

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – May 10, 2011

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<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>



(Wolcott) This season couldn't be much different from last year. We're a month later getting on the fields and just this week will finish spreading compost and sul-po-mag. The first brassica seed crops went in this past weekend, which is just about a month later than last year. In theory that early start last year should have given us a bumper crop, but instead we got all that heat that made them bolt and go to seed too quickly, and the Rosalind broccoli made no seed at all because broccoli pollen is highly sensitive to heat. If this year continues on wet and cool we might get some broccoli seed after all, but probably not nearly as much of all the cucurbits and tomatoes. We're putting up two more 100-ft isolation cages this year for squash stock seed production, and cover-cropping a 10-acre field that we'll be able to certify and use next year. Looking forward to this week of mostly dry weather.

(Argyle NY) It finally looks like we'll have a few days of no rain and we'll be able to get on the fields soon. Still no potatoes or onions in the ground, but we're hopeful. Direct seedings in the fields under rowcover are hardly growing, but we just hooped and covered the arugula with the Biothrips netting from DuBois Agrinovation since the flea beetles are out in force! The Biothrips is easy to see and spray through and doesn't build up extra heat inside; expensive but lasts many years. Last week with one day of semi-dry fields, we transplanted out parsley, Swiss chard, and lots of lettuce and spinach before the next rains. Strawberry field is in full flower and the garlic is up over a foot. The high tunnels are producing lots of salad mix as we await the full size lettuce (behind 2 weeks). We've been picking over-wintered spinach from the fields and it looks really good for a change

(Salisbury NH) Just a few things in the ground: beets, leeks and onions. We picked up our potatoes but haven't had a chance to prep them or plant. Raised beds have some pac choi, spinach, carrots, lettuces in them. Trying to keep row covers on them but I'm beginning to hate covers since the wind wants to take them off plus it's a pain to see what's going on underneath. We also use them to keep the wild turkeys from eating everything. Hoop house is loaded with a little of everything, we need another one (or two) houses. Pac Choi and earlier spicy mesclun mix bolted already. Older lettuce overwintered ended up with aphids; pulled up right away so other plants won't be attacked. Something is still eating the Kamatsuna, assume it's an army or cutworm. Might make a good trap crop.

## REBATES FOR TRACTOR ROLL BARS

Over 160 Vermont farmers have registered to install a new roll bar and seat belt kit on their tractor since the VT Rebates for Roll Bars Program started only seven months ago. That's because farmers know a good deal when they see one! The program, run by UVM Extension, offers a 70% rebate (up to \$765) to retrofit an old tractor with a new roll bar kit. Tractor rollovers are the leading cause of death and serious injury for farmers. A Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS = Roll Bar/Seat Belt Kit) is 99% effective in protecting tractor drivers in the event of a rollover.

Call the Vermont Rebates for Roll Bars Program at 877-767-7748 to find out which roll bar kit fits your particular tractor and how much it will cost. Call today to protect your family and workers from

## SCOUT FOR LATE BLIGHT

Late blight has been found on tomatoes in a commercial greenhouse in ME and one in CT. Hopefully these will remain isolated cases but be sure to be vigilant for symptoms on your tomatoes plants and potato tubers when planting. here are links to late blight management info with pictures of symptoms on foliage and tubers:

<http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/factsheets/lateblight/late.htm>

<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/blight/>

If at any time this season you suspect that the disease is present in any of your crops please mail or deliver a sample ASAP for professional diagnosis to your state's Extension plant pathologist so we can track the disease. In VT mail to: Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic, 201 Jeffords Building 63 Carrigan Drive, University of Vermont Burlington, VT 05405.