

**VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWER NEWS** – April 1, 2022

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

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**REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**

(Barnet) Our high tunnels are full of direct seeded mustard greens and spinach as well as Paperpot radish, salad turnips, cilantro, claytonia, lettuce, spinach, bok choi and radish. We spent the cold snap triple covering in our unheated tunnels. Everything did well and is now ready for the upcoming warm weather. Tomato grafts look great and tons of Paperpot trays are planted and growing for field planting.

We have field greens up that were seeded last week and silage tarped for germination. We transitioned those to row cover and are pleased with the germination. Battling a pretty bad mud season. Taking the longer paved route on delivery days.

One of the tunnels has a high salt content in soil, trying to mitigate that with soaking water and a lot of peat added to the beds. Next summer we will remove the plastic for the rain to really flush it out. Field are slowly greening with the winter rye while the fields that were planted with oats and peas last summer are a nice thick cover of dried golden residue, ready to till and plant soon. Happy spring!

(Hinesburg) Greens growing and selling well. Spinach and Claytonia with a few others coming on. Piecing together the markets for the product so far so good this spring. Some restaurants have fallen off ordering and others have emerged. Farmstand opens today. CSA starts in another week. Crew is great. Juggling projects with the changing weather.

(Elmore) High tunnel is heating up. First red currant bushes are being propagated as hardwood cuttings in the high tunnel beds. Forsythia blooming in the high tunnel. Covering the beds with cardboard so the weeds will not get light and hoping to plant spinach and Chinese cabbages soon in the high tunnel.

Outdoors the ice and snow are still treacherous to walk on, and we can only wait, as it was 12 degrees yesterday and only warmed up to 15. Elmore is known for its cold and we used to have northern dog sled races here in the spring as it was the last place that would still have snow.

Pruned many large apple trees. Collected scionwood from our best trees for three hours the last sunny day we had. Lots of nice buds on the fruit trees, including paw paws. Got to keep the rare and best pear trees going! We name them after the towns in Vermont where they were discovered. Hoping for some good crops of exotics. Being a pioneer is one of the most satisfying things we do on the farm.

(Pownal) My wife and I have finished pruning all of our main crops of blueberries and raspberries. Big job for just two people but enjoyed being able to be outside and seeing our two English Setters being able to patrol the rows once again. All brush has been loaded up and





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To join the VVBGA and enroll in CAPS, go to: <https://vvbga.org>. Questions? Contact Hans Estrin at [hestrin@uvm.edu](mailto:hestrin@uvm.edu) or 802-380-2109.

## **NEW RESOURCES FROM THE UVM EXTENSION AG ENGINEERING TEAM**

Andy Chamberlin and Chris Callahan

### New Episodes from The Ag Engineering Podcast

Advice for Young Farmers: EP66

Precision Planting with the MaterMacc Vacuum Seeder: EP67

Walking & Talking about Cover Crops, Greenhouse Tools & Bale Shredders: EP68

<https://agengpodcast.com>

### New Videos

Easy to Clean Perforated Scoop for Salad Greens

[https://youtu.be/RL\\_OoMbo7p8](https://youtu.be/RL_OoMbo7p8)

Rain-Flo Plastic Mulch Layer Explained

<https://youtu.be/yAB1z2Ey8TI>

A Look at A Round Bale Shredder for Mulching Strawberries

<https://youtu.be/KwxIjAyayHU>

Antique Flat Filler for Greenhouse Production

<https://youtu.be/shD4u9hvnLw>

## **PEST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH UPDATES**

Scott Lewins and Vic Izzo, UVM

It's spring and despite the remnants of snow, many of us are deep into seeding and planning for the upcoming growing season. What better way to warm up from one of coldest Januarys on record than with an update on our latest pest management projects! Check out our research update at <https://go.uvm.edu/vepart2021> with results from these research projects:

- Pre and Post Harvest Strategies for leek moth Control on Diversified Vegetable Farms
- Cultural and biological control tactics for the management of wireworms in root crops
- Evaluation of swede midge tolerance and resistance among four popular kale varieties
- Vermont Pest Scouting and Monitoring Program