

(Argyle NY) August was a record-breaking sales month for us at the farmers' markets; what great support of local folks for those wanting locally grown items. Even with the heat, our greens have done real well and the mini-heads are still popular at \$1 each. Our onion crop is one of our best ever, despite some thrips which we sprayed for. Our area has had tremendous insect pressure from flea beetles, mites, potato leaf-hoppers and tarnished plant bugs...the worse we've seen in many years. Fortunately, though late blight was 20 miles from us, none hit the local farms. It's been a challenge to get spinach to germinate in the fields, but we transplanted a bunch after germinating them in speedling trays in the air-conditioned house!

We're irrigating daily and are very dry again, but it keeps the diseases down. Our winter squash is maturing early, as are most crops; we've already turned on our root-cellar! It's harder to get fall workers, but hopefully the work load will reduce soon. We bought strawberry tips from a Canadian farm and they were wonderful...they've grown into nice plugs and are ready for transplanting out this week. The final brassicas are going out tomorrow and we'll start seeding for the high tunnels over the next few weeks. Very busy, but enjoying the cooler temps and shorter days!

(Moretown/West Brookfield) Late Blight has once again sank its teeth into my tomato crop. Other than that it's been a great season with minimal disease. But of all the diseases to getaaarrgh.

(Plainfield) Potatoes starting to sell, quality nice. Field has gotten weedy since the vines died, making harvest harder. Bolero carrots sizing up after irrigation. Love that rain gun, wish I had a traveler. Big planting of green beans coming in. Lots of paste tomatoes ripening in this run of sunny days. Demand for corn strong. Weekly Dipel sprays on the silks have kept worms away. Just starting to pick Napa, Bok Choi and daikon. Renovated strawberries are so weedy I am thinking of plowing them in. New planting looks good.

(Rochester) Blueberries have been picked out--earlier than usual, but of course they began earlier too. The yield was excellent this season, despite losing some Patriots in blossom to the spring frosts. Blackberries are ripening about 10 days ahead of schedule. We have nice fruit set in the raspberries on the Nova and Reveille primocanes and with a little luck we might get a good yield before the first Fall frost hits.

(Plainfield NH) Hurricane Earl brought us no relief from this drought, which coupled with unbearable heat and drying winds has given the farm a parched appearance. Rye and vetch seed sits and sulks in field waiting for some moisture to help germinate. What Earl did bring us was CEW. I sprayed some late corn last Thursday and emptied the trap, yesterday the trap count was in excess of 80-100 moths in 4 days. That exceeds our previous record

POTATO STORAGE TIPS

Sandy Menasha, Cornell Extension, Long Island

To store and maintain high quality tubers practice the following points: These are some of the common factors each year that lead to serious storage problems.

part of September when tuber and air temperatures have cooled

usually occur in potatoes dug during the warmer parts of September.

potatoes from wet areas. Many of the potatoes from low areas are diseased or more prone to disease.

3. Proper vine killing 2 3 weeks before harvest will help tubers set skin, making the tubers more

resistant to skinning and bruising. 4. Pad all deflectors and sharp points. 5. During harvest maintain

proper ground speed and chain speed ratio to keep the conveyors as full of potatoes as possible. This