

(Bristol) We are grateful for a good year in 2012. Strawberries, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes, onions and sweet potatoes did particularly well and our hay crop was the best in several years. After over 30 years of farming we are grateful to be learning new things and to have a son working with us and planning his own new projects. There is optimism and energy in the farming community in spite of looming challenges: erratic weather, SWD, garlic bulb nematode, annual late blight flare-ups, flat produce prices along with increasing cost of supplies, and an (over)abundance of veggies for the "buy-local" market.

(Rochester) Winter's late arrival allowed us time to get things done that would normally wait until spring. We took up the trellis wire and posts where 1,200 feet of older raspberry beds will be pulled up and turned under in April. Two rows of blueberries already pruned means two rows less in the rush to beat bud break. Root stock is ordered for spring planting. The malfunctioning electronic pruner can be sent off for service. Show blower is attached to the tractor and ready to roll. Nice to see the farm put to bed. Looking forward to some reading.

(Royalton) Winter gardens have been put to rest, though the hoophouses continue to crank out

(Hinesburg) Productive season! Finally a smoothly operating solar pump and drip irrigation. Noticeable improvements in quality and yield from practices learned in Bionutrient Food workshops. Drenches through irrigation water, and seed inoculation for all seed were most noticeable. Swede midge damage on every Red Russian kale plant, but Winterbor and Lacinato kale in the same bed had no noticeable damage. Brussels sprouts in adjacent bed showed no damage. Did not grow cabbage or broccoli. If I don't grow Red Russian, will I see no midge damage, or will the insects attack a less favored variety?

(Middle Granville NY) Still above average temps; have all the greenhouses open anytime it's above freezing to build hardiness and slow growth. Still harvesting bok choi, leeks, kale, Brussels and more out of the fields. Am seeing a lot more caterpillar/worm damage in GH's this year; need to spray BT.

(Plainfield) A solid season, though a bit intense with insect pressure and drought. On the other hand, a hot sunny summer grows a lot of nice produce if you can get by the bugs and pump enough water. Happy with the amount of land in cover crops, hope to do more of this. Local wholesale demand remains strong, sold out by Thanksgiving. Resolutions for the coming season: plant less, do a better job with weeds and insect problems, maximize production from high tunnels. Smaller gross, bigger net. Happy Holidays to this great network of growers.

(Little Compton RI) We returned from the great High Tunnel conference with many nuggets of advice to tweak into our winter production. This year we were so flat out with field harvests that we missed important dates for getting indoor direct seedings in. With this warm weather we are breathing a sigh of relief as plantings in the greenhouses are exploding. We haven't yet covered any greenhouse plantings and they are the better for it. Much lower incidence of Botrytis and Alternaria. Keeping your house well ventilated all winter was a nugget from the conference and s not the cold that is the challenge during winter growing it is the humidity: wind and fresh air are paramount. Last year, like this year, we were late on one spinach house. We felt we needed to speed things up a bit and kept the house under ventilated on purpose to get some heat to push the planting along. That part of the plan worked great until we saw some specks showing up on the spinach leaves and each day more until the whole house was covered with Cladosporium! In hind sight it was the lack of fresh air that pushed the disease. Another nugget came as a warning: there is a broadleaf herbicide that is showing up in fresh manure and compost

(Weare NH) Still working on framing the end walls of the new high tunnel. Don't plan on skinning it until spring, but that's a busy time, so want to have as much done as possible. Checked out our other field, a bit disappointed in the growth of the cover crop, winter rye and jerry oats; would have thought with the mild weather it would have grown a lot more. Spinach, lettuce and arugula under caterpillar tunnels looking very good. Hope to have a nice harvest in late February to early March.

(Argyle NY) 2012 was an average year for us with more insects/ diseases than most, especially
Alternaria on Brassicas and Purple Blotch on Leeks. However, the diversity of crops always
balances out the losses. F strong all year, especially last winter market
which exceeded summer market in sales! This is due mostly to profitable greens from high
tunnels which have strong demand from local customers year-round. With recent doudy, cool
weather, some downy mildew started, but just on Refugio lettuce out of 10 varieties for salad
mix. A spray of Double Nickel, a new biofungicide from Certis, cleared it up. Without heat, we
pray for sunny days. Our trials of spinach over 2 years led us to a top 10 mix of Raccoon, Space,
Donkey, Reflect, Giant Winter, Lombardia, Corvair, and several others (see postings of High
Tunnel Conference presentations, below). 20 spinach varieties this out tc6fE035BTBT1 0 0 1 102.

## 2012 HIGH TUNNEL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ON-LINE

http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/HighTunnelConference2012.html

## 2013 TRI-STATE GREENHOUSE IPM WORKSHOPS

Manchester, ME, Jan. 8; Durham, NH Jan. 9; Burlington VT Jan. 10.

rogram focuses on soil aspects of greenhouse plant production; Matthew Krause, Plant Disease Specialist at Bioworks, will talk about how fungal treatments work to protect plant roots from disease. Brian Krug and Cheryl Smith of UNH will provide step-by-step guidance on how to test irrigation water and soil to refine your plant nutrition regime, reduce diseases and improve plant health. There will be a hands-on demo of using nematodes to manage soil pests. Preregistration required. See: <a href="http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/">http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/</a> or call Cheryl Frank 802-656-5434 or Margaret Skinner 802-656-5440.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ANNUAL MEETING Monday, January 28, 2013 in Montpelier. Great program, details at http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html

## UPCOMING MEETINGS GALORE

See: http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html