



(Hoosick Falls NY) Winter greens are doing great, harvesting spinach chard, bok choy, and lettuce. Found a small patch with aphids, but not a terrible amount. Our saturated ground caused some worry in the hoop house seeded for Spring, but once the water table receded and we did a little hoeing, all is well. Alliums are thriving in the greenhouse, starting all from seed this year; we are tired of buying inconsistent onion plants, and last year's experiment growing a few of our own during a bad summer was highly successful. Pansies and geraniums have settled in nicely, next week all of the basket and bedding plugs arrive.

(Westminster West) Well, winter I expected this snowstorm really. It was amazing watching the effects of the super moon on the germination rates on seeds the past few weeks. Fast running out of room for new transplants, opening our last house tomorrow but I know that will fill fast as well. Glad I ordered our pots and trays last year; the price increases due to the oil costs are huge. Having good success blending Rootshield into all of our soil mixes this year as well as marked decreases from insects due to our biocontrol releases. Early delivered goods are selling well at stores and we will be ramping up deliveries next week to include Pansies and violas along with our herbs. A couple of new tools I purchased have given me nice results: a battery operated back pack sprayer by Dramm is a wonderful tool and very convenient. I purchased mine from Griffin but it might be available elsewhere as well. The other neat thing is a hand held laser temperature gauge. It's really handy for checking on soil temps all over the greenhouse as well as finding cold leaks around the structure; about 80 bucks from Growers Supply.

(Granville NY) Snow is going fast; the crew has been hard at work cleaning up around the greenhouses and pulling tomato stakes, drip tape and rowcovers out in the field. Greenhouses are finally going strong due to the beautiful weather. Field-overwintered Jerusalem artichokes, spinach, and carrots came through great; should have covered the carrots a little earlier as we are seeing a little freeze damage and rot in them. Peaked at the overwintered onions in the field and they seem to be growing at least! Seeing significant dieback in some winter rye. Grafted tomato

It will be a major part of our growing program in 2012 to monitor bug populations in early February.                      unbelievable explosion of aphids and other pests in the last three weeks. If we had scouted more diligently earlier they might not have snuck up on us. We lost the battle in one house and had to tear all the greens out. Luckily it was destined for greenhouse tomatoes so it may have been a blessing in disguise getting it cleaned up early. We only have potatoes, carrots and salad mix now at our Saturday market, a far cry from what we had in January.

