

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – June 3, 2014
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Tunbridge) things are growing slow and steady. We have row covers on something's we usually do not cover such as some of the onions to move them along. Hoping that by the time we plant the winter squash we can remove some row covers, as we are in need of those hoops. First spinach crop was beautiful. Lettuce in the field not quite there. Pigeons ate a lot of peas after they sprouted and we had to cover them. We are trying for a nice supper of pigeon and morels, but so far we only have the morels.

(Waterbury) Garlic is looking good this year, plants are strong and vibrant. Had quite a few "doubles" (two plants in one hole) this year. In the past we always just pulled one plant and used it as "green" garlic. We have started transplanting the extra plant into an empty hole in the row. If the conditions are right the transplant seems to do well and produce a nice bulb.

(Cambridge) Now that the blueberries are finally leafing out I'm seeing more winter damage than I've ever had. A lot of the smaller branches just didn't make it through. Overall the bushes will be fine but are getting a hard pruning to remove all the dead material. It was a cold winter but we've had colder so I'm not sure why there was so much die-back. There are still plenty of flowers and the bumble bees are busy at work but there won't be nearly the epic fruit set of last summer. Garlic is looking good so far, though a little more sun would be helpful. I have been growing mostly 'Red Russian' and 'Georgia Fire' but invested in a few pounds of 'Music' last fall to see if I couldn't build up some stock. The heads were huge with just 4 enormous cloves apiece. Since they have come up the plants are noticeably larger than the other varieties. Now I wish I had a whole field of 'Music'.

(Warren) I made the decision not to push early spring high tunnel greens in favor of concentrating on field work and planting. In theory the crops I've planted in the movable tunnels back in March will generate the same amount of revenue, just later on and make the spring that much less hectic. Both seem to be true but it really puts a pinch on the cash flow. That said, everything looks good with the first greens harvests starting later this week. Peas and carrots from high tunnels are enjoying the sunlight outside and will be ready for the first CSA pickup.

I'm hoping that wholesale marketing will be a lot easier this year since I have no new markets and we all know the drill so to speak. Onions on silver mulch are looking good. I know they are growing slower than if they were on black but the almanac calls for a hot August and it seems like so many of the onion diseases are brought on by hot moist soil conditions. I think the production cost on onions is one of the highest we have and I can't afford to lose another crop. So far I have had one good one in 4 years.

(Londonderry) Winter collapsed hoop house rebuilt and covered! Other house planted out with our own blight free heirloom cherry tomatoes. Mikes cherry bomb, Anjali fun gold, Japanese black cherry and Funky green striped. Delicata is out and happy. Salad mix and other cutting

There is good flower set on strawberries and blueberries, but I have learned to temper my enthusiasm with

(Jericho) We are loving the cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, snap peas, zucchini, summer squash and basil coming out of our new minimally heated hoop house with in-ground heat. Fun for us and exciting for our customers at market and CSA. Learning just how tall cucumbers can grow. Field crops have been a few weeks behind due to cold April, but are catching up now. Tried to cram 2 months of field work into one and are just now about to crawl out of the hole - great crew is working hard and keeping us on track.

(S. Burlington) Despite the incredible slow regrowth start to my overwintered kale and cilantro, once it got going, the yields this April and May have been great. My overwintered spinach is just being ripped out now and yielded best ever, albeit delayed. Of course that means all summer crops are slow to get in which means I will have to rip them when they are at their peak in order to get winter crops in on time in Aug/Sept. Awesome May weather has been much appreciated!

(New Boston NH) In Hillsborough County NH we are off to slow start. Despite getting quite a bit of the early plantings in (onions and potatoes, peas, carrots,) heavy rains and cool temps have slowed our planting progress which paid off when what could have been a catastrophic hail storm with dime sized hail pummeled our farm. While it did lay our peas flat (they bounced back) most of the field was covered in remay or just planted and small enough to escape serious damage. Will begin harvesting Pac Choi, radishes and

So far, we have been catching onion maggot adults for the past few weeks. If you are noticing your onions declining and not thriving, check for the maggot in the root system.

<https://extension.umass.edu/vegetable/insects/onion-maggot> . This pest has 3 generations in VT