1

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News ʹJuly 11, 2013
Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry
PEST AND FLOOD UPDATE
Spotted wing drosophila catches to the south of us (RI, CT, Hudson valley) are rising both in
traps and in raspberry and blueberry fruit. While hundreds of other fruit flies have been caught
in traps, very few SWD have been caught so far Vermont; just two females in the south and one
male in mid-State confirmed. However, the population could suddenly explode in a week or
two. It would be prudent to protect ripening fruit. For information on trapping, identification
and management of SWD see: http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/SWDInfo.html
Late blight has been confirmed in NJ western NY. Plan now to protect potatoes and tomatoes in
the near future. This disease can quickly devastate those crops once it arrives and weather
conditions are conducive for infection - warm and moist. Locations with confirmed late blight
are shown at: http://www.usablight.org/. Conventional fungicides should be rotated to avoid
resistance, see: http://nevegetable.org/crops/disease-control-17. For organic growers copper
fungicides offer the best suppression. OMRI-listed and VT-registered materials include Badge
X2, Champ WG, Cueva, and NuCop50 WP. Scout tomatoes and potatoes regularly and
thoroughly, especially areas that are shaded or poorly drained. When spraying, get good
coverage of all foliage; reapply at the shortest labeled interval when weather is favorable for
late blight. Leaf wetness from dew or mists favors infection even if it is not rainy. Images of late
blight and other diseases: http://www.longislandhort.cornell.edu/vegpath/photos/index.htm.
Alas, flooding has once again caused severe losses for some farms in the flood plain, mostly in
the northern half of the state. For information on dealing with flooded produce and fields see:
http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/Flooded_Produce_FAQ.pdf.
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD
(Westfield) We have a few more days for our strawberry harvest. As you can imagine it is
constantly wet and the gray mold is starting to spread, but so far the crop has been good. At
least we have a crop! The winter squash didn't notice the cool wet June for they are huge, full
of blooms, and starting to have fruits. On the other end of the spectrum, field cucumbers are
pleading for mercy. Greenhouse tomatoes are in full production. There is some leaf mold in one
corner.

2

(Rochester) We caught a male SWD in one of our yeast traps July 8, apparently the first male
reported in Vermont this season (others have reported females, which tend to appear first. We
did not capture any females). The trap was in our ripest summer raspberries, Prelude. These
yeast traps seem to be very effective, unlike the vinegar traps we tried last year which did not
attract many bugs once there was ripe fruit. We are gearing up for a spraying protocol using
Entrust with some Pyganic, and based on Rich Coles' research we will be using half the labeled
dosage of Entrust and adding sugar. Will report on how effective it is.
(Warren) Still holding on here. Mad River came within inches of flooding on the July 3 but
spared us. Somehow we manage to get two seedings of salad greens in on time every week.
Just finished bulk harvests of movable high tunnel started spuds and carrots. Nice to have
product in the walk-in so can sell at our leisure. In general things are looking really good. We
are seeing little if any disease and insect pressure. Not sure why but I'd like to think it has
something to do with the trace element rich rock dust that we applied a few years back and the
bi-weekly sprays of sea minerals. Every time there is a wet stretch like this I'm amazed at how
fast things grow and wonder what would happen if I could give crops 2+ inches of water per
week in dry bright weather.
(Elmore) Still raining; can't even walk in the fields, let alone mow around them. A great season
for weeds; we cannot get to them with machinery. Fruit trees are very happy with the best
crops ever, even cherries. Berries are heavily set, I just hope the sun will come out and dry
things so they do not mold and so we can walk among them for harvest. Currants are very large
due to the water
(Williston) It's wet. Raspberries not doing so well. Blueberries started PYO on July 8; they are
ůŽĂĚĞĚǁŝƚŚďĞƌƌŝĞƐ͘EĞĞĚƐƵŶƐŚŝŶĞ͘>ŽƐƚƐŽŵĞŽĨƚŚŝƐǇĞĂƌ͛ƐƉůĂŶƚĞĚyŵĂƐƚƌĞĞƐ͕ŝƚ͛ƐƐŽǁĞƚ͘
Larger Xmas trees doing well. Unable to plant much sweet corn, no pumpkins at all. Glad it
came as rain though instead of snow!
(Charlotte) We have seen the blueberry maggot fly, but otherwise the blueberry crop is
fantastic.
(Williamsville) I'm catching up with the weeds! Transplanted hoop house beets are booming.
Trellised hoop house cukes are coming on strong. Best broccoli year by far. Field zukes and
cukes are weak. Tilled in one bed of parsnips because I failed to keep up with weeds. First
Japanese beetles. No bean beetles yet. Some brown beetle is eating the basil. Biting inspects
notable this week. Peas are peaking. All scapes are harvested. Expecting green beans and
cherry tomatoes shortly. Six feisty baby skunks chase me around the farm at dusk.

