

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – June 18, 2013
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Warren) Somehow we seem to have squeezed through the rainy stretch relatively unscathed. Found time to get bi-weekly seedings in pretty much on time and even kept up on mechanical cultivation and tillage. Sales are really strong locally and we are just loving the group CSA concept. Paring things down to just a few crops in higher volume seems to be simple enough for me to handle and I'm shocked at just how much more I can get done without having employees to manage. It has been really satisfying to see how some simple investments like a rear set of forks to carry 2 pallets instead of one, extra carts for the wash house and caster wheels

(Williston) The rain in the past few weeks have saturated the soils making it hard to prepare beds and plant. Regrowth on herbs is coming back pale yellow due to the rain leaching out the nitrogen. I have side dressed with Pro-booster hoping to give the plants a hit of nitrogen. Flea beetles have hit the tomatoes and eggplant in the hoop house. Leaf hoppers are in field on oregano,sage,mint. Using Pyganic 5.0 every 5-7 days to beat them back. Having a running battle with galinsoga in hoop house and fields but trying to keep on top of it. Have laid down landscape fabric in perennial herbs to help with weed control this year. Cover crop of buckwheat is looking a bit pale but the few sunny days have perked it up a bit. Looking forward to the forecast of sunshine later this week and hope to get into field and finish planting soon.

(Rochester) Our Patriot blueberries, of which we have more than an acre, are not sizing up correctly and we are not sure whether it is frost-related, incomplete pollination, or a combination of the two. They were about 50% in open bloom when we had a night in the mid-20s and it was wet for a week after the remainder opened up. Still, we will get some fruit from

Tine weeder working great on on corn, beans, and potatoes. Side dressing is needed to get some better color into winter squash and corn transplants. Using Entrust to bang away at flea beetles on kale and collards. Third time over seems to have gotten them under control. Some cucumber beetles on the greenhouse cukes. Trying yellow sticky traps and pheromone lures. Spring plant sale is over, did very well. Now comes the hard work, selling produce.

(Salisbury NH) Cool weather is keeping everything from growing much. If it isn't raining, it has been cool. We have also tried perforated plastic this year. It really heats things up but then we find ourselves rushing out to vent it when the sun does come out. Peppers, eggplants and tomatoes in the field all look sad. Onions and leeks are doing fine. Every year we plant about 3 plantings of stringbeans and they all end up catching up with each other. Potatoes seem happy with the rain, even in one garden that had some standing water. Never enough lettuce, spinach and carrots to keep customers happy. The hoophouse produce goes fast and then the field items aren't quite ready. Cucumbers in hoophouse have good growth but the field cukes are miserable. One success story was a trial of summer squash and zucchini in a raised bed that we covered with plastic. Covered at night and off during the day if the sun was out. Have baby

beetles already (rose chafers) and saw a friend's strawberry bed that had a lot of Asian garden beetle injury from feeding on roots. The variety Cabot is proving to be problematic in second year production, both on our farm and others. Cabot performs famously the first year of production and appear to be healthy through flowering the second year but then immediately succumb to a variety of root pathogen issues. We are considering dropping this cultivar from the mix. We like easy and Valley Sunset looks to be the solution although we are trying Record and Mayflower in that time frame. Sales in ornamental greenhouses have been strong since the snows of Memorial D