

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News May 1, 2024
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Hinesburg) Over wintered and spring planted greens abundant and largely good quality harvests. Spinach did better this year with less row cover. Overwintered onions looking best ever, but already thrips on them. Will try nematodes for thrips. Rhizoctonia on claytonia, and possibly another disease - too warm and damp this winter. Luckily (?) the volunteer claytonia in another house grew much better than the late October-planted carrot experiment and produced abundant yields.

(Burlington) Nice to have a fairly 'normal' April. So many months seem abnormal that the typical months stand out. With the mild winter our winter greens finished with a bang: great productivity, low disease pressure, and a modest number of aphids. Hopefully we have our cleanup and biocontrols in place to keep a lid on things as we shift over to cucumbers and tomatoes. We are testing out a few new tomatoes and cucumber varieties and trying some closer spacing in the cukes, but mostly doing the same old same old. Grafting was a huge success this year, hats off to our grafting team!

Spring-planted high glucosinolate mustard and pea-oat cover crops are up and staring to grow for real, as is the chickweed that lurks in the understory of an unfortunate number of cover crops. We'll be trying to crowd out our chickweed problems with a bit more spring tillage of failing cover crops that we follow with a Sudangrass-sunn hemp mix, followed up with rye or oats in the autumn.

First round of brassicas, direct seeded roots, herbs, scallions, and our acre of onions are all in the ground. A few nippy nights over the last 10 days, but nothing that will scare those crops too much. Happy for the bit of rain over the weekend as we were starting to need to water and April irrigation always makes me slightly cross. It's going to be a great year!

(Guildhall) It's been a good spring here generally. Fairly cold, and the potatoes we have left in storage have been keeping very well. Sales of the 2023 crop are still strong and I expect we'll be selling until June first. I think there's less than 100k lbs. to move thank goodness. Soraya and

(Westminster) We thought the season would get off to a slow start because of late snowstorms. Kale and collards are in; beets are seeded and we set our first sweet corn transplants. It was a dry week so the weather stays steady.

We are growing fewer greens this year, especially lettuce, and more late season storage crops.

A good start on woodpiles for the family, and some of the H2A help has arrived with the Jamaican embassy holding two elderly gents, hopefully for not much longer. Lots of cole crops, tomatoes, herbs going into the high tunnels.

