

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News

Want to get flame weeder going next year, especially for carrots. Looking forward to rest and ordering seeds for next year. Waiting until spring to plant hoop houses; too hard trying to overwinter when we both still work full time off farm.

(Little Compton RI) Weekend before Thanksgiving sales great even in a crowded indoor farmers market. rocoli really brings them in. Finally Brussels sprouts on the stalk are loos

If I knew the amount of paperwork that we would be facing years ago when we began farming, I might have been discouraged enough to look elsewhere for a career. Winter prep in the strawberries has been problematic, because they were nowhere near dormancy prior to this cold snap that abated finally today. As temps neared freezing for the last week, I didn't dare spray for fear of freezing something up. But today I cleaned out the antifreeze out and started spraying, and we hopefully get some mulch on before Thanksgiving. Fall CSA finished last week, everyone sad to see it end, but were picking up their orders in freezing temps. Everyone agrees it's time to be over.

(Grand Isle) 2014 was a fine growing season! The snow can't be too far away so we are down to the wire with cleanup and organization projects. Since we have heavy soils, we have used the last two weeks to make lateral ditches and put down drainage tile and a layer of stone in some of our more productive fields. It is amazing to unearth a layer of ancient sea shells from a bygone era when our farm was part of the ocean. Our pH is good and we never lime our fields due to natural lime stone and shells. Hopefully with our digging we have alleviated standing water problems down the road. Seed catalogues are already arriving in the mail to tempt us with thoughts of the next year!

(Westminster West) I spent today digging about 1,000 ft of drainage ditches to improve my ability to get on the fields early next spring and to help during very rainy conditions. Renting a small excavator is a very cost-effective way to get the job done plus now I know how to run an excavator! We picked out the last of our carrots and turnips on Nov. 20 this year which is the latest we have ever gone on field crops. Thanksgiving orders from our store are very strong and we are much ahead on all produce sales compared to past years. We even held a Pop-Up market last weekend on a busy road and it was a huge success, one which we will try to duplicate, again next year. Coolers are filled with storage crops and hopefully we won't be storing them for long. Still equipment to clean and put away this week and repairs and maintenance on the many greenhouses have started as well. Truckloads of potting soil and related spring equipment arriving this week and next. Already planning for next year at the same time cutting checks for this year for the crew.

(Rochester) We always look forward to the fall and early winter to be done with picking berries and get other things done but always seem to run out of time. However, the farm is basically buttoned up for the winter. Hope to lay on the couch and read a little during the holidays.

(Argyle NY) It was a wonderful warm fall with the broccoli coming on early, but generally a great for all crops. The cold spell last week had us racing to harvest the Brussels sprouts and the non-winter leeks, which are both being bagged and stored in the root cellar for early winter sales. All the winter leeks are still in the field with one layer of row cover on them, waiting for the January/February harvest.

Our trial of white plastic, black plastic, and paper mulch on onions, cabbage, leeks and Brussels