

## Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – September 6, 2011

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<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>

It has been a difficult week for growers with flooded fields, and for the people that work with them. The Agency of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, NRCS, NOFA, Extension and others are doing their best to assist. Some larger vegetable growers have hundreds of thousands of dollars of losses, and some smaller farms have had their crops totally wiped out; in some cases their fields have been destroyed, too. I've collected descriptions of losses and shared them with agencies and philanthropies to help them raise funds to compensate farmers for losses. These total about \$2 million so far and are posted at: [http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Pubs/Storm\\_Losses\\_VT\\_Growers.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Pubs/Storm_Losses_VT_Growers.pdf). The descriptions are only from vegetable farms, but our dairy farming friends have also been very hard hit with flooding of feed crops. If you have not yet done so be sure to report your losses to the FSA using the agricultural damage assessment form linked to: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/>.

I'm getting many questions about how to handle flooded crops and fields. State and federal agencies are working to clarify things includin

## UVM SOIL TESTING FREE TO FARMS WITH FLOODED FIELDS

The UVM Agricultural Testing Lab will assist vegetable farmers with assessment of post-flood soil conditions in their fields. On request, they will speed up their turn-around on both routine soil fertility

The Intervale Farmers Recovery Fund assists the farms located in that area. They were all flooded.  
<http://www.intervale.org> or 802-660-0440.

#### REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Wolcott/Hardwick) No losses in our upper fields from the rain, just a little erosion in the usual spots that are rough. Our river field on the Lamoille was all in cover crop



The fall crops are looking good, but need nice days to finish off. We just seeded lots of Asian greens for the winter high tunnels, and also seeded the Bridger onion from Johnny's, which performed well for us as an overwintered onion in low and high tunnels. The onion plants will be ready to transplant into the soil about December 1 and we will plant Forum onion sets (need to be special ordered for separate shipping via Johnny's very soon) the same time, as they did well also. The sets planted in late winter bolted in April. All were planted at a 4"x8" spacing for the most part, and we started harvest in late May as the storage onions ran out. We are battling diseases on many crops (cucurbits mostly) and the rains aren't helping. We look forward to a long, warm autumn and also to the 2012 season to start all over!

(Plainfield) Got off easy with the latest flood. High banks, sandy soils. Our road did not wash away this time, just. New wave of corn ear worm came in with the storm, hell on ripening red peppers. Diamondback moth wrecking very young mustard greens. Winter squash going down with powdery mildew, but nice crop finishing. Using up any fertilizer with Chilean nitrate. Greens all need it, and it is prohibited for next season for organic production. Give generously to the funds for farmer relief.

(Norwich) (editor's heads up - late blight reports are increasing around the state) Found late blight in my late potatoes at a field of ours on the Conn. River in North Thetford (Ely). Seems to have come from a single spore as it started in only one small place in the field. Treating with Oxidate etc, but will probably mow pretty soon. This has happened with us before and I'm partly to blame because I put in a very late planting and one out of three years get LB. Yes, Virginia, it really is late blight.... it stinks in that very special way.