

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News March 1, 2023
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Plainfield NH) Things are ramping up. Vacations for the full timers are all pretty much over. Tax work is under control, as is the paperwork for the H2A folks. We have plants coming in this week, so activities have been centered around greenhouse preparation for that. Monitoring sensors have been checked, logged in and tested as well as the furnaces. Houses were cleaned in the fall, so Mike has been pre filling flats and pots in prep for plant arrival.

The core returning greenhouse crew will start to arrive with coffee mugs and boots later in the week. The return of winter always coincides with the arrival of plants, so we seemed to be resigned to snow removal and mud. However, it would appear as though we got a little too accustomed to and long for the return of the warm days of January and February.

(Argyle NY) Temperatures and sunshine have been moderate for the most part which has helped with regrowth on spinach, chard and kale for our online store. Lettuce material has been the nemesis for us, as we all know, that's what customers want most. It seems quite a few growers are not doing as much winter growing as usual so when we run short and there is no back up. Sales remain average, which is good as we continue to refine the online store process. Insects and diseases in the tunnels has been at a minimum; one spray of M-Pede put aphids in control and we monitor closely as ladybugs not available. Venting a lot as usual and seeding many new beds.

As talk of some supplies being harder to get later in the year, have caused us to purchase them now rather than later and also talk of higher prices like peat moss. Other supplies like Chilean nitrate, which our local supplier is having trouble getting have caused us to look at other suppliers; nothing like change in this business. Overall we are finding supplies but of course at higher prices. The part that makes this easier is we are slowing this farm down as we get older so less is needed. Including labor which is always a hot topic.

Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlin

Many winter storage crops love high humidity and low temperatures. Others like low humidity and warmer temperatures. It can be a real challenge to achieve the right balance. As we make air cooler, it holds less water vapor so the difference between high humidity and condensation (rain)

12-1 pm. Free webinar.

Join UVM Extension pollinator support specialist Laura Johnson, Koppert's Inside Sales Representative Anne-Marie Coleman, and Christa Alexander from Jericho Settlers Farm to discuss bumble bee use in high tunnels for crop pollination, including colony biology, optimizing pollinator use from single/multi boxes. Use this registration link, you will receive a confirmation email. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd--trzgvGtDjnaTF1oBiHoAsk64xgGgA>