Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension (802) 257-7967 ext. 303, <u>vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu</u> http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

(Warren) Just finished planting our high tunnels, they were moved late because we were waiting on

Something has killed off the blackberry floricanes, seemingly the frost we had on the morning of May 7. It is time they come out to make space for something else. Sure could use some dry weather.

(Plainfield NH) The best thing about this weather is we haven t had to irrigate for frost. Most of our first plantings are all out and looking fine, mainly because of sandy soils. No major pests except TPB showing up in early strawberries blossoms, seen them active in the fields while temps were in the high 50's, which is pretty cool for them. Working extremely hard culturally trying to keep Botrytis and fungus gnats in check in the ornamental and tomato greenhouses. Sales are pretty strong despite the grim weather. I don t know how much actual rain we have gotten in the last ten days but my wife asked if I would go out and mow the

(Sudbury) Rain, rain go away and come another month! After the long winter Spring has been no gift

Starting June 1st we side dress them with fish meal and compost to give them the last push into the summer fruiting season. Even so, we are pruning twice a week trying to stay ahead of early blight, Botrytis and other funk. Houses where we had turned the heat off for the season are now back on and keeping an average temp above 65 degrees. Heating the greenhouses to this temperature is not much money this time of year; we are heating and power venting two hours after sundown to get the excess moisture out of the house for the overnight time period (an old Geranium grower taught me this trick).

Keep the relative humidity as low as practical less than 85 percent through heating and venting; warm air holds more moisture than cool air to keep foliage dry and limit diseases heat and vent the house going into the night and again at dawn. Use HAF fans to keep air moving and dry off foliage. Leave space between plants to prevent pockets of high humidity. Keep plants on the dry side; spot water as needed to prevent over-watering some plants. Water in the morning so foliage has a chance to dry off before nightfall. Scout carefully and frequently to detect problems early; remove diseased plants promptly plus adjacent plants even if they appear healthy. Apply fungicide preventively when weather conditions are favorable for disease (i.e. wet, humid).

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Quick Freeze Unit is located in Poultney and is available for use during the 2011 growing season. The unit is exceptionally well suited for berries. A commercial kitchen is available for processing prior to freezing. Cost to use the unit is \$10/hr, cost to use the kitchen is \$20/hr. Advance reservations are recommended but not required. The unit is available for use by any Vermont or Eastern New York farmer. Farmers and processors should contact Garland Mason at 287-2940 or MasonG@greenmtn.edu to reserve the unit. More information is available at http://www.greenmtn.edu/farm_food/food/flash-freezer.aspx