

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News February 19, 2018
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

(Barnet)

(Dummerston) Tomato seedlings are up under grow lights-another growing season has begun! In the high tunnel there's an explosion of slugs. But otherwise greens are doing well with spinach and mustard greens putting on some growth. The warm temperatures this week will probably put an end to the Asian greens which have been beginning to bolt. I've been trying to experiment to figure out how early I can plant various greens in the high tunnel for spring production but it looks like this year may be earlier than most. I'm looking forward to visiting a couple other farms in the coming weeks to see how others are doing winter and early spring production.

(Plainfield NH) Mostly the calm before the storm. Vacations wrapping up, and posting for job interviews. We did some blueberry pruning during a warm break in January. Seed orders are being broken down, paperwork and training protocols will be reviewed this week. So much more training and documentation is needed now than ever before. It all adds to the cost of business-from the supplies, file folders, and white boards to the time spent organizing and preparing for the actual training.

As far as actual farming, we have been preparing greenhouse mechanicals and our propagation house is demanding about 6-8 hours of attention a day. No cuttings for ornamentals have come in yet, we keep pushing their arrival further back into the spring. We purchased our first batch of grafted beefsteak tomatoes, and they seem happy in their new 4.5 in pots. Things to do in the next couple of weeks besides hiring locals is to try and dial in this year's planting and the crop rotation chart.

For info call your local NRCS office or go to:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/vt/home/>

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE

March 15 is the deadline to purchase Federal crop insurance for most spring-planted crops in Vermont. The program best suited to diversified vegetable and berry growers is probably Whole-Farm Revenue Protection which covers all commodities on the farm under one policy. This insurance plan is tailored for farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, or direct markets. It protects against loss of revenue due to unavoidable natural causes.

For more info see:

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/wfrpfactsheet.pdf>

HEMP GROWER MEETING February 22, 5-7 pm.

Meeting New Demand for Hemp, with Rye Matthews, Middlebury hemp grower and consultant to Vermont Hemp Company. He will describe the evolving markets for locally produced hemp, consumer trends, potentials for growers, and the impact for a regional supply stream. Stonecutter Spirits, 1197 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT. Sponsored by ACORN, \$10 donation.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meeting-new-demand-for-hemp-a-growers-perspective-tickets-42326073425>

WANT TO TALK ABOUT FSMA WATER RULES?

Check out the Produce

Water Summit or remote participation options are available. This is an opportunity for growers, regulatory personal, industry representatives, educators, and researchers to increase understanding and work collaboratively to develop ideas that support risk reduction related to water. See:

-28. Remote viewing of the

TECHNICAL TIP

Andy Chamberlin, UVM Extension Agricultural Engineering Technician, has put together a detailed blog post describing the AZS Rinse Conveyor. Made in PA, it is designed for the small-scale farm that wants to move up from hand washing to something automated that can handle a larger volume of vegetables. See at: <https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/2018/02/17/innovation-in-small-scale-vegetable-washing-equipment/>