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Vermont Vegetable and Berry News –May 21, 2013
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Warren) Almost done with transplanting for the year. Happy to not have people around any
more. From here till fall harvest it will just be me and 1 part timer. Short day direct seeded
crops are the focus for the summer. Really happy with the wobbler irrigation setup for getting
things to germinate. It's simple, easy to move and can be run off our well. Potato seed was the
nicest I've seen in a while. Wondering if that is because we purchased from someone other
than fedco for a change? Onions planted on silver mulch looking good. Last week’s heat
seemed to help warm the soil just enough. I'm loving our new rainfall mini-bedder. I can sleep
well knowing that the plastic won't blow away on our new hilltop fields.
(Williston) Dodged the frost last Tuesday but got light frost Wednesday morning with no
damage. Nice rain started Sunday which is very much needed. Working on irrigation system
which will be coming from pond and not house supply. Garlic is looking a bit brown on tops but
hope the rain will help. Pulling everything out of hoop house to start new summer rotation.
Great soil sample from U of Maine with UVM Extension recommendations Vern which is very
helpful. Seeded down one field with buckwheat to work on soil organic matter. Flea beetles
already on sorrel and other crops. Had some leafhoppers on sage in hoop house but spayed
Pyganic and am harvesting beautiful sage. Spittle bug already on the scene in tarragon and
other herbs. Farmers market to start in 2 weeks.
 (Dummerston) A big thank you to whoever shared the advice about using fishing line to deter
the deer on the list-serve. Last year, the deer had gotten into the habit of jumping my 2 strands

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(Shelburne/South Burlington) Greenhouses are full, winter crops just finished being pulled out,
new kale is on and looking great. Soil testing and amending a ton, looking forward to balancing
soils this year and really getting a handle on what is going on in my high tunnel soils. This
summer's winter planting will be more diverse than last year (mostly kale and spinach) so I am
looking to round out with another few families: umbel and aster. Making winter planting plans
now!

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Only pests so far are the flea beetles, but they are into everything including eggplant starts up
on a bench in the seedling shed. Garlic crop looks great. Coming strong and appears to be little
to no loss from this winter. Greenhouses are almost all planted, tomatoes are flowering.
Asparagus crop is doing well. The only reason is the drip tape we ran last year. Turned it on and

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One thing I did (which may have helped, who knows) is I slightly hilled them Monday evening
throwing 1/4 inch of soil over the many elbows just starting to come through. There were only
about 10% with actual leaves out, and those also survived so I am not sure if the hilling actually
helped or not. Otherwise crops are coming along nicely, a bit dry (before this spell). Lots of
irrigating, worried about pond getting low already!
(Barnet) We had 25 degrees Wed morning. Plasticulture strawberries in full bloom survived
under hoops and two layers of 1 ounce row cover. Blooms along the edges of the patch with
only a single layer saw some frost. Other crops that probably shouldn't have been out also
made it through: zucchini and squash under hoops with perforated plast5

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Some cutworm damage in the high tunnel on smaller transplants of peppers and tomatoes.
Sprayed Bt and hand picked around damage. Wireworms and June beetle larvae (white grubs)
have been found and killed in the field. Some of our fields are new ground. Our garlic crop,
planted through Biotello with winter rye and red clover in pathways, fared well and has had
steady growth throughout spring.
(S. Royalton) Still harvesting the last of our overwintered greens, the winners for us were:
Beedy’s Camden kale, Argentata chard, Aerostar, Antago, Gaviota and Sulu lettuce, Emu ,
Pigeon and Raccoon Spinach. We found that green sprouting potatoes will show up diseases
like Blackleg if they are in the seed. The Salad Bowl and Red Salad Bowl seed this year seems
like a new variety of each, more like an oakleaf than the ones we had been growing. Lots of flea
beetles resting on the row covers trying to get in the brassicas. The plus of the dry weather is
that we are able to get into some wetter parts of our fields earlier than usual , but having to run
the irrigation more on new seedings and transplants.
(Little Compton RI) For the last five years I have had a progressively more virulent attack of
Fulvia, or leaf mold on greenhouse tomatoes. I am desperately trying to keep the humidity
down even to the point of cooling the greenhouse down to the low sixties. I am at the point
that I will have to get a somewhat sophisticated greenhouse temp/vent control box next year.
That way I can easily do predawn humidity purges. I am also thinking of just getting a bobcat to
take ten inches of soil/beds out of the house. It has been 22 years! I guess it is time. It has been
a cool spring but a good slow awakening for our fruit trees; compared to last year’s 85 degree
blasts that set us up for some frost damage. We had a serious white fly out break which we just
couldn't lick with the normal Encarsia formosa; come to find out it was sweet potato white fly,
which is weakly controlled with Encarsia releases. Should have gotten my hand lens out earlier.
Kreher's high potassium blended organic fertilizer is doing a great job with our early "chittened"

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UPDATE FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC- Ann Hazelrigg
There are lots of abiotic problems due either to cold temps (basil with browned leaves) or
uneven watering (brassicas, tomatoes-browning between the veins). These kinds of problems
seem to happen "overnight" or quickly, with the crop looking fine one day and the next it looks
bad. Sometimes it looks like the problem is spreading, but that is because the damage is already
done and the leaves are just showing the damage from a previous lack of water, cold temp, etc.
Always look to see if one age of tissue is affected, i.e. if the second set of leaves of a tomato
plant is affected but below and above it ok. That typically tells me the damage happened when
those affected leaves were most vulnerable and the plant has grown out of the problem. Look
at the new growth. As long as the new growth is healthy and green, that is a good sign the
damage is due to an abiotic disorder h400.87 7n(af)4(f)-4i-74.8572.024 530.11 Tm
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