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The deer have been munching too; really love Maxibel green beans that don't get fat, just longer if you're behind in picking. Bamako yellow is prolific but hard to pick and a not as yellow as I'd like. When I planted Maxibel and Bamako in the same row, something ate the heck out of Bamako leaves but left Maxibel alone. It might have been slugs with all the rain.

Raspberries were terrible picking this year. Lots of overripe with a few perfect and then underripe so have to move around a lot just to pick one pint. Fall raspberries look better. Had an explosion of Japanese beetles. Luckily they are on my grape vines which make a nice trap crop. Summer squash and zucchini early plantings have very few blossoms. At least they didn't get loaded with squash bugs. The new plantings are stronger and hopefully will blossom during dry weather. Everything is late this year and in lower quantities. But I feel bad whining when so many have suffered much worse in the floods.

(Argyle NY) What a welcome change in the weather! I always say, "it's a good day when you have to put a sweatshirt on in the morning." I'm sure the hot weather delayed ripening of tomatoes, so here we go! Greens did well during the heat, but cucumber beetles were out in force on cukes and squash. Flea beetles are the usual bother in bok choy and arugula. No leafhoppers on the potatoes yet.

Diseases have been minimal so far except on cukes and squash. Weeds are our biggest problem due to lack of labor, even though we reduced our acreage. An average sales year despite the weather being all over the place. Our farm skirted the flooding and the heavy rains. Peppers, eggplants, tomatoes in the tunnels are all picking up production nicely. First corn is ready.

An odd (and new to us) problem has been pillbugs all spring and summer destroying the basil. Trying to keep seedings on time but it's hard with all the rain. Tarping has helped. Planning the winter tunnels now and will start seeding for them before we know it!

(Little Compton RI) First, us southern New England farmers send out our thoughts and prayers to those who have had unspeakable stresses and loss these last few months. Anyone who does this for a living knows we farm for the intangibles more than the money. Best of luck to those who find a way through.

We are trying two deer repellents: Plantskydd is OMRI approved, to be put on the plants. Trico is in the process of getting approved, so we spray it in the tree lines around our most deer-prone crops like beans and sweet potatoes.



Areas not flooded and within flight distance of a flooded farm may house bees or other pollinators able to pollinate the following year's crop and/or seed the next generation of bees in the previously flooded areas. Special thanks to Emily May from the Xerces Society and Bryan Danforth from Cornell University for their help regarding this question.

## **UVM EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING UPDATES**

Andy Chamberlin and Chris Callahan

Vegetable growers are seeking tools to improve flexibility and efficiency in the packshed. The AZS Rinse Conveyor is becoming a popular piece of equipment to meet the need to rinse off a variety of crops. A new blog post has been published. Farmer's Favorites: The AZS Rinse Conveyor: <https://go.uvm.edu/ffazs>

Two new podcast episodes of the Farmer's Share are: Speed Disking Rye with Mark Fasching (Jericho Settlers Farm): EP9 and Visiting Walker Farm with Jack Manix: EP10. Visit <https://thefarmersshare.com> to see photos and visits from the visit and listen to the interview on your favorite podcast player.

**August 20, 10-noon.** NOFA-VT workshop on [Intro to Seed Saving](#), Kindle Farm School, Townshend, VT. Learn how to collect, clean, and store seeds. Get hands-on practice harvesting, threshing, and winnowing seeds. Applicable for gardeners, homesteaders, and small-scale farmers just getting started with seed saving.

**September 20, 4-6 pm.** [VVBGA workshop](#). Evening Song Farm, Shrewsbury, VT. Topics: No till organic growing, reducing erosion on a slope, fall tunnel plantings. This diversified organic farm uses mulches, fabrics, cover crops, and no-till to reduce soil loss and improve soil health. The farm also produces crops year-round in the tunnels, and this workshop will feature the transition of summer to fall crops.