

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – February 2, 2023
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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Hinesburg) More growth than normal on hoophouse greens so far in this mild winter. On the downside, Winter Cut Worms continue to be active on hoophouse spinach.

(Burlington) A mild winter has meant our tunnel crops have done very well to date with lots of high-quality spinach, baby lettuce, kale, and herbs without any heat. The mild temps have allowed us to ventilate regularly, which has kept our humidity lower than many winters. Root crops and cabbages are holding well, but our Waltham butternut is going downhill faster than usual and we are culling a large percentage of our final few bins. Autumn Frost and Tetsukabuto still look very good and seem like they should hold until mid-March.

Still liking the clear skin and good eating quality of our Reba potatoes, new to us in 2022. Just finished our last few heads of broccoli in the walk-in a couple weeks ago, hard to believe we held it that long from a mid-November harvest. Looking back over many years, I think that a drier late summer and autumn improves our long-term storage of roots, squash, and Brassicas more than any other factor except variety selection.

(Guildhall) Potato sales were strong in November and December, but January has been slower. So selling bulk to brokers and re-packers is kicking up, though some hard news on that front. Prices aren't much better this year than in early 2022, despite inflation. And the market for Golds right now is being pretty well dominated by super clean Canadian stuff. Perhaps some knock on result of PEI getting shut out of the USA for most of last year.

(E. Dorset) Perhaps another item for the good of the order might be “Have you read a good farm or Vermont book this winter?” I would encourage folks to take a look at Founding Gardeners by Andrea Wulf. A fun anecdote a

SUPPORT FOR REPORTING VERMONT SURFACE WATER WITHDRAWALS

If you irrigate from a river, stream, lake, or natural pond, you likely need to comply with Vermont's surface water bill (

*** Parent-Farmer-Wash/Pack Manager Strategies to Keep Kids Happy and Produce Safety Risks Low.** February 28, 4-5:30 pm. Join farmer-parents to share challenges and lessons learned from running their businesses while running after their kids. Topics include time management, flow for effectiveness and efficiency, food safety with kids, employee training to help with kids on the farm. Farmers with and without kids are encouraged to attend!

*** NOT Cleaning with Water and Other Things NOT to Do.** March 7, 4:00-5:30 pm. Sometimes no action can save time, increase profitability, AND lower food safety risk. Join