

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – November 15, 2016  
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[www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry)

## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Fairfax) great weather for fall harvest. Swede midge is mystifying. Had lots of injury in early July on cabbage. Tried late broccoli, had some midge damage but in general a decent crop. Late kale had very little damage. Last year we had extensive damage in July on broccoli but had a great fall crop. We continue to move brassicas as far as we can but starting to think that planting timing can play a role in management. Who knows.



(Dummerston) I'm really enjoying the mild weather and still harvesting a great crop of carrots and parsnips for storage. Lots of greens, scallions, leeks, radishes and Brussels hanging on in the field; high tunnel doing pretty well but I'm constantly trying to get rid of cutworms. I'm looking forward to starting up my winter CSA and bringing lots of exciting crops to the winter market

(Plainfield NH) Trying hard to refrain from thinking about mulching strawberries. In my dream world I sit down to Thanksgiving dinner with the strawberries mulched, but they are just now starting to show signs of dormancy. I have mulched in the snow and find it treacherous to work



Here is a site with images of downy mildew on spinach, click on them to enlarge.

[http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/spinach.htm#downymildew](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/spinach.htm#downymildew)

(You can scroll around this page for images of other spinach diseases.)

Management. Resistant varieties are an important management practice, but the pathogen has been developing new races able to overcome host resistance. Last year, race 16 was discovered. To maximize success of control with fungicides, start early in disease development, preventive best, and apply weekly. Conventional fungicides for this disease include: Actigard, Aliette, Merivon, Quadris and other QoI fungicides, ProPhyt and other phosphorous acid fungicides, Ranman, Reason, Revus, Ridomil Gold, and Tanos. Downy mildew is difficult to manage with organic fungicides based on experience of researchers and growers in CA. Labeled products include copper, Actinovate, Double Nickel, Regalia, Oxidate, Trilogy, and Zonix.

Pathogen Sources. It is possible contaminated seed or infected spinach produce from outside the region was the source of the current outbreak. The pathogen, *Peronospora farinosa* f. sp. *spinaciae*, is only known to infect spinach. It is possible some *Chenopodium* weed species are susceptible to some races.

Favorable Conditions. Cool with high humidity. Optimal temperature range for this pathogen is 59–70 degrees F. Minimizing irrigation in high tunnels and keeping them well ventilated is important to reduce humidity levels.

Reference to commercial products, trade or brand names is for information only; no endorsement is intended. The specific directions on fungicide labels must be adhered to; they supersede these recommendations if there is a conflict. Check state registrations and labels for use restrictions.

UPCOMING EVENTS- details go to: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/?Page=meetlist.html>

Nov. 17. Growing Vegetables and Small Fruits in High Tunnels. Vernon, CT

Dec. 6,7,8 and Jan. 24,25,26 in ME, NH and VT. Farm Succession Schools.

Dec. 14. High Tunnel Production conference, Manchester NH

Jan. 12-14, Winter Greens short course, Bread and Butter Farm, Shelburne, VT.

Jan. 23. VVBGA Annual Meeting, Fairlee VT. Stay tuned.

Jan. 24. VVBGA Cover Crop conference, Fairlee, VT. Stay tuned.

Feb. 18-20. NOFA-VT Winter Conference, Burlington VT. Stay tuned

March 6. Strawberry Grower School. Fairlee VT. Stay tuned.