

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News November 21, 2011
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(Burlington) We planted garlic on Friday. Now looking for mulch hay. We noticed that the Ground Hog radish aka daikon radish that we planted in a winter rye mix is doing great. We picked a few to add to a small home batch of kim chi. I felt like I was having a One Straw Revolution moment.

(Westminster West) We harvested the last beds and bunches of carrots on Nov 18. That's the latest we have ever harvested anything from the fields and it was a mild day for mid-November. Harvesting Swiss chard from grow bags set on benches in our main greenhouse and the results have been spectacular! Record sales at good prices at our last outdoor farmers . Good supply of storage onions, winter squash and carrots should keep our truck busy on wholesale route for last sales before Thanksgiving. Almost switching gears towards winter maintenance but first throwing in a few more beds of garlic tomorrow while the weather is good. Found a few boxes of seed garlic that I lost track of so in they go. Finishing up new spring development if the elusive plumber shows up. Busier then I would have thought for this time of year; looking forward to a day of thanks and then a trip to visit grandchild. Have a safe and restful holiday.

(Westfield) I just finished mulching the strawberries with perfect weather! I still have some field cleaning to do, and then all the activity will be in the greenhouses. The greenhouse crops look good, and are still growing. The few lettuces left in the greenhouses don't have any sign of frost damage which is very rare for me. Sales are good for this season.

(Fairfax) Still

(Enfield NH) Mostly cleaning up the farm and doing projects that have been waiting to be done most of the summer. Still harvesting kale and chard in the field, plus have the last parsnips, carrots and rutabaga to bring in. Sales of storage crops good. Farmers market good. Greens in the greenhouses coming along well; may have more greens than planned in December due to the warm November. Looking forward to NE Veg and Fruit in a few weeks.

(Little Compton RI) We lost fields of winter squash, etc. to water-borne Phytophthora and a carrot root rot. A bright spot is Brussels sprouts; we grew them on raised beds with plastic mulch. We finally gave them the attention they need including attention to the aphids that love fall brassicas. We start scouting late August and hit them twice in Sept and Oct with a soap type product. Hit them when the population is very low; if you let them build up it is too late because they get into the bottom of the sprouts and it is game over. The varieties we grew did not benefit from topping in late September; in fact, the pruning stimulated the plants to do weird things that made them almost unmarketable. Cyclamen mites are back on the greenhouse spinach but we are trying a biocontrol program with IPM Labs to keep them down.

(Durham CT) People love fall carrots. In second place is fall spinach, a favorite with just about everyone. Our six hoop houses are humming with greens such as red Russian kale, Lacanato kale, claytonia and spinach. We're trialing a few favorites ohnny's: Crocodile, Raccoon, Corvair and Tyee. They haven't been exposed to extreme low temperature yet, but have noticed that Raccoon and Crocodile grow unusually fast and taste great. Outside we have low tunnels with beets, chard, carrots and lettuce.

WORKSHOP ON VEGETABLE FARM ISSUES RELATED TO FLOODING

On Nov. 30 from 9-2 at the Berlin UVM Extension office this event will summarize lessons learned and available resources for farmers who experienced flooding. Topics include: findings of testing for soil contamination, FSA crop insurance, tax implications, financial TJ(.)JTJETBT1 0 6(.)JTJETBT