



Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension



(Surry NH) This has me scratching my head: Strawberries on plastic, raised beds, plants nice and green but the buds seem way ahead. A few

(Plainfield NH) Some premature blossom weirdness in the plasticulture strawberries; some bloomed as soon as the snow melted. Thankfully bare ground plants look fine, no popcorn stage yet. Peaches and blues beginning to bloom, keeping my fingers crossed. Some carrots, scallions and beets seeded in the field. Retail greenhouses commanding much of the labor. For those with smartphones, a couple of useful free aps: from Farm Progress an ap for monitoring degree days (so we can utilize Hank Bissell's clever corn planting scheduling and maybe insect emergence). Biobest offers a beneficial insect chemical sensitivity site that is useful but needs more development. NRCS Soil Web ap uses GPS and identifies the soil where you stand and provides much more info than the old aerial maps.

(Hinesburg) Irrigated for the first time ever in April a week ago. Normally have barely set any seeds out by that time, but I jumped the gun with peas, spinach, carrots and beets, they were up and needing water. Now weather looks more normal so it will feel like we are right on schedule instead of already behind. Onions transplanted soon and maybe some potatoes.

(W. Brookfield) Amazing to have a full field of mesclun, beets and peas outdoors in mid-April. What a way to jump start pests too. We've got remay ready. Winter spinach is being moved out as spring spinach is almost ready. Off to a good start.

(Pownal) My greenhouse tomatoes look great!

(Salisbury NH) Amazingly the peas and beets came up even without irrigation, before the rain. Radishes in hoophouse recovered from cold spell, after the hot spell. Scallions overwintered in hoophouse are bolting. Overwintered lettuce got bitter from heat. Tried hullless oats and 6-row barley from Johnny's this year. Broadcast seeds rather than rows as we just wanting to see how it grows and will use for animal feed/bedding. Have a weed issue from getting manure and compost off the farm. Blueberry plants loaded with blossoms; native bumblebees are active. Hope SWD doesn't show up. Regular customers coming but haven't hung open sign because most people don't understand 'early veggies'. Went to roundtable discussion w