



What we had planned on harvesting the first week in January is ready now. Our clever ideas of banking spinach have led to huge over supply right now. With this cool moderate weather the green cauliflowers (Romanesco and Envy) really slow down their days to harvest more than the others. Graffiti seems to finish off the quickest. This observation could also be skewed by the inordinate amount of rain. We have broken all sorts of records down this way. We heard from a reliable source that sweet potatoes should not be stored with butternut because of ethylene given off by the sweet potatoes. Now it looks like we need yet another storage room facility. Winter markets are good. Down a bit from last year. Probably more due to the explosion of winter markets than an economic constraint.

(Salisbury NH) Everything in the hoop house is in a holding pattern. The spinach and kale has been wonderful but planted too closely in some areas. Allstar lettuce mix was a little big so it might be more frost sensitive. Kale spectacular but we planted too closely. Experimenting with celery as we've never grown it; got started late but now the plants look great, about 4-6 inches tall so we'll see what happens in winter. The weather has been up and down; 18 inches of snow on Halloween then warm weather and snow mostly gone then 8 inches of snow just before Thanksgiving then more warm weather. Nights have been above freezing or high 20's. We have no heat in our hoop house with raised beds; we put floating row cover over some but not all. Head lettuce (Nancy) seems more affected by cold temps. Looking forward to when the days start getting longer.

(Durham CT) Amazing greens inside the hoop house. Also tatsoi, red Russian kale, arugula and even some lettuce that has been outside unprotected from the weather have regrown to harvestable size. This weather seems to add a special seasoning to the flavor of these greens. In the hoop houses we've got 8 kinds of spinach, all delicious and incredibly popular at our farmers' market. Some new varieties have already become favorites: Crocodile, Menorca, Corvair and Raccoon. Menorca is particularly good for salads; close to the ground and a much shorter stem than Crocodile and Raccoon. Other crops that are working well are: red Russian kale, Tokyo Bekana and Claytonia. After doing season extension growing for 12 years, we've come to the conclusion that there are many choices for the winter, but these seem to work best for us. We've had a small invasion and damage by caterpillars; easily controlled by spinosad. Another pest that has shown up is aphids, unusual for us this time of year. We've just been watering where we've seen them, as this dilutes an excess of nitrogen in the soil/crops, a major attraction for aphids. This seems effective. We've turned our basement into a microgreens factory this year. Demand is good and we've enjoyed the tame environment of controlled heat and light. Outside we've erected many low tunnels, now planted with either carrots, lettuce, beets or chard. Everything is doing beautifully with an eye towards early spring harvesting. Carrots planted too early will bolt and produce useless roots. Our planting date is Nov. 10. Lettuce, which usually turns to mush below 25 degrees, will survive wonderfully as baby baby plants. Low tunnels are a great low cost alternative to a hoop house.

(Enfield NH) Sales better than last year, mostly due to more product