



(Plainfield NH) Fall is creeping into the Upper Valley; you can see it in the trees and flora. It is getting dry here once again as we have been missing nearby showers. Some very, very Hail Mary sweet corn planted in August is clearly not going to mature, so I likely will drill winter rye, vetch, and hog radish (my go-to fall cover crop) right over the top of it.

Potatoes are still to be burnt down. Although the Russets seemed to struggle this year there is a good crop of reds, whites and golds. Short on colored peppers because both eggplant and peppers dropped flowers in the heat of July. Carrots look good with the first of four plantings binned up in the cooler. Beets did very well as well, also in the cooler. So far the pumpkins and hard squash seem very disease free and though the set is modest, quality looks fine.

This summer's big learning experience came during our war with the deer, or as we say, rats with antlers. After hoovering up all the early zuke fruit, we put up an elaborate geometrical electric fence because deer are put off by a fence they can't get spatially comfortable enough to go through or jump. It's a lot of material to put up, but it worked well on beans and pumpkins. We found Trico deer repellent (lamb fat by-product) to be ineffective even at full strength, no more effective than the ammonium soap product Hinder.

The shorter days and cooler temps have revived most of the outside field crew who now are readying for the long, short-handed fall harvest. The farmstand crew has another month or so to grind it out, and they too are short-staffed because they have lost bodies to college.

(Little Compton RI) Winter squash is maturing quicker than expected. Learned not to put sugar pumpkins and acorn squash (that mature early) in a large field of butternut which likes to sleep in a bit more. Trying to keep the powdery mildew on the sugar pumpkins from jumping over to the

(Argyle NY) Tunnel tomatoes, eggplant and peppers have recovered from excessive heat and cranking out more than we need! Weekly fertilizing this year has helped. Saw the largest number of tomato hornworms ever (hundreds). Lowest levels of cucumber beetles and squash bugs! Peppers had mites on some plants. Unusual but easy to control with Neem. Cucumbers fading due to diseases and age.

Pole bean trial production has been outstanding. Seychelles (green) Northeaster for Romano, and Monte Gusto for yellow are the best. Planted too close together as too thick though so harvesting is harder. Spacing should be 6-8" likely. Celery has been an issue for first time ever with Aster Yellows brought in by leafhoppers. Second planting just starting but still a loss of production; another crop to consider netting.

First winter plantings soon in the tunnels. Working on getting a steamer for our local group. Our old one is not usable anymore, will sell for parts. We have not steamed in 3 years but feel it's valuable to do again.

Field production: leeks been covered for a month with Protek netting for exclusion of allium leaf miner. We had great losses uncovered the last few years. Started harvesting smaller leeks. A few slow weeks of lettuce in August due to germination issues in the GH.

We switched to buying Chandler plugs for our annual bed strawberries instead of growing from purchased tips, for the first time in 15 years. Will plant them next week. Have a great crew but still never catch up. Working on a 5-year plan to retire or reduce the hours worked!

applying a disinfectant to fruit will only kill spores on the fruit at the time; it will not stop the fungus if it has already started to infect the fruit and it will not affect spores that land on the fruit after treatment.”

If caught early in a limited part of a field, infected plants plus a healthy border row can be tilled under to protect the rest of the crop. The pathogen is easily moved on equipment, so power wash between fields. Improving drainage, long rotations with corn or other non-susceptible crops and use of protectant fungicides will all help minimize the disease in the future. For more details and pictures see this information from Cornell: <https://www.vegetables.cornell.edu/pest-management/disease-factsheets/phytophthora-blight-of-cucurbits/> and from UMass: <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/phytophthora-blight>

Soft rot in carrot suspected (*Erwinia carotovora*) in YaYa carrots and other cultivars due to heavy clay soils and wet conditions. When the carrots were harvested, only the core came out intact while the outer portions of the carrot were left in the ground as a slimy mess.

Anthrachnose (*Colletotrichum coccodes*) diagnosed on pepper fruit. The pathogen causes sunken black spots on the sides of the fruit and are often accompanied by orange spores. Rotations, fungicides and controlling Mother Nature help minimize the disease.

Broccoli brown beading seen. Hot temperatures may have caused the initial damage, but *Alternaria* was also found in the brown damaged buds. Brown bead occurs most commonly during warm temperatures. The optimum temperature for the growth of broccoli is between 60 and 65°F, and brown bead becomes more common as temperatures rise above 75°F. Temperatures during the five days before harvest are especially important. There appears to be an association of brown bead with low levels of calcium (Ca) and high levels of magnesium (Mg) and potassium (K).

Downy mildew diagnosed in horseradish, but the fungal-like pathogen can attack any brassica crop. Symptoms include small angular leaf-spotting on the upper leaf surface with dirty spores associated with the lesions on the undersides. Heavy sporulation gives leaf undersides a gray to purple, downy appearance. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/brassicas-downy-mildew>

As always, send a photo first or a sample to [ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu](mailto:ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu) or the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, 63 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT 05405.

