. We extend our appreciation to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for this funding.”

- Phil Tregunno, Chair, Ontario Tender Fruit Growers

Growing in RootSmart

Developed through a partnership between Vineland and A.M.A. Horticulture Inc., RootSmart™ – a research-based solution to root girdling – was introduced in early 2018.

Vineland has launched a guide to help growers incorporate the RootSmart system into their production practices for tree propagation.

The guide touches on various aspects of production including:

- Selection of proper growing media and tips on watering, handling and timing of the production cycle
- Instructions on transitioning to containers (shelf-life of shifting liners, root correction and container selection)
- Directions on transitioning to the field (soil preparation, weed management, irrigation and seasonal planting considerations)



RootSmart propagation system.

RootSmart is a wall-less, bottomless propagation system promoting ideal root structure during the early stages of container plant production. The system helps growers increase their profitability by producing healthier trees.

The guide is available to download [here](#).

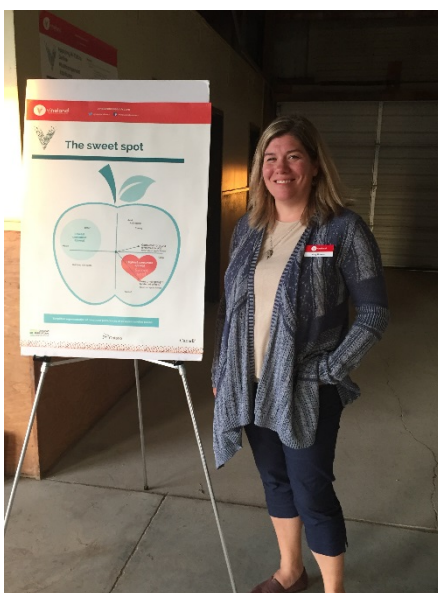
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What's Growin' On Research Farm Open House 2019

Vineland's once-a-year open house provided guests with the latest research on our apple breeding program.

Stay up-to-date on Vineland's news and events by joining our mailing list at vinelandresearch.com

For more information on events, please contact:
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Thanks to our open house speakers Kelly Ciceran, General Manager at the Ontario Apple Growers (left) and Vineland researcher Amy Bowen (middle).

In the News

Vineland works to make public the latest news on our horticultural research and innovation via print, broadcast and online media.

Here are some stories you might enjoy:

- National Post – [Bringing world flavours and foods home to Canada](#)
- CBC – [It's taken almost a decade. But this man thinks he's perfected Ontario tomatoes](#)
- Greenhouse Canada – [Young and diverse: The next wave of plant consumers](#)
- FreshFruitPortal – [Vineland's new seedless grapes to hit market in 2020 as fruit breeding programs grow](#)
- Financial Post – [Niagara region, a leader in agri-business innovation](#)
- Niagara This Week – [Tomato lovers rejoice: new greenhouse varieties coming to Canada](#)



You can visit vinelandresearch.com/news for more stories.