



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – Oct. 9, 2012
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Fairfax) SWD sure loves this warm weather. John Hayden from The Farm Between discovered an easy tip for figuring out if fruit is infected which has been helpful in picking. If the receptacle of the raspberry is stained after picking then it likely has SWD larvae. Our fall raspberries are infected at 50% or more, but the cold weather should really knock them down so we're hoping to get some more picking in, and we're hoping we can control them in next year's strawberries. Planting fall broccoli 3 miles from our swede midge infected kale field has worked. We have fabulous fall broccoli. Now we have to figure out how to keep running away from the swede midge next year. Enjoying the frost-free weather; looks like we get another week at least which should give us some more lettuce cutting and pepper picking. Next year looks like a real challenge with all these new pests: leek moth, SWD and swede midge!

(Montpelier) Greenhouses are almost ready for winter; all the planting is done. My biggest problem in the field is the deer; worst pressure I have ever had. I lose a little bit each year and put up with it but when I go out and there are 9 does and 2 four-point bucks just feeding on my cabbage, broccoli, strawberries, chard, parsley, even eating the summer squash stems?! Winter work-place CSA is launched but taking a breather before winter season gets going. Value-added product sales continue to be strong. Almost done with all the end-of-season processing for winter soup, etc. production. White plastic is the way to go under greenhouse summer crops; another advantage besides extra light at each end of the season is it's easier cleaning out the houses in the fall and fewer volunteer tomatoes etc. Seeing a lot of voles and field mice, I think they are going to be a real issue this winter.

(Guilford) This is our second year

We do have some SWD present now, but damage dropped off drastically as of a week and a half ago. This doesn't seem to correlate too directly to our first cold nights, but can't rule it out. Does anyone have temp sensors/temp data for your raspberry fields and any SWD pattern observations? Other news: the slowest dahlia year ever and they're getting going just as we have some close calls for frost forecast. Starting to set up hoops now so the afternoon scrambles are reduced to coverings and clips.

(S. Royalton) Now that the season is over, I glad I didn't spend the big money to scrape the Irene flooding deposits off my field. Most farmers around me scraped it off. I figured that it will be good soil at some point. T

(Londonderry) Still harvesting fall raspberries and gold berries but maybe not after tonight, frost predicted. Last summer farmers markets' for us in, great sales in Jamaica last Sunday. Had a bumper crop of our heirloom garlic. Excellent early July planting of fingerlings fresh dug for Columbus day crowds. Our mountain loam is wet, and need to get garlic seed in and last harvest out. Did not have a bad pest year except for wild turkeys.

(Marlboro) Our first season dealing with SWD, when they appeared in the summer raspberries about mid-July. Traps put out in early July failed to catch any flies. It seemed that once ripe fruit was available, the flies preferred that. The infestation wasn't bad, and regular careful picking eliminated infected fruit in the baskets. It wasn't until early August that the SWD really took off,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 10. Swede Midge workshop, Intervale Community Farm, Burlington, 3-5 pm.

Oct. 16. Panel discussion on NRCS programs for farmers, Cobb Hill, Hartland, 6-8 pm. For info call 802-291-9100

Oct. 18. Healthy Soils for a Healthy Environment. Littlewood Farm, Plainfield, 1:30- 4:00 pm. For info or to RSVP by Oct. 16 contact Justin Kenney (802) 828-