



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News April 19, 2011

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303,

I wouldn't recommend cutting plastic every winter, but at least something positive resulted out of all this mess. Our spinach, once it finally recovered from too much snow and cold, has been the best ever. Out in the field last fall's spinach cardinal, a variety I thought was mostly an early spring or late fall crop, not the sort to survive under a few feet of snow. Surprise.

(Grand Isle) We grafted Cobra tomato onto Emperor rootstock in February. We had extra Cobra plants so just continued to grow them without grafting. We put them in their final growing greenhouse 2 weeks ago. Even with the shock of grafting, the grafted plants have caught up and are now about the same size as the plain Cobra. We will see what happens, but at this point we are impressed by the grafted plants.

ADD YOUR FARM TO TOMATO TRANSPLANT LISTING FOR 2011

Is your farm listed on the Extension Master Gardener web page for locally grown tomato transplants? If you see your name on the list already, you don't need to do anything. If you are selling tomato transplants and want to be on the list, let Lisa Avery at the UVM Master Gardener program (lisa.avery@uvm.edu) know. Here is the list compiled from last year.

Nutritional problems also have been reported this year; they arise from improper fertilization and/or cold soils that limit root growth and nutrient uptake. Image of soluble salt and ammonium injury on tomato seedling: <http://www.negreenhouseupdate.info/index.php/nutritional-disorders/362-soluble-salt-and-ammonium-injury-on-tomato-seedlings>

NEW PESTS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS SEASON

(Ann Hazelrigg)

ve been found in our region. Vern and I would like to know if you see these pests on your farm so we can keep abreast of their location, and if you are unsure please send in samples.

Brown marmorated stink bug was found in Stowe this past fall. It has been in southeastern NH for several years. It has been wreaking havoc in the mid Atlantic and states in the south. This pest causes stings on lots of different fruits and vegetables rendering them unmarketable. For details see: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/brown-marmorated-stink-bug>.

Swede midge was found on a second farm in Chittenden County last fall. This pest attacks all crucifers and feeds on the growing points. Symptoms include decaying (stinky) growing points and multiple small heads. Several generations occur throughout the season so the pest may become increasingly worse on later Brassica plantings. Rotation as far as possible from previous plantings and row covers may help with the pest. For more information see: <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/vegetables/cruc/sm.pdf>

FARMER TO FARMER: VERMONT TO JAPAN DONATION

In order to help farmers suffering from the situation in Japan, Radical Roots Farm in Rutland has organized a campaign asking local farmers to donate 5 to 10% of their proceeds from their sales here in Vermont and the region. All funds will be donated to the American Friends of Asian Rural Institute (AFARI) which promotes sustainable agriculture and community development (www.friends-ari.org) and ShelterBox USA which provides aid boxes to supply extended families with a tent and essential equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless (www.shelterboxusa.org). Go to www.RadicalRootsVT.com and click on the Farmer to Farmer Donation tab for details and instructions; please email radicalrootsfarm@gmail.com to let them know if you are participating. There is a poster and other outreach materials you can download and print to let customers know you are participating.