



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – Sept. 25, 2012  
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## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Warren) Still amazed at what spraying Solubor pre-plant does for us when it comes to beets. Hopefully I will be more consistent with that next year. Onions sized up well but between the basal rot, the bacterial rot and downy mildew most are in the compost. We are growing all our alliums on a different farm for the next few years and leaving nothing in the field. Winter squash was bumper and excellent quality. Carrots are really nice too. Potatoes planted really late and hammered with CPB and leafhoppers are yielding really well. We put drip on them and were really liberal with it. They received weekly sprays of Sea Crop and got a full range of macro and micro elements through the drip. That approach has worked well for us. I see a real difference especially on salad greens if I miss a week of spraying: weekly spraying, no mildew; miss a week or so and it pops back up. Applications of rotted wood of about 20 yards to the acre seem to make no difference in terms of N tie up. I'm looking forward to fall soil test results to see if the 10 ton to the acre applications last fall of both granite and basalt dust chelated enough to show up. Potassium seems to be limiting for us and the granite dust is supposed to be a good long term source.

(Cambridge) Pretty much everything is out of the field at this point I'm just cleaning up and waiting until October to plant garlic. To sum up the season: the alliums rocked; the garlic and leeks thrived and I have never grown such large onions. Winter squash did pretty well and sized up nicely with just a few rounds of irrigation in mid-July. Sweet corn also did really well. The legumes did horribly: peas all died from some kind of root-rot in the spring and beans got hammered by potato leaf hoppers all summer. Even the edamame haven't amounted to anything and are just barely reaching half their normal size. The blueberries looked really promising with tons of berries on the bushes in June but when we went to pick there never seemed to be many ripe ones. I'm fairly sure it was not birds. There is a groundhog in residence but I can't imagine he took the spoils from over 200 bushes every day. I have seen more squirrels and chipmunks this year than ever before. If they are the thieves, I am not sure how to battle them next year; hoping for a cold winter to reduce their population.

(Woodbury) Had a light frost a few weeks ago, my last planting of beans took a little hit; not sure if they will finish. Winter squash is nice; hope demand is there at the market. Fall carrots not so shiny, had to replant and had poor germ with the dry weather. Next year will be different. Our fall broccoli brings tears to my eyes it's so beautiful, and was well received at market. Another planting starting to head behind the current one may or may not make it; fingers crossed. We are abandoning forward progress on our blueberries until this SWD mess gets sorted out. We had planted 150 bushes

(Grand Isle) We began harvest today of the pumpkins grown on land that had winter rye killed by a roller-crimper and was then deep zone tilled, both courtesy of UVM Extension. Our land is heavy clay, but because the pumpkins laid on the rye straw we had the cleanest pumpkins ever! The yield was low, but that was due to lack of rain. I think all that straw mulch helped by keeping whatever moisture there was from evaporating.

(Salisbury NH) Things are winding down quickly in the field; had a light frost. Last plantings of cukes looking very sad afterwards. String beans holding on but growth has really slowed. Long

UPCOMING EVENTS, see: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html>

Sept. 27 at 4 pm. Organic Potato Production at Foote Brook Farm, Johnson. Tony Lehouillier, owner of certified organic Foote Brook Farm in Johnson, VT, will cover the following essentials for potato production: understanding your soils, cultivation techniques, irrigation needs, harvesting with a two-roll picker, and disease issues.

Oct. 2 at 3 pm. Winter Tunnel Production at Bread and Butter Farm, Shelburne. Corie Pierce will explain the four keys to winter hoop house production: crop selection, timing seeding and planting, crop protection needs, and overall system management she uses to harvest kale, chard, spinach, cilantro and other crops most of the year.

Oct. 10 at 3 pm. Swede Midge Management, Intervale Community Farm, Burlington. Andy Jones and Dr. Yolanda Chen will discuss what is known about this midge that has recently expanded its range in the Vermont and is destroying some crucifer crops: what are signs of damage, how to monitor for it, and the current best practices for controlling this pest in organic systems.