C O N N E C T I C U T W E E K L Y

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
M. Jodi Rell, Governor
F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner
Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director

CONNECTICUT GROWN

Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503
Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor
Wednesday, August 26, 2009

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

2009 OUTBREAK OF LATE BLIGHT OF TOMATO AND POTATO IN CONNECTICUT

Dr. Sharon M. Douglas
Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

An unusually early and widespread outbreak of late blight of tomato and potato occurred throughout Connecticut and the Northeast this year. The disease was first detected in mid-June and is now found throughout the state in backyard tomatoes and potatoes and in commercial fields and greenhouses following conventional and organic practices. If left unchecked, late blight can destroy tomato and potato crops. Many are probably familiar with this devastating disease for its association with the Irish potato famine of the 1840's. Late blight rapidly kills plants under favorable environmental conditions such as cool, cloudy, windy, wet weather—conditions that characterized May, June, and July 2009. This year's late blight outbreak has kept The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Plant Disease Information Office very busy assisting homeowners and growers with disease diagnosis and management.

This year's late blight outbreak is unprecedented for a number of reasons. It occurred unusually early in the growing season and was initiated by widespread distribution and sale of infected tomato transplants by "big box" and chain stores throughout Connecticut and the Northeast. Once the infected transplants were set in the ground, they were continually exposed to favorable weather for disease development and spread--a recipe for a significant disease outbreak.

Late blight is caused by the oomycete or fungus-like organism Phytophthora infestans. This pathogen is appropriately named and is derived from the Greek words "phyto" meaning plant and "phthora" meaning destroyer, thus "plant destroyer." There are several strains of Phytophthora infestans in the U.S., some of which are specialized on potatoes, some on tomatoes, and some are equally pathogenic on both hosts.

The host range for P. infestans includes plants in the Solanaceae family, primarily tomato and potato, although infections of eggplant and pepper have been reported. P. infestans has also been found to infect hairy nightshade (Solanum sarachioides) and bittersweet (S. dulcamara), as well as ornamental hybrid petunia. Because of the widespread outbreak of late blight this season, all tomato and potato plants are considered to be at risk.

Disease development is favored by cool, moist weather. Night temperatures in the 50's and day temperatures in the 70's accompanied by rain, fog, or heavy dew are optimum for infection. Under these conditions, symptoms may appear on plant tissues 3-5 days after infection. Once symptoms develop, the pathogen grows and sporulates on the surface of infected tissues. Phytophthora infestans produces fruiting structures called sporangia that are visible to the naked eye as white, fuzzy growth. Up to 100,000 to 300,000 sporangia per day can be produced in an individual lesion, and each sporangium is then capable of initiating a new infection. Sporangia are easily dislodged and spread by irrigation, rain, wind, human activities, and equipment. They can travel several miles or more. When sporangia land on susceptible tissue, they initiate new infections and another cycle of late blight. Because this pathogen has a high reproductive potential, epidemics can be rapid and devastating. Phytophthora infestans does not survive in the soil or in plant debris. However, it can survive in infected potato tubers left in the field or placed in cull or compost piles. Phytophthora infestans is not seedborne in tomato.

Although sporadic outbreaks occur from year to year in Connecticut, they appear late in the season and are usually attributed to wind-blown spores of the pathogen that are introduced into the state. Since these introductions occur late in the season, crop losses are usually limited.

The late blight pathogen can attack all aboveground parts of tomatoes and potatoes, as well as potato tubers. Symptoms on stems and leaves of tomato and potato are very similar. They appear as blotches on leaves and stems. On leaflets and leaves, late blight lesions vary in size from ½ to ¾ inch or larger. Lesions are water-soaked, olive brown, and sometimes have yellow margins. When many lesions develop, they coalesce into large, brown areas. These infected tissues dry out and shrivel. Stem lesions are dark brown, dry, and superficial. They start as small spots that expand to several inches. After rainfall or heavy dew, white growth of the pathogen is visible in stem lesions or on the top or bottom surfaces of infected leaves. When these lesions dry out, the white growth disappears and lesions develop a lime-green or ash-gray color. Symptoms develop rapidly when weather is favorable for infection and spread, so plants can be killed in several days.

Late blight infections on tomato fruit can develop on any part of the fruit. They appear as dark brown, sunken lesions. These lesions rapidly expand, and eventually cover the entire tomato fruit. This can be followed by secondary soft rot and rapid disintegration of the fruit. White, fluffy growth of the pathogen can develop on infected fruit during periods of high humidity or moisture.

