

**Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – October 2, 2024**  
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## **REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**

(Burlington) The dry, warm autumn has been a boon to catching up after our flood replanting. Really hoping that our cabbages make it (thank you Harlow Farm, Walker Farm and High Meadows Farms for the seedlings) to a decent size by the time the growing season is truly over. Otherwise, our post-flood direct seeded root crops and other brassicas and greens look good. Cabbage aphids are making an appearance; I hope we can keep a lid on them with Grandevo and some other organic insecticides, which have worked well in recent years.

Full turnover in our tunnels, moving from summer to winter crops. Had the best indoor cucumber crop ever, picking from the beginning of June to end of September. Of all the cuke varieties we trial, we still love 'Katrina' for productivity and quality.

Winter CSA sales are brisk, despite summer flooding eliminating several key vegetables like Brussels sprouts. Hoping to fill out our roster without incident and meet out next spring CSA

We're halfway done harvesting a great parsnip crop. One issue we face is not enough bins to

So far, fall raspberries are coming in without any signs of SWD. Second year planting and we're maintaining an organic orientation but will switch if SWD becomes a problem; half an acre is a lot to lose. Allium Leaf Miner is also a no-show this spring and fall, but 60 miles west of us a farm had ALM destroy their garlic crop in the spring.

USDA /NRCS in RI is testing a pilot program to take in/destroy pre-2004 diesel tractors with engines that do not meet Tier 4 standards, and do not have Deisel Exhaust Fluid or ReGen capabilities. The program roughly goes like this: they pay \$513 per braking horsepower toward a new in-kind tractor or skid steer replacement. The old machine can't be stripped or parted out; it must go to the metal recycling site and be crushed.

Farm injury warning: Many of us have rotted tires lingering on old harrows etc. A local farmer

## **UPDATES FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC**

Ann Hazelrigg, Extension Plant Pathologist

Garlic- Seeing a lot of damage in garlic from Fusarium. This is a common fungus that is in all soils and can cause a substantial drop in saleable product and can impact fall planting. The pathogen likes warmer temperatures and is favored by rains and higher humidity. The wrapper

Purchasing disease-free transplants is extremely important to prevent the introduction of the

Check out this [brief guide](#) to “Cover Crop Sequences to Support Pollinators and Soil Health on Diversified Vegetable Farms.”

## **PROJECT SEEKS YOUR INPUT ON AUTOMATION AND MECHANIZATION**

This project is developing plans to support regional farms in adopting automation, mechanization, and machine assistance (AMMA) technologies. A short survey to gather farmer needs, interests, and insights will help guide the direction the project takes. The survey is at <https://forms.gle/xG7oDTVbGk6QzuM89> and takes 10-15 minutes to complete; responses are confidential. Questions? [yuri@hudakdesign.com](mailto:yuri@hudakdesign.com)

## **GRANT TO PAY FOR**

## **NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW**

Manchester NH, December 17-19

The biennial NEVFC will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown. The event features 30 educational sessions over three days, on topics related to vegetable, berry, and tree fruit crops. Visit <https://newenglandvfc.org/> for registration and accommodation details. Early bird registration discount ends Nov 30.

## **VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Hold the date! January 28, 2025.** DoubleTree Hotel, S. Burlington. Please encourage companies and organizations you do business with to join the VVBGA as commercial members at <https://vvbga.org/commercial-membership> so they get an ad in the meeting booklet, and can sign up for a table in our trade show.