

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 x303 vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>

(Little Compton RI) Thanksgiving sales were great this weekend; we looked good with all our greenhouse greens. We have been fortunate with the recent mild weather. It has help bring in some "hail Mary" crops of cauliflower and broccoli but at the same time it has been over-energizing for the greenhouse crops and many of them are too far ahead of themselves and we will be wanting for greens in December. We had a house with beautiful red leaf that wasn't red so we turned the fans down to 38 degrees and ran them for three nights with the temperature at 35 and the lettuce finished deep red for this week s harvest. We are trying to get a better feel for soil moisture needs of our plants; fearful of downy mildew we have kept them too dry and can see that now. We have some late planted carrots still putting on some girth outside. When a couple of high twenty degree nights give them a good sting we will flail mow them and rake off the tops; Next we will double row-cover them and when we hit the teens we will cover the whole area with an old greenhouse cover. We are experimenting with storing the carrots in the ground; voles are our biggest worry. We will monitor the beds weekly.

(Bath MI) Crops in the hoophouse are looking good and we had a great third week at the winter market. With the change in locations to an indoor venue it took a few weeks for customers to find us, but we only came home with 2 bags of spinach and 1 bunch of Hakurei turnips from last week's market. We are going to try another market on 12/11 that is happening once a month this winter. It is by far the biggest and busiest market in our area during spring and fall, but they haven't had a winter market before. It's is going to be in an empty store front in the mall across from their regular season market so we'll see how that goes. We spent yesterday doing one last big weeding in the hoophouse and have just a few more beds to go. Edges are cleaned up (which should help with the snails and slugs!) and water line trenches are filled in outside so hopefully no freezing water lines this winter. We also prepped some beds that we've harvested carrots out of already and are thinking about seeding them to see what happens. We know that if things germinate we won't get growth, but come February they will have already germinated and will be ready to go so we won't have the lag time of germination then. Spinach might go into at least 2 of those beds this weekend. We are a little concerned with the warmer temperatures since the last time this happened here in 2006 crops kept growing into January.

In

This was a test to see what grows anyway. Spinach is wonderful (Tyee). Winter Density lettuce is very nice too. Still haven't gotten to the row covers. The metal hoops are just too much to bend and are pretty high off the plants. We're probably going to do string (we only have a 12' x 48' hoophouse) to support row covers. So far everything is growing very slowly. Spectrum greens tends to grow pretty fast--that is mostly brassicas in the mix. Wildfire lettuce mix looks nice but is very slow growing. Carrots are Napoli. Everything is in raised beds with 1 untreated pine boards. We like the clean look and nice pathways. Not sure how people do it without the boards, keeping the soil out of the pathways. We also don't have any automatic venting. We open the door when it gets hot but that is also a problem since we both work off farm. If it's going to be nice we might crack the door and hope for the best. When the sun goes down the temperature drops very quickly.

(Argyle NY) The push of Thanksgiving is over for us and now the job of getting the last vegetables in the root cellar is on. Leeks, celery, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, chard, and lettuce are still to go in. We are still harvesting broc, cauliflower, spinach, cilantro, arugula, dill, parsley, chives, and salad mix out in the field for the farmers' markets. Our two tunnels are planted and growing well. We put row covers on for the first time last Saturday night in the tunnels, because of the threat of 20 degrees, but it happily never happened! Our two markets are on Saturday till April 30th and both are inside if we choose. Right now if temps hold we will stay outside with one of them because of too much product to haul inside. So far things look good for the winter market season.

UPCOMING EVENTS for details and more events see:
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html>.

Dec. 1. Extending the Season using Controlled and Modified Environment Agriculture, Albany NY. Topics include: supplemental lighting; green energy systems; structural considerations, cultural systems.