

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News February 27, 2013
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

(Montpelier) The salad house is looking pretty rough for this time of year. Even the Claytonia was zapped. I have to believe it was the 50 degrees one day and 2 below the next. First time I like this. Spinach is coming to life and looking really good, flavor is there. Now it needs to finish coming in. We have never had a gap in winter spinach but have one now. Running some trials with Verdanta from Bioworks. It activates at 58 degrees so it will be interesting to see how the spinach does once we get a few more sunny days. So far no tissue burn from the fertilizer. Starts are going in the seedling shed and we direct seeded a few things in some open space in the greenhouse and they are up and running. Only a few more winter CSA deliveries and then a break from that until early June. Plenty of interest and sales remain strong. Starting to see more and more winter greens from other growers at market. A good thing on the one hand and also a need to develop new markets on the other.

(Benson) It's been a good winter. Markets have stayed strong and I am trying to figure out how to triple greens production ASAP. The demand is fantastic and growing rapidly. High tunnel is showing good growth and we are pulling old plants and transplanting new ones a couple times a week. Both the high tunnels and low tunnels need water weekly now, even though it is a bit of a chore to drag the hoses. Root cellar stuff looks mostly good although I have some sprouting carrots; not sure why because conditions seem ok, and same as in the past (37-40 degrees and 90-99% humidity.) We are seeding onions in the propagation house this week, finishing up seed orders and generally enjoying the warmer weather.

(Craftsbury)

(Rochester) Update on our broken electronic pruner: Campagnola has met us half way and will

(Salisbury NH) Kind of glad we didn't get things planted in the tunnel on time, because the plastic wasn't on until very late. At least some bugs are sure to die without any food. We did have a small planting of leaf lettuce and didn't bother to cover it during the below zero temps. It looks pathetic.

(Argyle