

## **Vermont Vegetable and Berry News February 12, 2008**

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### **VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSN. WANTS YOU!**

A special effort is underway to get all commercial vegetable and berry growers in the state to join the Association. If you have never been part of the association, the board of directors has decided to waive the regular \$35 membership fee for 2008. Renewing members will get something special this year, too: a free UVM soil test kit (value \$15), in

changes per hour. Additional fuel is needed to heat this air. Shut off some fans during the winter and cover openings with insulation or plastic to reduce infiltration of air. **Repair broken glass** or holes in the plastic covering.

**Double Covering:** Line sidewalls and endwalls of greenhouse inside with poly or bubble wrap to achieve the thermopane effect. Install double wall polycarbonate structured sheets to get insulation effect and reduce recovering labor. **Use poly with an infrared inhibitor** on the inner layer for 15% savings. Payback is 2-3 months. **Add a single or double layer of plastic** over older glasshouses to reduce infiltration and heat loss by 50%.

**Energy Conserving Blanket:** Install a thermal blanket for 20%-50% savings. Cost is \$1.00 - \$2.50/sq ft. Payback is 1-2 years. Tight closures should be maintained where curtains meet sidewalls, framing or gutters. Use a U-shaped trap to prevent heat from escaping overhead. Heat and water lines should be insulated or located below the blanket.

**Foundation and Sidewall Insulation:** Insulate the foundation - place 1-

**Efficient Cooling System:**