

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News –June 11, 2018
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This season we put in 725 raspberries and in a spring that was already foreshortened due to a late start we are behind on absolutely everything. But the place looks great. The absence of any frost during bloom was a great blessing and pollinator activity has been strong.

(Cabot) Cabot Smith Farm. So far, so great. Our plants are all in and the fields have experienced great early moisture levels. Our rye straw looks gorgeous and will be ready in about a week. Our strawberries, who come behind most everyone, are doing well, earliest variety is starting to white. Everything else is flowered out or in green berries. No bugs, no birds now if it can just stay that way better go knock on some wood.

(Westminster West) Received less than 1.5" rain in last 7 weeks, that's way off the usual pattern.

PEST ALERTS

Potato leafhoppers have arrived early this year! For info on lifecycle and management see:

<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/leafhopper-potato>

Leafminers are being widely reported in spinach and chard, see:

<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/leafminer-beet-spinach>

Powdery mildew is already being found in tomato tunnels see article in last newsletter:

<https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/newsletter/datenavbar.htm>

LEEK MOTH UPDATE

There have been several reports of leek moth damage in onions, scallions and garlic from the first larval generation this year. Leek moths were pupating last week, so the second flight is about begin throughout much of Vermont. Adult leek moth populations will likely to reach peak numbers over the course of the next two weeks, and will continue to fly through the beginning of July.

The few known management options include covering plants with row cover at night to exclude the nocturnal female moths from laying eggs. Where this is not feasible or cost effective, chemical controls should be applied. Spinosad (Entrust, organic) and spinetoram (Radiant SC, conventional) have been shown to be effective chemical controls but must time timed appropriately, especially in onions because of moth feeding behavior. Canadian research has consistently found that properly timed insecticide applications made 7-10 days following a peak flight of leek moth adults can effectively manage damage resulting from the following larval generation. For more information about leek moth see:

<http://web.entomology.cornell.edu/shelton/leek-moth/control.html>

We are currently exploring the use of Trichogramma, caterpillar egg parasitoids, as another potential option for leek moth management. If you would like to learn about this and all of our leek moth related projects, please join us for our NOFA-VT sponsored event at UVM Catamount Farm in S. Burlington on July 18 from 4-6 pm, see:

<https://nofavt.org/events/organic-pest-control-study-leek-moth>

If you have any questions or concerns about leek moth, contact Vic Izzo at vizzo@uvm.edu and/or Scott Lewins at slewins@uvm.edu

NEW FACT SHEET ON PACKSHED FLOORS

<http://go.uvm.edu/floors> is a blog post all about floors with produce safety in mind. Also available as PDF/print fact sheet at: <http://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/files/2018/05/UVM-Ext-Floors-Fact-Sheet-v1.0-2018-06-05.pdf>

ALLIUM TWILIGHT MEETING JULY 12, 5 -7 PM

Join University of Vermont Agriculture Engineer Chris Callahan and Cornell Cooperative Extension Vegetable Specialist Crystal Stewart for a field walk at High Meadows Farm in Westminister West, Vermont, to discuss garlic and onion production and postharvest handling. The event will include a focus on Fusarium control practices, a hands-on demonstration of Allium Leaf Miner identification and discussion of control strategies, followed by a discussion of post-harvest handling best practices and ways to achieve these conditions at your farm.

High Meadows farm is a 65 Acre organic, diversified vegetable farm just a short drive from the k and his team have been providing the community and greater New England with premium organic vegetables and potted plant plants since 1979. Registration page coming soon. contact chris.callahan@uvm.edu, 802-447-7582 x256 for more information.

REDUCED TILLAGE FOR ORGANIC CROPS FIELD DAY JULY 31, 9-3

Six different In-field demonstrations will be discussed by agricultural specialists and growers from NY and Vermont at the Reduced Tillage in Organic Systems Field Day on July 31 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Cornell Willsboro Research Farm, 48 Sayward Lane, Willsboro, NY which is just a few miles from the Charlotte/Essex ferry.

This field day is geared toward vegetable, row crop, and small grain crop with organic practices will be featured but the methods will benefit both conventional and organic growers. Topics will include roller-crimping, zone tillage in high residue, in-row cultivation tools, stale seedbed and weed seed bank management strategies and grower experiences with reducing tillage on their farms. The overall focus of the day will be improving soil health.

Speakers are Jean-Paul Courtens of Roxbury Farm, Kinderhook, NY; UVM Agronomist Heather Darby; Research Farm Manager Mike Davis; Jack Lazor of Butterwork Farm, Westfield, VT, Chuck Bornt and Ki , Cornell Extension, Bryan Brown and Ryan Maher, Cornell Small Farms Program; and Cornell Weed Ecology and Management Professor John Wallace.

Free admission, lunch is included. The first 50 attendees will receive a program resource booklet that will also be available online after the event. <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=953>