Vermont Vegetable and Berry News May 18, 2016 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

(Craftsbury) Mild and early spring conditions in April and May have provided us the time to overhaul our blueberry hillside, completing pruning, weeding and fertilizing earlier than ever. We held our annual Mulching Bee on May 7 and 40 helpers turned out to complete the job in 2 and 1/2 hours in exchange for season-long discounts on picking. Lots of early buds evidenced; no signs of over winter losses, despite deer population which yards nearby. We were delighted to find abundant honey bees active in the wild flowers. Now we need moisture and warmth.

(Emore) Show flurries on Sunday, 82 degrees on Thursday; mid-eighties on Saturday, 1-3 inches of snow predicted tonight. The tree blossoms do not know what to do, we do not either. Everyone wants to be outside growing, but we are wet and cold or sunburned, all at the same time. Garlic looks good and so do spring greens. Do not know if we will have a tree fruit crop, though. This is why we have dried fruit ad jam, for the years when there is no fresh fruit due to the wild weather of the North.

We're working on a liquid fertilizer this week with comfrey leaves, fish, kelp, and molasses. We're hoping to bring the health of the soil and plants into a better place to further address the insect problem. And will likely spray one more time and cover everything tightly. We're hoping to get into back fields soon to put in cover crops and seed crops, but they are day and we haven't had enough of a dry period to have them seeded just yet. Overall the weather has been great this spring and we're feeling hopeful for a good growing season ahead! In other news, we've been learning a lot about permits and licensing for Ag events and have run into a ton of red tape. We are working with our town on amending regulations and have a long

TECHNICAL RESOURCES

Chris Callahan, UVM Extension Ag Engineer

Guidance on wash water discharge from vegetable pack sheds: <u>http://go.uvm.edu/vegwater</u>

Guidelines for selecting a good thermostat for agricultural use: http://go.uvm.edu/thermostats

S

coolers, wash areas, and pack sheds: <u>http://go.uvm.edu/smoothndean</u>

A new Excel-based calculator to help size piping systems and to select pumps for heating systems and other water moving applications: <u>http://go.uvm.edu/pumpnpipe</u>

ON-FARM IRRIGATION WORKSHOP TODAY!

Join Trevor Hardy of Brookdle Farm Irrigation, Joshua Faulkner of the VM Center for Sustainable Agriculture and David Marchant at Riverberry Farm from 3-6 pm in Fairfax, VT. Free.

BUSTOUR TO QUEBEC June 28

Cornell Extension has organized a bus tour of several Canadian farms in Quebec. Departure: 6:00 am from Albany, NY. Pick-ups in Saratoga, Glens Falls & Plattsburgh as needed. Return: 9:30 pm Albany. Reserve by May 23. See: <u>http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=568</u>