

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News April 4, 2023
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

Mid-March I was able to attend the PotatoesUSA annual board meeting in Denver. Really cool to meet so many growers, most of them from out west. I was certainly the smallest farmer there, but I asked a lot of questions and had a real good time.

(Hyde Park) It's getting muddy here and parts of the field are slowly emerging from snow this week. I'm starting the greenhouse in earnest this week after some experiments with small, electric heated spaces under lights - greenhouses in the greenhouse. The overwintered greens are starting to put on some real growth and some are bolting as usual. Chickweed is getting fiercer every year mostly because I get lazy during the winter months. I know it will start to become a significant issue if laziness persists, which it undoubtedly will.

Paper pot greens look super healthy but paper pot kale plants, an experiment this spring, are pretty stagnant. Maybe I planted too qua 76.3 543.22 Tm0 g0 GmyT30 0 1 72.024 598.42 Tmets0.000d†spiv0 G

This time of year it often seems you can do no wrong, but we are dealing pests already. The biological control budget will likely be high this year. Some expensive overwintered tropicals we purchased last spring came in with mealybugs, and they spread undetected in the late summer and fall. We threw out over seventy 1/2 gallon rosemary plants and some pricey ornamentals. We are using C

UVM EXTENSION POLLINATOR SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATES

Laura Johnson, Pollinator Support Specialist

UVM Extension and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies have published “Know Your 5” pollinator guides for apples, brambles and strawberries (with other crops coming soon) as part of a newly formed Vermont Pollination Working Group. See <https://vtcostudies.org/know-your-5/> The guides describe important pollinators for, and supported by, commonly grown commercial crops in Vermont. If you’d like copies to provide to your customers, contact Laura or Spencer at laura.o.johnson@uvm.edu or shardy@vtcostudies.org.

Save the dates for two on farm pollinator workshops:

May 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. *Pollination and Pollinator Monitoring in Apple Orchards* at the UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center and Catamount Educational Farm 65 Green Mountain Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403

May 23 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. *Pollinator Monitoring and Habitat to Support Pollinators and Reduce Pests on Blueberry Farms*. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center, 225 Pavilion Rd., East Thetford VT 05043.

UVM EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING UPDATES

Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlin

New blog posts:

Managing Humidity and Condensation in Coolers - <http://go.uvm.edu/humidity>. Some crops like cold temperatures and high humidity, some crops prefer it drier. How do you manage this, and how do you avoid condensation from rotting your cooler, or worse your barn? This blog post goes into the scientific details, and key points to managing the conditions you need and not the issues you don’t.

Working with Contractors on a Postharvest Project - <http://go.uvm.edu/contractors>. Construction projects are both exciting and daunting. There’s great joy in dreaming about a new space or a renovated work area, but there can be a long windy path full of dread and stress between what you have now and what you hope to have in the future. Working with a contractor partner can ease this path, but it can also add stress and unexpected twists and turns. We’ve compiled a list of helpful considerations below for you to explore as you think about a farm construction project. These are based on informal interviews with lots of farms we have worked with including some who have shared their learning through postharvest case studies.

A Three-Season Structure Keeps the Momentum at Flywheel Farm. <https://go.uvm.edu/flywheel>. Wash/pack spaces don’t need to cost 5 figures and in this post harvest case study we outline how Flywheel Farm use familiar construction techniques to build a structure that’s both affordable and practical.

New podcast *Brookdale Farm Supplies: A Tour with Trevor Hardy*. <https://thefarmersshare.com>
This episode comes to you from Hollis New Hampshire, where we visit with Trevor Hardy of Brookdale Fruit Farm and get a tour of his farm supplies business. This conversation takes you on a walking tour with Andy Chamberlin, Chris Callahan and Hans Estrin as we visit with