





(Westminster West) Spent some time today at the Orchard Aid concert held at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, it was a community effort to help 5 local orchards that lost most if not all their apples in May during the freak freeze. It's so great to see the community come out and support our local growers with encouragement and love!

Fall is moving along here; squash is all harvested, yields are down about 25% compared to last year, but quality is very high with excellent sugar levels and few squash rotting in storage. Sales are strong and prices are higher than last year, so I consider myself lucky. My potato crop however, was not so good with 65-75% loss. The soils were just too wet to cultivate and standing water from the rains for weeks didn't help at all!

Tomatoes are still pumping out of the tunnel. Ginger, a new crop for us, has done well enough to continue growing it next year. Folks really like it at farmers' market. Nice crops of cabbage, leeks, celery, carrots and beets along with strong garlic sales are keeping market sales way up over last year. Wholesale very steady with squash and potatoes leading the charge. Cabbage worms on Napa have been a beast and twice a week spraying was really needed. Getting the garlic field ready for planting next week already!

(Greenfield Center NY) Fields are gradually drying out. Wondering if anyone else has noticed the lack of color in the leaves thus far this fall? Sugar maples and red maple leaves seem to turn brown and drop immediately, no bright colors, no lasting display. Not sure what to attribute it to.

(Little Compton RI) Just went I think I have endured all possible farming challenges, we get a season culminating in a slow water torture of four days of rain, with many crops still out in the fields. The third weekend of rain and cold impacted our farmers' market in the big city. It was the worst Saturday yet and long term looks like rain again this Saturday.

In mid-July our egg layer production dropped precipitously, and five other farms in our area had the same experience! We thought it might be feather mites or some other external factor. Today, I heard of the local egg producer who simply added lighting into her chicken house to give them 14-hour days. In three days production was back up to normal! Were the chickens reacting to Canadian fire smog or just lack of sunlight due to all the rainy weather? Who knows but you can't argue with success.

Leeks are looking great, and no Allium Leaf Miner has been seen in the state of RI. Our first fall raspberries and no spotted wing drosophila either. However, downy mildew is everywhere and on crops like broccoli, which is something I have never seen.

(Argyle NY) The cooler temperatures of fall are welcome but even better is no frost in sight all the way to mid-October. Never had it so easy with no row covers out yet. Irrigation is going full bore with also no rain in sight. Ripping out summer plants for tunnels is under way with later plantings happening more often because of the warming temperatures. Late winter squash planting in spring has us still with green leaves and actively growing plants so no harvest yet

Taking a chance on very late plantings of cukes, pole beans, and summer squash in the tunnels has paid off so far, but of course get in the way of winter plantings. Flea beetles left us in mid-August and have yet to return so caterpillars and cabbage aphids are the pests of the day. Diseases are at a lull right now except for leaf mold in the tunnel tomatoes.

## **POLLINATOR SUPPORT REPORT**

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