Potato tubers are infected in the field when sporangia are washed from the foliage to the soil. Infections generally begin in cracks, eyes, or lenticels of the tubers. Fruiting structures of P. infestans may occur on surfaces of infected tubers in storage or in cull piles. Infected tubers are usually invaded by soft rot bacteria, which rapidly convert adjoining healthy potatoes into odoriferous, rotten masses that must be discarded.

LATE BLIGHT CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.

August 24, 2009

Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen

EXTRA LARGE	86-91
LARGE	85-89
MEDIUM	59-61

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, August 24, 2009

Live animals brought the following average prices per cwt.:

Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	15.00	17.00
61-75 lbs.	18.00	20.00
76-90 lbs.	22.00	24.00
91-105 lbs.	25.00	29.00
106 lbs. & up	31.00	36.00
Farm Calves	37.50	57.50
Started Calves	18.00	24.00
Veal Calves	60.00	92.50
Open Heifers	60.00	70.00
Beef Heifers	47.00	49.00
Feeder Steers	58.00	82.50
Beef Steers	44.00	46.50
Stock Bulls	72.50	86.00
Beef Bulls	50.00	55.00
Replacement Cows	1 @	660.00
Feeder Pigs each	47.50	50.00
Sheep each	27.50	57.50
Lambs each	50.00	140.00
Goats each	50.00	150.00
Kid Goats each	37.50	42.50
Canners	Up to	44.50
Cutters	45.00	49.00
Utility Grade Cows	48.00	51.50
Rabbits each	4.00	24.00
Chickens each	3.00	13.00
Ducks each	6.00	22.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction. The Auction will be held on Labor Day, Monday, September 7 as usual.

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

MONDAY, August 24, 2009

	Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
SLAUGHTER COWS:			
Breakers	75-80% lean		
	45.00-49.00	50.00-52.25	41.75-44.75
Boners	80-85% lean		
	44.50-47.00	47.50-49.50	43.00-44.25
Lean	85-90% lean		
	39.50-44.50	45.50-48.00	34.50-39.50

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

970-1625 lbs	62.00-65.00
1830-2370 lbs	55.50-59.50

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn

Choice and Prime 2-3

50-60 lbs	142.00-158.00
60-70 lbs	140.00-156.00
70-80 lbs	136.00-152.00
80-90 lbs	132.00-148.00
90-110 lbs	126.00-138.00
110-130 lbs	120.00-136.00

Slaughter Ewes: Good 1-2

120-160 lbs	44.00-65.00
160-200 lbs	40.00-58.00
200-300 lbs	20.00-36.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5lb	11.00	11.00
APPLES, Ginger Gold Fcy 2-1/2 up bu	20.00	24.00
APPLES, Paula Red ex fcy 96ct	24.00	25.00
BEANS, green bu CT	14.00	16.00
BEANS, Wax Yellow Crate	18.00	20.00
BLUEBERRIES, clamshell-12/1pt	23.00	25.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct	10.00	10.00
BROCCOLI, Cut Crown 20lbs	10.00	11.00
CABBAGE, green 50lb med CT	9.00	10.00
CANTALOUPS, bin 24" – price each	1.00	1.40
CANTALOUPS, Athena 6ct	10.00	10.00
CORN, 5dz	12.00	14.00
CUCUMBERS, 1-1/9bu super sel CT	14.00	16.00
CUCUMBERS, Pickles 1/2bu	10.00	12.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9bu med CT	10.00	12.00
GREENS, Swiss Chard organic crate	33.00	33.00
LETTUCE, Green Leaf 24ct organic	28.00	28.00
LETTUCE, Romaine 24ct organic	28.00	28.00
NECTARINES, 1/2 bu 2-1/2 up	18.00	26.00
PEACHES, White 1/2bu 2-1/2 up	16.00	20.00
PEACHES, Yellow 2-1/2" ½ bu	12.00	16.00
PEARS, Clapp 4/5 bu	22.00	24.00
PEPPERS, Cubanelles 1-1/9bu lge CT	14.00	18.00
PEPPERS, Green Bell exlge 1-1/9bu	10.00	11.00
PEPPERS, Long Hot bu	12.00	12.00
POTATOES, Sz A 50lb	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, Acorn 1-1/9 bu lge	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, Butternut 1-1/9 bu	11.00	12.00
SQUASH, Green ½ bu sm-med CT	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, Yellow ½ bu sm-med	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, Spaghetti 1-1/9 lge	13.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 25lb med	12.00	12.00
TOMATOES, Field 20lb lge	16.00	18.00
TOMATOES, Plum 20lb field	12.00	12.00
TOMATOES, Cherry 12-1pt CT 10lb med	12.00	12.00
WATERMELON, Sugarbaby lge price each	2.25	2.50
WATERMELON, Seedless 20lb price each	3.50	4.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1 sold by the head, estimated weights.

