





(Plainfield) Finally set out my pepper planting, two weeks late. Weather seemed to be always too cold and wet, when it wasn't too hot and windy. Dreary spring is making for a nice patch of strawberries. TPB was late to arrive. The nipper was present but not real bad either. Got good control on both with 5% Pyganic, Azadirect, and MPede at full labeled rates. Cherry tomatoes flowering nicely in their hoop house. Eggplants slowly getting established in theirs. Glad my field plantings are small this season with the choppy weather.

(Argyle NY) Pleasant Valley Farm. It's been a roller coaster ride of weather this spring which has brought on many pests and diseases with abundance, and shortfalls of product. Markets that were strong in the winter are now weak this spring. With a good crew and willingness to adapt you can steer toward a good finish. Strawberries are lackluster this year being late and not a good set. Overwintered onions are late and small but look good. Starting to pick peas this week with zucchini, summer squash, and cukes also. Root cellar products are all gone but greens such as lettuce, spinach, and arugula are going gangbusters. Unfortunately, some cabbage aphids overwintered on kale and are on our Happy Rich broccoli, so finding the best cure is needed since lady bugs don't seem to eat them. Any suggestions?

(Plainfield NH) Strawberry season is always our busiest--and most confusing time. The advent of the season was hampered by uncooperative spring conditions, but is now here in earnest. Very concerned about the forecasted weather patterns which look to be damp and grey in the near future. The calyxes of the ripening berries have browning on them so Botrytis is ready to spring. Difficult to get sprays on the plants because of bird netting on the beds. Keeping our fingers crossed for meteorologist to be wrong, in our favor.

Greenhouse and early farm stand sales have been promising, with plenty of product to move. Cukes, tomatoes, summer squash, zukes and all the greens. Plantings in the field of all the crops are bunched up. For example, our first and second crop of beans were planted 20 days apart yet they'll be ready at the same time, and the same with the beets and beet greens. The crew is focused on harvesting berries, but we have transplanted our later plantings of peppers, cherries, cukes and melons along with the ongoing plantings of greens, coles and crucifers.

Weed control is the best it has been for some years on the farm, but damp hot weather and harvesting will throw all that out the window. Lots of striped cucumber beetle all of a sudden, and fall armyworm has shown up in local field corn. All the deer and rodents seemed to have wintered very nicely, proliferated and soon Bambi will be chewing carrot tops, beans and greens with the same gusto that her mommy does. All the folks experiencing the environment by staring out the car window at Bambi and her mommy grazing in the strawberry field makes it hard for me to get in there and try to run them over with the tractor.



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