

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWER NEWS –

(Westfield) We are still very dry. We finally got one inch of rain, which gives us some relief. We were lucky to be able to do some irrigation over the summer to keep the plants growing and amazingly, we have a good crops. All vegetables did well, which is hard to understand when the soil is like wood ash. Sales have been strong. Tomatoes grafted on Shin cheong were a no show. Last year I tried a tomato leaf tea against the swede midge; I fill a 5-Gal bucket full of tomatoes leaves and add water and let it stand for two weeks, then filter and spray weekly (almost) on broccoli, cauliflowers, and cabbage, non-diluted. I lost only 30 % of my broccoli and there is barely any damage on the other crops. Previously, I used to lose all my broccoli. Two years in I

Erratic weather has been hard on many crops. Hot and humid then cold and rainy. Drought for all of June then swamps for July. Trying to do more no-till. Works great for some things but my experiment with buckwheat and straw around cucumbers and melons produced lots of buckwheat and very small plants with tiny fruits. Cutting broccoli off at the soil line and transplanting lettuce worked great. Beets were another strange crop. The hoophouse Early Wonder was beautiful - both tops and roots. The same variety outside sat there with wilted tops and small beets. Partly because we put shade cloth on in June and should have taken it off in July. By the time we thought about it we were almost done with the rainy July, but beets didn't recover.

Carrots improved once we took off shade cloth. Mostly Romance. Later plantings ended up with bigger carrots than the earlier plantings (assume it was the shade cloth issue). Cherry tomatoes were not productive. We grow (non-grafted) Sungold and Jasper which usually produce so much we throw away some. We cut back this year and now struggle to have enough. These are in a hoophouse so not exposed to weather but also have lots of splitting which we didn't have before.

We've had plenty of customers. No one complains about the prices. We do have a problem, though, with the various internet sites that claim to be us and post our hours. We are only opened Friday, Saturday, and Sunday but people drive up all hours of the day, saying "your website says you're open." I don't have time to correct all the misinformation out there. Looking forward to a little cooler, drier weather of September and October.

(Argyle NY)

He pioneered sweet corn transplanting, tested biomass heat for greenhouses, experimented with strip tillage, grew numerous cover crops, oilseed crops, and small grains over the years. He was a key player back in the day as growers figured out how organic strawberry production could be viable at commercial scale. Jon found the sweet spot of diversified greenhouse management that was high tech when needed but simple when that was sufficient.

Jon maintained a strong relationship with Bob and Sally Wood, from whom he purchased the farm, as well as with his Jamaican and local crew. He donated thousands of pounds of food to the food bank. He marketed collaboratively with other growers. We are a better community for having known Jon and he will be missed. Our hearts go to his wife Courtney, sons Emmet and Ezra, and their entire family.

Share your memories with his family and friends at: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jonsatz>. To view a photo tribute to Jon's farming life, see: <https://go.uvm.edu/jonsatztribute>

UPDATES FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension plant pathologist

Fungal leaf spot diseases continue to spread with each rain event. The northern part of the state has been dry and hence lower incidence of disease, the middle part has had weekly rains and is seeing higher amounts of foliage disease and the south part of the state has been deluged!

Tomato leafspots on the rise (early blight and Septoria) on field tomatoes. Late blight still has only been found on potatoes in Ontario and Maine. Getting lots of reports of powdery mildew, botrytis, and leaf molds in tomato high tunnels. Ghost spot showing up on high tunnel fruit that high loads of Botrytis inoculum. Some growers mentioning a break in production