Kids: 40-50 lbs 48.00-56.00
50-60 lbs 52.00-64.00
60-70 lbs 67.00-82.00
70-80 lbs 78.00-90.00
80-90 lbs 82.00-100.00
90-100 lbs 90.00-108.00
100-110 lbs 102.00-118.00
110-120 lbs 106.00-118.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs 60.00-76.00
130-180 lbs 72.00-85.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs 120.00-135.00
150-250 lbs 140.00-162.00

NEW HOLLAND,PA HOG AUCTION

FOR Mon August 24, 2009

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	34.50-37.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	30.00-32.50
	270-300 lbs	28.50-32.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	22.50-24.50
	500-700 lbs	31.25-32.00
Boars:	300-700 lbs	4.50-7.00

METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A. NEW YORK PRICES WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen, Grade A eggs on:

August 24, 2009

EXTRA LARGE	94-98
LARGE	92-96
MEDIUM	66-70

Above quotations based on CARTON sales to retailers.

NEW BEDFORD WHALING CITY SEAFOOD DISPLAY AUCTION

SEA SCALLOPS LANDINGS & PRICES IN 1,000 LBS DATE 8/24/09 - PRICES INCLUDE DEALERS FEES

SPECIES SEA SCALLOPS	LBS	MIN	HIGH
U/10 CHANNEL	6.0	945	1000
10/20	22.9	635	970
20/30	12.2	645	670
U/10 GEORGES	20.7	910	970
1020	32.7	640	675
20/30	27.4	630	650
U/10 ELEPHANT TRUNK	0.0	815	815
10/20	15.4	615	635
20/30	3.2	620	620

NEW BEDFORD WHALING CITY SEAFOOD DISPLAY AUCTION 8/24/09

FISH LANDINGS & PRICES IN 1,000 LBS & $/CWT - PRICES INCLUDES DEALERS FEES 1/ 0 MEANS LESS THAN 100 POUND

SPECIES	LBS	MIN	HIGH
COD LGE	0.1	202	202
MKT	0.8	226	231
SCRD	0.2	194	194
MIXED	0.1	22	22
GILLNET LGE COD 1/	0.0	137	137
MKT	0.6	112	112
SCRD	0.0	37	37
HADDOCK	2.7	154	160
HADDOCK SCRD	7.3	112	136
STRIPED BASS	0.6	347	347
POLLOCK	0.0	62	62
MEDIUM	0.5	87	87
SCRD	0.8	84	84
MIXED	0.0	37	37
WOLF	0.1	73	73
CUSK	0.0	22	22
HAKE LGE	0.1	117	117
MED	0.1	22	90
SML	0.0	22	22
MIXED	0.0	17	17
MED DRESSED BLUEFISH	0.2	22	22
OCN PRCH	0.8	79	90
YELLOWTAIL LGE	1.0	140	149
SM	0.1	82	134
DABS LGE	0.1	128	128

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com.. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com., Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

3-R. CT Grown Mesh Bags - The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has CT Grown Mesh Bags for sale. These bags are super strong and exceptionally attractive. The dimensions are 16" l x 5" w x 12" h. They are being sold by the case (40 per case) for $156.16. For more information or to order, please call (860)713-2503.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence (860) 491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm (860) 376-2227.

76-R. Rough Sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing. 203-788-2430.

99-R. Battery powered price computing scales with state compliance, battery powered cash registers, livestock truck scales. 1-800-403-5919.

116-R. Hay for sale – off meadow in Lebanon. Round bales $45. For more information call 860-886-0716.

135-R. Tobacco hook-lath. Large quantity. Reasonable. 860-982-7056.

