



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News June 22, 2010

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## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Montpelier) Cucumber beetles are the pest of the season so far. Aphids in the greenhouses appear to be under control on the pepper plants. Few to no TPB so far. The occasional squash bug. No CPB seen yet. Flea beetles are very present in the field and in the greenhouses, but not in a new field planted with cabbage and broccoli. All fields are planted and the cloudy wet weather has given the transplants a great start. Everything is looking very happy and moving right along. New bed shaper/mulch layer is a beautiful thing, paid for itself on the first day. Starting fungal spray program using a rotation of Cease (bacillus subtilus) and Regalia (Japanese knotweed extract) in greenhouse crops and field tomato. Very paranoid about late blight and I have way too many home gardeners in the neighborhood. Deer have

(S. Royalton) Finally finished all the major field plantings and now working on succession plantings of

Next winter we'll plant earlier and hope to have onions starting early to mid-May when storage ones are usually finished and summer ones haven't started. One high tunnel is producing lots of pickling cucumbers, basil, summer squash, and we just started with beans last week. The second high tunnel is filled with sweet potatoes. We've had full-size beets for a week, Swiss chard is in full field production, and carrots are almost ready. No disease or insect issues but we just started experimenting with the new netting (BioThrips) from Dubois Agrinovation for flea beetle exclusion and we really love it; great to be able to see the crop through the netting. We are watching for late blight and mildews daily. Great weather for cultivation and keeping weeds in check, and nice having full irrigation. The peas which we transplanted from 200 cell speedling trays were a great success and are producing wonderfully but the early sugar snap peas mostly had black spots on them which we get every year that we are trying to identify and control. Farmers' markets are booming and busy.

## **GET READY FOR LATE BLIGHT**

Late blight has been confirmed on tomato plants in CT, PA, Long Island, and on potato in MI. Hopefully we'll have lots of hot dry weather which limits spread of the disease but better to prepare for the odds that it will be here soon. We have had several false late blight alarms because other diseases, especially in the greenhouse, can look similar, such as gray mold and even leaf mold, see: <http://www.extension.org/article/18337>. There are excellent images and resources on late blight at Meg McGrath's Cornell site: [http://www.longislandhort.cornell.edu/vegpath/photos/lateblight\\_tomato.htm](http://www.longislandhort.cornell.edu/vegpath/photos/lateblight_tomato.htm). If you are in doubt send sample for positive ID to: Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic, 201 Jeffords Building, 63 Carrigan Drive, UVM, Burlington VT 05405. (802) 656-

