

We supply some breweries that have not told us yet if they will be wanting our fruit. So we are focusing on our field health and planting out groves of things we always wanted here and hoping it will all turn out for the good. Feeling proud to be an essential part of the world. Feeding people really stands out during a time like this. We are all doing such important work!

(Plainfield) Scouted blueberry mulch Sunday night and did not find any mummy berry apothecia. It was warm night (49 degrees) after a warm day (70 degrees). Then I found dozens of apothecia Monday morning. I am physically disturbing the mulch and will spray urea on the apothecia. The buds are swelling quickly now but it is supposed to be a cold week.

(Plainfield NH) Usually it's the weather, but this year everything around here seemingly evolves and revolves around Coronavirus. As I imagined, the additional costs incurred through time and resources devoted to protecting employees and retail customers is significant. That said, it is an expensive inconvenience and not a true hardship. Our H2A workers have arrived and entering their last week of sequestration. We have had them hand fertilizing the blueberries and doing some hand work in the strawberries, but the foul weather of the past week has them watching a lot of Netflix and wrestling on TV.

Small fruit crops look good and I am pleased that we got through the pruning of the blueberries during this mild winter. Ray has some cole crops in the ground, some carrot and beet seeded. Mike is laying plastic in the field and soon we will be laying down Dutch white clover in the drive rows. Hopefully I will get some corn in the ground the next couple of days. Other tasks include completing the construction and moving of 5 greenhouses which will be devoted to vegetable production. Wrapping up grafting of tomatoes and making way for the retail greenhouse season.

TECH TIPS FROM UVM EXTENSION AG ENGINEERING

Drain Guide - A new guide to drains is available on the blog at <http://go.uvm.edu/drains>. It covers everything from directly plumbed drains, to floor or spot drains, to trench drains. We even have a construction drawing for a trench drain!

Spring Cleaning in the Cooler - It's not a bad time of year to take a look at your coolers and consider a deep cleaning while also ticking through some preventive maintenance. We have a guide on the blog at <http://go.uvm.edu/coolerchecklist>.

Bins Guide Updated - We have updated our every growing guide to Bins, Buckets, Baskets & Totes at <http://go.uvm.edu/bins>. One highlight is fish baskets available in different colors!

Ag Engineering Podcast - Fresh, crisp episodes are released each week as Andy talks with growers to help share tools, tips, and techniques to improve the sustainability on your farm. Recent topics have included setting up an online store, rural markets, paper pot transplanter, and a single row walk-behind vacuum seeder. Full episode list, show notes, and subscription links at <http://agengpodcast.com>.

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