



## **HIGH TUNNEL TOMATO PROJECT SEEKS GROWERS**

We are inviting growers in Vermont and nearby states to participate in a 2-year study to improve our understanding of the fertility needs of high tunnel tomatoes grown in the ground. The project will pay for soil tests at the UMaine lab and provide customized fertilizer recommendations for your tunnel(s). Growers must agree to grow at least one bed of red, indeterminate slicing tomatoes, follow the soil test recommendations, and track yields.

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## **LEEK MOTH RESEARCH UPDATE**

Scott Lewins and Vic Izzo, UVM

For an update on our 2019-2020 leek moth research click on the link below where you can view the brief in your browser. You can find a wealth of information on the rest of our projects and educational endeavors on the ALC website. We are always looking to support and collaborate with growers cltieandheap nareebu ae

## **REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**

(Westminster) The winter greens grown in our hoopouses are doing well, except for kale, which could use a little warm weather to recover from a moisture problem. Spinach, arugula and Asian mix are also sold at our Winter Market.

Root crops did very well this year - yields were much better than in 2018 - so we put lots in storage. We have plenty of carrots and beets still to pack out, along with rutabagas, turnips, and radishes, which are moving more slowly. Our parsnips and celeriac are moving out quickly, and we are at the bottom end of our squash in storage.

in the crop mix, except for adding more celeriac. Celeriac is a touchy crop that is susceptible to

We also plan on buying a new, state-of-the-art-root vegetable washing and packing line, long overdue!

(Orwell) Winter is passing too quickly, with not enough time for projects, planning, relaxing, and fun. Since Thanksgiving, winter greens harvests have been sporadic, even though the appetite for greens is strong this time of year. Aphids came in to our Salanova a few weeks ago so we are

I know that the temp fluctuations are raising Cain with apiarists around here; one reported a loss of 6 hives out of 21 already. Hoping there is not some subtle physiological weirdness being exacted on our crops, and I do hate to see the strawberry mulch snowless this time of year.

Still packing out the remains of the potato and root crops. Putting up new greenhouses as well as rebuilding doors and endwalls on the myriad of 30-year old houses. Five-day weeks feel like vacation, so we are all slowly recharging, and all hope to get "outta here" to either a better snow venue or a place where the water is warmer. In the greenhouse we continue to seed long season annuals and stick vegetative cuttings for March potting. There is still a long list of things to be repaired and straightened away (like "fix cooler door" or "new signage" as well as review and update our training manuals on CAPS, FSMA, WPS before the growing season gets underway.

The Tristate IPM Workshops held in January every year in NH, ME and V really should be on every grower's list of things to do. If you are interested in biological controls at any level, you should make sure you attend, and especially if you are a high tunnel grower. This past meeting was full of exciting stuff that is so important to what we do, and our Northeastern EXT folks have done yeoman's work putting it together and taking it on the road to 3 states to present it.

(Argyle NY) The greens in the tunnels are waning in volume due to an earlier start this year and heavy demand with very busy farmers' markets. Some of the salad mix slump is also due to some powdery mildew and downy mildew we have on some of the varieties. This new DM is   
nastakingly figure it out ourselves. Root crops are equally moving out but we have a lot of them. Only thing really low is garlic due to last spring's wet weather that rotted it. First time in 20 years. No grand plans for new equipment this year just figuring out how to get smaller and enjoy. Hoping others join in growing winter greens to help with the demand as they are very lucrative.

(Salisbury NH) Noticed with our newer, larger hoop house (unheated like the other ones) the snow tends to stay on longer which creates shade. It becomes a spiraling effect as it slows down the sun heating up the house. It also seems like our winters have been cloudier than in the past. The head lettuces planted in the fall have held pretty well in the unheated hoop house under two rows of row cover. We only take it off if it is sunny. The red Rouxai lettuce from 2017 it