

**VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWER NEWS    October 4, 2021**

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

We've been trying to raise prices, with many inputs going up significantly in the past year and more increases on the horizon. I don't want to be caught selling our product at artificially deflated prices given what it's going to cost to put a crop in the ground next year.

(Rochester) Raspberries are liking the relatively warm fall and are still going strong. There is no frost in the forecast for the next week at least, in fact no temperature lower than 48 degrees predicted in that seven days. So, it appears we will have raspberries to pick through the long weekend at least. Sales of syrup and honey at the farm stand are stronger than ever and so are market sales. Looking forward to some down time as the end of the season approaches.... but not yet! Still picking berries while the sun shines.

(Grand Isle)



(Plainfield NH) No frost here in the Upper Valley. Still harvesting a great fall raspberry crop. Even though we have drip on them, the 15 plus inches of water in July really banked some moisture and I think we are reaping the rewards of that, we are re-thinking our watering practices on this and our blueberries. Strawberries have made wonderful growth and show a lot of crop potential for 2022...just got to get through the winter....

Onions are up, and in the middle of carrot and potato harvest, both crops look really clean with moderate to good yields, again variety driven. We seeded and transplanted into a crimped heavy crop of winter rye, and then were hit by deer and drought. They ate all the emerging seedlings. Between that, labor shortage at the time. Total loss.

We are reconsidering the role that no till will have on our farm. There are unquestionable savings in soil prep and soil health benefits, but we have struggled with providing adequate fertility to our corn. Injecting ammonia through a knife system may be the only secure way to provide N. Until now we have struggled with the system and have not produced dependable crops. I am sure it will be a big topic of discussion over the winter among us.

Sales still seem strong; not the freakish levels of 2020, but still robust. We close our farmstand Columbus Day, and that will trigger the process all over again. Greenhouse will be cleaned and prepped for the ornamental season. We are looking into LED fixtures for our prop house as the 30-year-old wiring could use a little upgrading and it seems like it might be the right time to make the move from HID sodium and metal halide. Also, we need to retrofit our heated benches, as the tubing has degraded, leaving the bench with hot and cold spots, making for creative movement of plant flats and propagation trays.

## **APPLY FOR FREE SUPPLIES FROM THE VT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE**

The Produce Program of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAF) is providing Vermont produce farms with new harvest crates, storage bins, and cleaning supplies to improve produce safety and efficiency. Farms must [apply](#) for the produce safety supply kits by **Friday, October 22nd at 12 PM.**

Produce Safety Supply Kit Contents:

- [TranPak Collapsible Plastic Crate 64x18](#)
- [TranPak Attached Lid Container 22x15x12.8](#)
- [VIKAN Short Handle Brush \(Orange\)](#)

If your application is selected, you will need to pick up your supply kit at the Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Lab. Please direct any questions to Gina Clithero at [gina.clithero@vermont.gov](mailto:gina.clithero@vermont.gov) or 802-585-6225.

## **RESOURCES FROM UVM EXT AG ENGINEERING TEAM**

Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlin

New Podcast Episodes:

Growing from 1/4 to 3 Acres at Old Road Farm: EP53

Custom Beiler/Rimol Greenhouses with Roll-up End Walls: EP54

Listen on your favorite podcast player or visit the website <https://agengpodcast.com>

Spring Cleaning - Farm Cooler Checklist: The fall may be a good time to clean out that cooler before it gets filled up with storage crops or put away for the season. We highlight several items to inspect and clean when you give your cooler some seasonal attention.

<https://go.uvm.edu/coolercleaning>

Our multi-state team is creating and sharing educational resources to improve produce safety and efficiency on your farm. These SCRUB Twilight Highlight Webinar Recordings are now available. Visit <https://go.uvm.edu/srub> events to view webinars on the following topics: Bins, Low Cost Packshed, Wash/Pack Floors, Wash Water, Employee Management and Bubblers