

(Burlington) Soil is drying out, should have the usual cold-hardy direct seeded crops in the ground this week. Appreciating again the Salanova lettuces and how well they seem to do through the winter in unheated tunnels; they are producing like crazy right now; we will see how late into the spring that will go before yield and quality decline.

Between Alternaria and gray winter a experimental conventional crop sold very well at the winter farmers markets. We are also going to seed them about three weeks later than in the past. By accident, last year we seeded some May 28 and they did better than the April 30 seeding. We are also going to row spacing -row beds of late cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. Reasons: Less damage to outer leaves during last cultivation; better air flow between the two row beds (and hopefully less Alternaria); and lastly better light for getting winter cover crops to take when interseeded in late fall. We bought some certified organic annual rye to try out seeding down the edges of our black plastic for our winter squash. Saw that at the VVBGA winter conference and it looked like a good solution.

(Hampton NY) Annuals are growing well and potted over-wintered perennials are beginning to emerge. Colder greenhouse temps slowed growth with no adverse effects. Hanging baskets are planted and growing well. Cold weather crops have been seeded in packs and peat pots and are starting to pop. Tomatoes and peppers are being transplanted into packs and peat pots. Work is starting in the garden and peas are in the ground. We will be trying cucumber beetle traps this summer to see if they work.

UVM SOIL TESTS REVISED

The UVM Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab now has new software for generating soil test results and fertility recommendations. I have worked with the lab to develop what hopefully are easier-to-interpret numerical results and crop-specific recommendations and comments, as well as a new fact sheet for helping to interpret the test results, posted on line at:
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/FertilizingVegetableCropsBasedOnSoilTest.pdf>