

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – July 2, 2024
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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Westminster) I don't think we've ever been so\$

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2 weeks to plant, so here at the end of June we've got potatoes in all stages of growth. The first field planted is hilled and 2-foot tall, the last field is just popping up.

Gearing up to start spraying this week, first insecticide and weekly foliar feeds. Going to be putting down foliar boron and magnesium alternating weeks to combat hollow heart. Plus our trusty kelp juice. Weed control so far is good, but hard to tell how long it'll last. There's a fair amount of morning glory in the fields this year; got me jumping off the tractor handweeding when I should be cruising.

The transition to summer work is underway with the barn nearly ~~clm~~

A second discovery is that Entrust appears near useless on CPB, even on young larvae. We now have to rotate to a field three miles away to try and control the infestation with rotation. Three years ago Trident from Certis was our answer, but it has not been available since then.

Strawberries did well because our varieties were early and midseason, so we missed the heat blast that took down others around us. Anthracnose was a problem, but a couple of copper sprays alternated with Oxidate kept it manageable.

Greenhouse tomatoes: learned a lesson not to remove leaves below the first fruit cluster before the plant has set two or three other clusters. Doing that set them back and we lost two weeks of good early season prices. Another farmer told me to always leave enough foliage in case of prolonged heat, so plants can transpire enough water to stay healthy. We are spraying prophylactic treatments of Double Nickel to keep grey mold at bay.

Deer: Trico-Pro is a very effective deterrent, even if sprayed away from the field, where the deer move toward crops. It's not certified by OMRI so can't be used in our organic fields, but since it is essentially lamb fat, I'm hoping it will be someday!

NAP insurance through USDA~FSA has been one of the best investments we have made in the last ten years! With hurricane season gearing up and 16 major storms projected, it is a no brainer as close to the ocean as we are.

(Argyle NY) Warmer than normal spring definitely made some crops earlier like rhubarb and strawberries. Irrigation was hooked up in April and didn't have to be broken down because of freezing weather. Rains have been light and infrequent.

This spring into summer has been (so far) the lightest amount of flea beetles,

Sales for us are all online and doing well with a few wholesale accounts for surplus. Administrative time on the computer is too high but it works. Look forward to some travels in August to recharge!

UPDATE FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension

Blueberries-Exobasidium leaf and fruit spot identified. This fungus is sporadic and considered to be a more southern disease. Pale green spots appear on the upper leaf surface with pure white fungal growth on the underside. Infected spots on berries stay green and do not ripen. Spots become sunken and distorted over time and berries may drop prematurely. To reduce disease, encourage air flow and reduce humidity in the blueberry field. Use drip irrigation instead of overhead irrigation, eliminate standing water, and remove trees on the perimeter that block air movement. Prune bushes to create an open canopy with good air flow. A single application of lime sulfur about two weeks before bud break will provide significant control of Exobasidium leaf and fruit spot. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/exobasidium-leaf-and-fruit-spot-of-blueberry>

Strawberries-several plantings have experienced significant collapse. Some crowns are infected with anthracnose and show severe damage. Black root rot is commonly seen in roots. <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-fru-05> This is a catch-all term for red stele disease (*Phytophthora*), nematodes, *Rhizoctonia* and other soil borne fungi. Even though the winter was on the mild side, I suspect the very saturated soil of last summer contributed to the collapse we are seeing this year.

Tomatoes-Anticipate seeing a lot of leaf spot disease (Early blight, Septoria) showing up this week on the lower leaves of field tomatoes. Fungicide sprays can protect new tissue but need to be reapplied often. We don't usually see this in high tunnels, but it can be present in the outside rows. Some tortoise beetle adults (resemble mini turtles) and larval (green and spiny with fecal matter on back) feeding seen on Solanaceous plants. <https://extension.umaine.edu/home-and-garden-ipm/fact-sheets/common-name-listing/tortoise-beetles/>

Squash vine borer reported in western Massachusetts last week. There is only one and maybe 2 generations per year and adults emerge from late June into July with peak flight being mid-July. Some growers sacrifice the first fruit by keeping squash row covered until after their first blooms. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/squash-vine-borer>

Leek moth damage is high in scapes. **Garlic** anthracnose was diagnosed on garlic scapes in Massachusetts. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/newsletters/vegetable-notes/vegetable-notes-2024-vol-3611> "In garlic, this pathogen (*Colletotrichum fioriniae*) only infects the scapes and bulbils. *C. fioriniae* has a broad host range including celery, tomato, pear, apple, blueberry, strawberry, and many weeds. On garlic scapes, lesions are sunken and initially tan, turning orange as the fungus produces spores. The spores are dispersed by splashing water. The fungus can survive on crop debris in the soil for several years. Remove scapes and rotate."

Suspected **Swede midge damage** seen causing multiple heads in brassicas. Tiny adult flies lay eggs in the growing points. The feeding damage causes deformation of plants including brown corky tissue, galls, blind-heads, multi-heads, and twisted leaf petioles.

STILL TIME TO ADD YOUR FREE PYO LISTING

Promote your PYO crops to the public on the new VVBGA web site

Wednesday, September 18, 3:30-5:30 pm
BEST PRACTICES FOR ON-FARM MARKETS
Walker Farm, 1190 US-5, East Dummerston, VT

Tuesday September 24, 4-6 pm
CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES
Evening Song Farm, 680 Shunpike Rd, Shrewsbury, VT