136-R. Hay: 1st cutting hay for sale, $4.50 per bale. Mulch hay $2.50 per bale. Phone: 860-642-6856.

138-R. Hay 4x4 round bales and small square bales. Call 203-484-0664 for more information.

140-R. Lambs, 4 mos - $125. Hay round bales 4x5, $50. p.u., Standard donkey, Jennie, chocolate brown, 1 yr. old, $600. Guinea hen keets $4., Jersey cow, 3 yrs. old, good milker - $900. 860-537-1974.

148-R. 1941 Farmall H, refurbished, runs good, new rubber - $2,500. Call 203-206-1344 or after 6:00 pm call 860-274-8159.

149-R. Round bales 40"x54" approximately 600 lbs. Real nice mix of Timothy and Orchard grass. Call Steve 860-729-6408 in East Windsor.

152-R. Corn silage for sale – 100-200 tons. North Branford. Call Bob Page 203-484-0664.

155-R. Registered polled Hereford bred cow-calf combinations, feeder steers and heifers, 3 year old registered Hereford bull with low birth weight and high intramuscular fat. Grand View Farm 860-485-5720. lucaslesslie40@hotmail.com.

156. Hay for sale – 1st and 2nd cutting. Timothy-clover mix. Call 860-423-9358 for information.

157. Items for Sale: JD 7-ft harrow, tow behind $75. Kohler engine 16hp $125. Farmall C/SC axle clamps $35/pr. Farmall Cub Zenith carb fits SN 248125 and up $65. Cub bar mower $300. Call 860-828-6460.

158. Herefords – Two bred cows due April, 2010. $700 each; and gentle purebred Hereford bull – 9 years $700. 860-487-7739. Frank.

WANTED

18-R. Farm Land Rental Figures Needed - If you are a landowner renting farmland to a farmer or are a farmer renting land from a landowner your assistance is urgently needed. In the next month, you will be receiving a Land Use Value Survey questionnaire in the mail from the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

The Connecticut General Statutes requires the CT Department of Agriculture to compile revised recommended farmland use assessment values every five years for the PA 490 Land Use Assessment Program. The PA 490 program allows farm, forest and open space lands to be assessed at their current use value rather than fair market or potential highest and best use value. In order to compile these values, a large sampling of land rental data on land that is being rented by farmers and used for production agriculture needs to be collected and analyzed.

This is where you, the farmer comes in. It is imperative that these surveys are completed accurately and returned to Connecticut Farm Bureau as soon as possible. This rental data will be compiled and used to help calculate recommended farmland use values for PA 490 assessment purposes for the next five years.

If you have any questions please contact Joan Nichols at Connecticut Farm Bureau at 860 768-1105 or Ron Olsen at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture at 860 713-2550. Your cooperation is critical to the success of the survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it today! If you do not receive a survey and need one, please contact Ron or Joan.

154-R. Ford Tractor Wanted – 1953 NAA and up or 600 or 700 Series. Please call Bill at 860-653-0491.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has established the Farm Link Program. It is a matchmaking service to help new farmers find farm land owners (for rent or for sale) and to aid in the process of land rental and/or farm transfer to the next generation of farmers. A website will be developed to aid linking farm seekers and farm owners. Persons interested in the process can receive applications now available at www.farmlink.uconn.edu or calling the CT Dept. of Agriculture at (860) 713-2503. The Department is encouraging all next generation farmers and transitioning family farms in Connecticut to participate. For further information, please contact Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588.

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

8-R. Horse properties, Farms and Land. Ralph's the man specializing in all types of Real Estate. With a lifetime of agricultural and business experience he is the best choice to represent both buyers and sellers and make your dreams come true. Call Ralph Winn with Century 21 Alaimo & Corrado at (860) 648-6902 or www.winwithWINN.com.

HELPING FARMERS COPE WITH STRESS

Farming can be stressful in the best of times. Financial worries, unpredictable weather, plant pests, livestock diseases, and isolation all contribute to farmers' anxiety. University of Maine Cooperative Extension recommends the following resources to help farmers and their families who are under stress.

