

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News July 1, 2014
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Warren) No major catastrophes so far this season. That's a first for me. The one major complaint is that I neglected to dunk the winter squash with Surround and ended up paying the price. Spraying in the field once there is already an infestation is just not the same. They are growing through it but are set back for sure. Fields are definitely a little weedier after last year so I'm spending a lot more time on the cultivating tractor this year. Hardly used it last season because it was always so wet. Forgot how satisfying it is. High tunnel tomatoes and peppers are looking fantastic. I'm starting to use a lot of oat/pea cover crop in the movable tunnel field and I think it is making a real difference. Greens harvests have been going along merrily thanks to the purchase of several of those new Johnny s harvesters new field carts and some pallet bins that allow us to move forty 1-3/4 totes out of the field and into the wash house at once. Now my salad greens gig just ruins my Monday mornings, not my whole life.

(Elmore) Vegetables are slow except in the high tunnel with concentrated solar and drip, the largest fullest lettuces ever! Very dry in the fields and in the pots, we have to water and do rain dances. Looks like a great year for berries, fruits and nuts though. Grass needs mowing more than I remember-why can't this growing energy transfer to the squashes and broccoli?

(Rochester) The cold winter did nothing to reduce the population of rose chafers which have emerged in large numbers. However, raspberry cane borer infestation is light this year. Our earliest blueberry and raspberry varieties are suffering some die back and weak leaf development which we put down to cold stress in the late dormant period. Working hard to eliminate wild brambles around the farm perimeter to deprive SWD of habitat.

(Brookfield) We have had a slow start as we are in a cooler pocket, but crops are growing well. Field tomatoes looking good with tomatoes coming fast, our first year with strawberries to sell, sweet corn needs more heat, direct seeded pumpkins and squash looking real good, and transplants, peas doing well, Had a good year selling bedding plants. We have had good rains on a regular basis. No problems with insects, yet! Crows did get some sweet corn.

Gladiolas are all up and doing well and we had more sunflowers seeds than expected overwinter and germinate which means less transplanting. Soil temps in the rows is between 75-85 degrees F at 4 inches depending on the day and there is still good soil moisture below the tops couple of inches in our gravelly-sand soil. Irrigation lines are all hooked up with leaks fixed for a more efficient system. This year I am planting oats in the rows that will be fallow; not only will it cover the soil but it will add different texture to the visual landscape.

(Ange-Gardien, Quebec) Great season so far, heat and good rains at good interval. Have not started irrigation yet. Cantaloup are full flowering, canary and triploids are coming. Cucumber beetle not a big issue, nor are "fausse teigne du poireau" in garlic. Market for garlic flower is not that easy, you really have to give the pesto recipe to the clients. Sweet potatoes look great as they really enjoy last week heat. Good experience with overwintering field lettuce; Oakleaf and Curly Red did go through winter giving me a good 2-3 week primeur on normal field lettuce. What are your success about that?

(Williston) Corn and pumpkins now are all planted, starting to come up. Blueberries and raspberries are full, starting to see some color. Maybe a few days behind last year, warmer weather they may catch up now. Weed season in full strength. It's been a good growing season, frequent rains and sunshine. Hay fields a bit behind, hope to see more hay getting in the barn this next week.

(Charlotte) The strawberries were slow to start and fast to leave, but the fields were not very good this year. Planted a large crop for next year. The bluebeaf,(ss)- TJr.

(Little Compton RI) We had a small train wreck with our greenhouse tomatoes. A windy day put extra strain on our three year-old 3/16th inch metal cable that carries all the tomato twine and 8 foot tall plants, and two snapped! Upon close inspection, the core had rusted out. It was galvanized. Lesson learned, we immediately went and bought stainless steel 1/8th inch cable. We will inspect that before next season. Our region has a green and black aphid infestation, even the field lambs quarter weeds are covered! Predators released in the greenhouses are keeping up to the challenge but lettuce fields are a mess. We are very dry and making plans to give up on winter squash in unirrigated fields if it comes to that. One good thing about being an older farmer is you know earlier when you are beat. There is always a quick fall crop to get your fertilizer investment back if you have quit the first crop in time and can get the field re-set. Toughest part is the looks you get ey have
worked hard at; I06 1 0 0 1 150.38 534.43 Tm (e)4 0 0 1 317.69C00 and mKkN54C"%#BRvSD0%#BRTC)b

Leaf mold (*Fulvia fulvia*) seen in high tunnel tomatoes due to high humidity. Keep RH below 85%; roll up sides, open ends, keep air moving with fans, prune lower leaves to increase air circulation, and select resistant cultivars.

<https://extension.umass.edu/vegetable/diseases/fulvia-leaf-mold-tomato>

Sweet corn: European corn borers have been trapped in Chittenden county. Caterpillar infestations are likely going up in pre-tassel corn this week, so scout. Infestations will vary from

August 5, 5-7 pm. Designing Your Farm Retail Space. Killdeer Farm & Farmstand. Norwich, VT

August 11, 5-7:30 pm. Dos and Don'ts of Establishing a Commercial Blueberry Stand. Waterman Berry Farm, Johnson, VT

August 14, 3:30-6 pm. Pest and Disease ID and Scouting. High Meadows Farm, P