

**Vermont Vegetable and Berry News** –June 24, 2019  
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[www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry)

We are working to improve ventilation in all of our houses by installing butterfly vents and experimenting with vertical air flow fans for improved circulation. We've also been pleased with the raised beds we built in one house over the winter, and would like to build them in other houses for the future. On a wet, cold spring like this one, it really seemed to help buffer the seeping chill from the outdoors. We are looking forward to the full swing of harvest!

(Little Compton RI) This year we have one of our best greenhouse tomato crops. But with all this wet weather we are in a panic to keep it looking good. We still are heating our houses every night to 70 degrees! Botrytis has been creeping in, usually around where employees didn't prune a low branch tight enough to the stalk or where someone brushed against a plant and snapped half a leaf off and that is where the trouble begins.

With our grafted tomatoes we increased leaf pruning up to the second cluster by the time the plant has five clusters total. I see photos of European growers practicing the same protocol.

Potatoes and peas are doing well, but crops that need heat to advance growth are stalled. Normally our first planting of zucchini is peaking by this time, but this year we have picked it only twice. Today we threw out our second planting of watermelon transplants. With this trend we should take that acreage and shift it to broccoli and other cool, moisture loving crops.

Our biggest success has been growing green sprouted potatoes in black plastic. Gave them 225 pounds of potassium/acre this year! Planted April 28 and harvested solid "B" size potatoes June 13. We are getting close to staggering all our potato plantings and green sprouting them all. They come up and close in so fast it makes weed control much easier.

(Plainfield NH) Having a season where time and labor resto.W(nd 11ti)-3(smtake)5( )JTJETQq0.000009

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Tips of new canes wilt, and there's no exterior girdle, as would be evident in raspberry cane borer attack that occurs in July. There will be a small hole (1mm) in the wilted tip, a trail of interior girdling leading from that hole, with a tiny maggot inside the cane, according to Alan Eaton, retired UNH entomologist.

Blueberry- seeing a fair amount of winter injured stems along with **Fusicoccum** and **Phomopsis** canker n

## **LEEK MOTH UPDATE**

The second leek moth flight of the season has begun throughout much of Vermont. Adult leek moths mate at night, laying eggs on all alliums. Shortly thereafter, you will begin to see the characteristic windowpane feeding damage of the leek moth caterpillars. The next generation, resulting from the second flight, have the potential to do significant damage to allium bulbs due to the timing of this larval generation. If these leek moth caterpillars are feeding on allium leaves at the time of harvest, the caterpillars will move into the bulbs as the leaves die down. Feeding damage and exit holes on bulbs while in storage can significantly reduce their marketability and open the bulbs up to secondary infection.

The Vermont Entomology Participatory Action Research Team (VEPART) recently began a NE-SARE funded project exploring pre- and post-harvest tactics for reducing the impact of leek moth in the Northeast. The results of this project will hopefully provide farmers with adaptable and affordable low-tech options for managing leek moth in allium crops. Furthermore, the development of non-chemical options for the control of leek moth will help reduce the dependency on chemical controls and helps to diversify the current IPM toolbox for more sustainable control of the leek moth. Please take a moment to complete the following survey (<https://forms.gle/wFeoqPcxERrF7aAe8>), it will greatly improve our ability to help growers in the Northeast.

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 be timed appropriately, especially in onions because of caterpillar 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 check out the newly-updated leek moth information center website (<https://nysipm.cornell.edu/agriculture/vegetables/leek-moth-information-center/>). If you have any questions or concerns about leek moth please contact Vic Izzo at [vizzo@uvm.edu](mailto:vizzo@uvm.edu) and/or Scott Lewins at [slewins@uvm.edu](mailto:slewins@uvm.edu).

## **SWD MAY BE A THREAT EARLIER THAN USUAL**

Based on trap catches in the region it appears that SWD populations are building up earlier this year than in the past, so growers of soft fruit should prepare ASAP. Here is a page with links to management information and advice. The info I sent last June is still applicable: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/SWDInfo.html>

Recent research at UMass suggests that indicate that a 25% concentration of grape juice  
(1 part of juice/3 parts

August 1, 4-7 pm.