Recognizing Farmer Stress, Anger, Depression, and Suicide: Thinking and Knowing What to Do Next

A webinar with Dr. Robert Fetsch, Extension Specialist and Professor of Human Development with Colorado State University

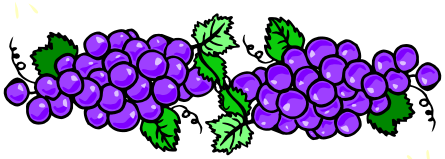
Presented by UMaine Extension
Thursday, September 3, 2009
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

All agricultural service providers and farmers are invited to participate. There is no cost and all handouts will be available for free online. Five minutes before the webinar's start time, go to http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/farmers_under_stress/. You will be presented with a login screen that has an "Enter as Guest" option. Choose this option if you wish to remain anonymous, or use your name, then click the "Enter Room" button to join the conference.

LATE BLIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Symptoms of late blight can be confused with other tomato diseases such as Septoria leaf spot and early blight. These look-alike diseases are more common in Connecticut than late blight, and also develop during wet weather.

Management of late blight requires aggressive measures that include combined use of culture, scouting, sanitation, and fungicide sprays. Detailed information about identifying and managing late blight in Connecticut is available by contacting The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station or by accessing the fact sheet and color image gallery posted on this website: www.ct.gov/caes.



RESEARCH PROBES DAY LENGTH SENSING IN GRAPES

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are a step closer to improving the hardiness of grape varieties that can be damaged and destroyed by fall frosts and cold winters in North American vineyards.

Grapes, like many other woody plants, stop growing and drop their leaves in the fall, entering a dormant phase that allows them to prepare for and survive the winter. Understanding the timing of this seasonal growth cessation in grapes is a key objective for scientists. If they can find genes that control it, they can help breeders develop more marketable cold-tolerant grapes.

The wild grape species Vitis riparia is unusual among wild grapes because it stops growing when the day length drops below 13 hours, which occurs in late August in upstate New York, according to Amanda Garris, a geneticist at the ARS Grape Genetics Research Unit in Geneva, N.Y. Most other grape species are not sensitive to day length.

Garris, ARS molecular biologist Christopher Owens, James Luby of the University of Minnesota, and Anne Fennel of South Dakota State University want to identify genes for day length sensitivity in V. riparia.

The researchers crossed V. riparia with Seyval, a hybrid grape insensitive to day length. They raised some of the offspring in fields, with natural fluctuations of day length, rainfall and temperature. Others they raised in greenhouses where water and temperature levels remained constant, but artificial "day" lengths were gradually reduced to mimic conditions outside.

They evaluated growth cessation patterns and mapped differences found in 120 DNA markers and six genes. They discovered that in greenhouse-grown grapevines, a region of chromosome 13 is responsible for day-length-induced growth cessation. But in the field, the interaction of multiple cues such as day length, rainfall and temperature fluctuations is more likely to explain the timing of growth cessation.

The study, considered a preliminary step toward identification of genes for day length sensitivity and growth cessation, was recently published in the Journal of the American Society of Horticultural Science.

ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

TASTE! ORGANIC CONNECTICUT

Celebrate the harvest at the ninth annual Taste! Organic Connecticut, sponsored by CT NOFA to be held Sunday, September 20, 2009 at Manchester Community College from 10 am to 4 pm. Experience the only LOCAL & ORGANIC festival in Connecticut offering a farmer's market, fresh prepared food, live music, sustainable vendors, artisans, free workshops and free kids' activities!

Live Music By: The Alternate Routes, Cosmic Jibaros, Echo Uganda and C Minus

Free Workshops: Healthy Cooking Demonstrations, Community Gardening, Composting, Organic Beer Making and more!

Free for Kids: A performance of 'Circus for a Fragile Planet' by Art Farm, butter dancing, games and more!

Standard Admission: $10. FREE Admission for kids under 12 and seniors over 80.

Discounts available with pre-registration and for members at: ctnofa.org

CT NOFA has been promoting local, organic agriculture through education and advocacy since 1982. CT NOFA, the non-profit Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut, is a growing community of farmers, gardeners, land care professionals, businesses and consumers that encourages a healthy relationship to the natural world.

Sponsored by: STONYFIELD FARM, MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Whole Foods, CT Farmland Trust and Patagonia

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Advertising Rates: Fifteen words or less $3.75 per insertion. For ads of more than 15 words, 25 cents per word per insertion. Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers and addresses, etc., are counted separately. **Print or type copy**. Publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Advertisements will be published on a first-come-first serve basis. Ads must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion. **Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted.** Remittance with copy required. Make checks or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and mail to: Marketing - Ag Report Classifieds, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

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