(Middlebury) The high tunnel tomatoes are going strong and the pounds are really starting to flow. Eggplants are getting a little munched but still producing well. High tunnel cucumbers were hit hard and early by powdery mildew; I might tear them out soon. The biodiversity of the farm has spiked-cucumber beetles, squash bugs, imported cabbage worm, nutsedge, galinsoga. Fortunately nutsedge is the only one out of control. Crops are happy, though a little more gentle rain would be appreciated. Farmers market is really rocking this year, it seems like all produce vendors are doing great and the market is very busy.

(Westminster West). Winter squash is running and setting fruit and looks great. Onions are looking super with some very large bulbs screaming to get harvested! Garlic harvest will start in a day or so, as soon as I finish planting fall carrot and beet crop. It has been very dry, but some heavy rain, coupled with drip irrigation on all our crops, really makes a difference. Tunnel raspberries are huge this year and we started planting another raspberry tunnel to meet the demand. Super heavy yield on tunnel tomatoes and eggplant and good demand. Plant sales keep on coming and watching our mum and aster field grow daily and can t wait to start shipping those out. Noticed we didn t have a white fly problem this year in the greenhouse, maybe the bio-controls worked! Have a nice crew this year and even feels like fun most of the time!

(S. Royalton) Crops and weeds both kicking into high gear with this hot weather, garlic about ready to harvest in the next week or two onions are looking best we've had in a few years. Tried Ed Person s suggestion of screening a hoop house for early cukes and zucchini and it has worked great only one small outbreak of cuke beetles when the door got blown open for a couple of hours. Some leaf mold in the hoophouse tomatoes trying to keep ahead of it with Serenade and adding some fans for circulation.

(UVM Student Farm, S. Burlington) We were lucky avoiding any major setbacks from all the rain in the beginning of the season and have been thankful for all the hot sunny weather keeping the disease pressure down, although our skin is not as happy about that! s, shirts, sunscreen!) We just started getting tomatoes more abundantly and regularly which is exciting, especially for our CSA members. We had some minor issues with root maggots earlier on in the season but we luckily did not end up losing any crops combating them with predatory nematodes. Now we are just struggling with the weeds which have inundated our fields since all the rain a few weeks ago.

(Royalton) Taking a break this year to hike the Long Trail with my teenaged son, think I picked a good year! Harvested the softneck garlic, which I thought we had lost in May due to the rains and compacted clay soil. It pulled through, and we got enough seed stock for next year, but the average sized head is way down. Put the rest of the acreage into cover crops. From the winter veg and berry meeting, we decided to try mustard as a biofumigant. It worked great on galinsoga in the early spring, but was slower to germinate by June and not as effective. Buckwheat planted then works just great, and galinsoga has been beat back. We'll see about August. A sparagus and strawberries were the most prolific ever, hardly any tarnish plant bug or asparagus pests. Hay is out of control; lots of it and high quality, despite the rain (we wrap round bale). Don't have any market vegetables this year, can't imagine how people are keeping up with the weeds.

(Plainfield) July wears me out. Cherry tomatoes doing well, just starting to pick. Peppers and eggplant, too. Winter squash staring to run. Side dressing chard and kale, picking lots. Too hot to work most afternoons. Need to start irrigating this week, as thunderstorms have missed us.

(Salisbury NH) Could use a little more rain as we have no drip irrigation. Harvesting lots of broccoli. Walla Walla onions look wonderful with lots of hand weeding. Harvesting some carrots but they always taste better in the fall. String beans, zucchini, cukes, and summer squash finally coming in droves and small eggplants. Seascape strawberries produced this spring, held over from last year, and hoping to get one more fall crop. Do we cut back any foliage and fertilize? Lettuce, spinach, pak choi are hard to keep from bolting. Demand has been high for those items. Customers slow to come but picked up this week-end. Picking blueberries, larger sized since we pruned hard. Raspberries coming. Need to cover, cedar waxwings have been scouting our fields for us! Cabbage and cauliflower ready any time now.

(Little Compton RI) Beware of "German Chamomile" it seems like an innocuous herb but it has become a nightmare! The seed heads produce hundreds of thousand seeds which, like Galinsoga, will hitch a ride on tractor tires and rototiller blades. It is a perennial with a tenacious root system. If it gets a hold in the fall you are in for some tough times in the spring getting rid of it. It has taken over one of our late fall lettuce fields and we have a certified mess. It is now spreading to the traffic areas in other fields. We are game on now but it is going to take an enormous effort to beat it back. If only we had known. Still enjoying the over wintered onions but we have to crack the nut of how and why they go to seed; the seed shaft is hurts the onions appearance and longevity. Late blight in the area but for now keeping it at bay with tag team of Oxidate and NuCop.

UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC UPDATE Ann Hazelrigg

Scorch on foliage: if you see dieback or browning on the edges of leaves whether it is in a tree or a tomato or a cucumber, look lower in the plant. Scorch, which can also extend in between the main veins in leaves, is a general symptom and indicates that something is going on lower in the plant to inhibit water and nutrients from getting to the leaf edges. It could be due to root rots, drought, vascular wilt diseases, stem injury, etc. If you symptoms, dig up the plant, look at the lower stem, the roots to see if they are stunted, or non-existent! If all looks good, cut the stem open lengthwise to look for browning in the vascular system. Some insects, like potato leaf hopper, can also cause scorch symptoms on leaf edges.

Tomato leaf spot diseases coming on fast and furious. Early blight and septoria fungal diseases start low in plant and work their way up fast or slow depending on the weather. Early blight has larger target shaped spots with advancing yellowing and septoria causes small spots with gray centers. Keep up vigor of plants to "outrun" the disease and keep up with fungicides. Late blight has been found in Ontario, Canada and Long Island. Luckily we have not had the right cool cloudy weather so most foliar problems are attributable to the other leaf spot diseases. Leaf mold is appearing in greenhouses on susceptible varieties. This fungus causes a yellow spot on the upper leaf surface and with brown/purplish spores on the undersides. I saw this on outdoor tomatoes last year. Anything you can do to lower humidity below 85% will help. Use fans, open up ends, roll up sides, open upper vents and pick better varieties next time!

Downy mildew has shown up in states around us on cucumbers. This one is always a little tricky to diagnose but yellow spots delineated by leaf veins on the upper leaf surface is common. For more pictures and management: http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Cuc_Downy.htm