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<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>

(Burlington) Takeaways from 2010 growing season: 1. Saturated media extract soil tests really helped our hoophouse tomato crops. (Obviously, sun and temperature were also a factor.) 2. Rotation distance matters. Having a field separated by 1/2 mile and vegetative barriers proved to be the difference in managing Swede midge. After losing 60%+ of our 2009 fall broccoli to Swede midge damage, we had a great fall crop in 2010. (Until we lost the final 25% to flooding.) 3. Zone tillage could provide good weed control in our winter squash if we have an excellent, thick, stand of winter rye. (We had a good yield this year, but lots of weed biomass in both the rolled-rye (better) and the flail chopped rye (worse), despite much extra hand hoeing. 4. Stale seedbeds are great, and I am less anxious about ruining our soil from repeated trips over the beds, now that we have more acreage in rotation. 5. CSA is great when disaster strikes (at the right time). Since we'd been paid months before, the pain of losing most of our fall Brassicas was much less. And since the flood came late in a good summer CSA season, members still did well and the farm did too.

(Plainfield) Happy to be getting done. Not my best season, not my worst. Still waiting on my rutabagas to size up. Great daikon. Yields of winter squash and carrots

(Argyle NY) Prior to the rains last week (1.3"), we got 1/2 acre of potatoes harvested and planted most of the garlic. We still have some potatoes, all the carrots, and other root crops to put in the root cellar over the next 2 to 4 weeks. On some of the land where crops are just coming off, we are spreading rye straw (with seed in it) about 2 to 3" thick with a newly acquired Tomahawk round bale shredder. We did this years ago in the fall and had good results in increasing organic matter and holding the soil for the winter, plus allows us to have some early ground to work in the spring if needed. After 2 more weeks, we drop to just 2 markets per week (both on Saturdays) and they will operate all winter. Our 2 high tunnels are each half planted with winter greens, with transplanting of kale, Swiss chard, Asian Greens, and spinach happening over the next 2 weeks to fill them. It's hard to pull out all the tomatoes when they are still producing! The last of the sweet potatoes came out today from the one tunnel, so it will be re-worked and planted this week. Now is time for the irrigation breakdown; we've been down to 29 degrees. We did just start harvesting our last patch of beans and our first patch of broccoli! We're hoping for a warm November for our final outdoor markets, which go until Nov. 20th; then onward with lots of winter farming;

## **PLEASANT VALLEY FARM TOUR AND OPEN HOUSE**

On Sunday Oct. 24 from 1-4 pm everyone is welcome at 118 S. Valley Rd., Argyle NY to walk around on their own, ask questions of us, or join in tour from 2-3 pm. Come see all fruit and vegetable fields (about 6 acres), washing station (nearing GAP certification), high tunnels with winter crops, greenhouse with radiant heated rolling benches, solar system, farm equipment, flower gardens, root cellar, farm animals (chickens, pigs, and horses) and more! See how we grow and prepare all we sell at the farmers' markets each week year-round! All ages welcome. Contact us for directions: Paul and Sandy Arnold, [arnold.pvf@gmail.com](mailto:arnold.pvf@gmail.com) or 518-638-6501.

## **MARKETING COURSE and ON-FARM ENERGY COURSE FOR GROWERS**

Both these 3-day courses will be held at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, VT. The On-Farm Energy course takes place Nov. 16, 30 and Dec. 7; the Marketing course is on Nov. 4, 18 and Dec. 9. Each course fee is \$125 for books, materials, lunches (\$25 discount for taking both courses). For intermediate to advanced growers, these courses will help you develop practical, action-oriented plans for the 2010 growing season. You will learn how to select and implement strategies that match your farm operation. For more information call 802-434-4122 or email [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org).

## **WHOLE FARM PLANNING COURSE FOR BEGINNING WOMEN FARMERS**

Apply by Oct. 29 for this free 10-session course being held on Tuesdays in Hartland, VT and Saturdays in North Haverhill, NH. It is geared toward women farmers with 1-10 years of experience managing a farm operation. It offers training in creating a holistic goal, financial planning, marketing, decision making and other skills that will support women farmers as they develop their farm businesses, as well as basic soil and pasture management. Limited to 15 participants. Six sessions take place this winter and 4 farm tours take place during the spring and summer. More info about the course and application materials are at [http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer/?Page=whole\\_farm\\_planning.html](http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer/?Page=whole_farm_planning.html) or contact Jessie Schmidt, 802-223-2389 or [newfarmer@uvm.edu](mailto:newfarmer@uvm.edu). Applications are also being accepted for farmers interested in serving as paid mentors for this course; you must have at least 10 years of farm management experience interest in Holistic Farm Management; apply by Nov. 15.

## **NAP CROP INSURANCE**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non commercially-insurable crops. NAP can provide a safety net when low yields, loss of inventory or plantings occur due to natural disasters. Consider coverage if you don't have it, or review your coverage and add or remove any crops for the 2011 growing season. The cost of NAP coverage is \$250 per crop with a maximum of \$750 per producer, or \$1,875 for multi-county producers. (Limited financial resource producers may request a waiver of the service fees.)

Note the following deadlines to apply for coverage: Nov. 20, 2010: for forage and perennial crops, including mixed hay, alfalfa and pastures; strawberries, blueberries and other perennial fruit shrubs and fruit trees such as cherry, plum, pear and nectarine; rhubarb and asparagus (apples and peaches are insured under RMA program, with the same deadline). Jan. 1, 2011: maple sap. Mar. 15, 2011: annual spring seeded crops, including lettuce, kale and other greens, squash and pumpkins, peppers; tomatoes, broccoli, onions, garlic etc. (field corn and sweet corn are insured under RMA with the same deadline). For more info contact your local Farm Service Agency office. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/>

## **SEASON EXTENSION AND HIGH TUNNEL WEBINAR SERIES**

This on-line program takes place Nov. 1, 3, 8, 16, and 18, 2010; each is a 1-2-hour program. The first three webinars focus on pest management in various season extension systems, especially for tomatoes and winter crops. The last two webinars focus on soil, water, and nutrient management, plus a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) high tunnel pilot project initiated in 2010. Pre-registration is required at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season\\_ext](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext) and the cost is \$30 (for any or all webinars). Webinars will be recorded and available on-line soon after original airdate. For more info: Ann Hazelrigg, (802) 656-0493 or [ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu](mailto:ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu).

**UPCOMING EVENTS** See <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html>

Oct. 20, 3-5:30 pm. Johnny's Selected Seeds Twilight Walk, Albion ME.

Nov. 3-4. Northeast Greenhouse Conference, Worcester MA.

Nov. 6-7. Farmer to Farmer Conference, Northport ME

Nov 8. GAPS Workshop for Growers. Colchester VT.

Dec. 10. GAPS Workshop for Growers. White River Jct. VT

Jan. 31, 2011. Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Annual Meeting, Montpelier VT