3

(Royalton) In fifteen years I've haven't seen the fields as waterlogged as this summer. We have
heavy clay which really is an advantage in most years: we don't have to irrigate. We can't get
our hay in, which is now going by, and we can't direct seed anything. The corn loves the
weather and is tasseled, though corn borer moths are at an all-time high around here at night.
The garlic is ready almost three weeks early and is smaller in size. Apples are full of fruit, as are
blueberries. Thank goodness for hoophouses, where plants are thriving in the tropical heat and
water can be regulated.
(Montpelier) It's wet and stuff is rotting in the fields. Greenhouses are moving forward but one
house is not producing due to some unidentifiable issue in the soil. Have ruled out almost all
causes, the odd part being the other two houses with almost identical soils that are producing
quite well. Very good year to be growing on raised beds with plastic. Cucumber beetles are
wreaking havoc and no way to really get after them with the constant moisture every day. I
have light soils so in the morning I sink up to my ankles when I step in a bed; by mid-afternoon
they have firmed up, then we get another inch of rain.
(Ferrisburgh) Everything is too wet! Corn growth is all over the place although should start
picking in about 10 days. Starting to see a little powdery mildew in the vine crops. Sweet potato
vines looks good. Will start digging first planting of red and Yukon gold potatoes next week.
ZŝƉĞƚŽŵĂƚŽĞƐĐĂŵĞŝŶƚŚŝƐǁĞĞŬ͘ǀĞƌǇŽŶĞĂƚƚŚĞĨĂƌŵĞƌƐ͛ŵĂƌŬĞƚŝƐĂŶǆŝŽƵƐĨŽƌƚŚĞŵ͘/ƚΖĚďĞ
real nice to do a complete market without rain or humidity.
(Plainfield NH) What fields? Last week we had over six inches of rain in less than two days with
one to three feet of water across the fields, more than in Irene. I know some of you got more
than that. A little discouraging to get wiped two years out of three. Anyway, back to seeding
trays for fall crops, might be dry enough to get ground prepared by then!
(Burlington) Despite losing several crops to flooding this past week, it's about time to dislodge
the irrigation pipe from the weeds and get ready to run the sprinklers. Harvests have been good
so far, though plant diseases are beginning everywhere. CSA members are happy and surprised
that we are having great cucurbits and tomatoes, given the weather. They are complaining
something fierce about the mosquitoes at the farm: for once they are totally justified! Potatoes
so far are the best looking crop on the farm. A tolerable strawberry crop, probably because it
was on the sandiest field on our sandy loam farm. Usually we hate growing in that field during

4
(Huntington) Sweet potatoes good; winter squash good; potatoes OK, though 30

5

(Hampton NY) The one good thing about all the rain is that it makes pulling weeds that much
easier. That said all this rain, 6 inches last week, with a few hours of intense sun, is germinating
weed seed galore! Garden Stand will open on July 9 with cucumbers, summer squash, green
zucchini, yellow zucchini, string beans, limited broccoli, kale, Swiss chard and basil. King Arthur
peppers are just starting to produce along with the Biancia peppers. Red Flame chili peppers
have 3 to 5 inch green peppers galore on them and cherry peppers are coming along. Nothing
yet on the Poblanos or Gourmet peppers. Eggplant is starting to flower and winter squash is
beginning to spread. Peas died, tomatoes have been devoured by deer, along with the hosta,
and the squash bugs are laying eggs all over the place and I have seen some nymphs. Cucumber
beetles have temporarily died down but I am seeing a few breeding pairs. Time to sow another
seeding of yellow and purple string beans and I am giving up on reseeding the beets and carrots
until the jet stream pattern changes. Will have some zinnias for cut flowers this week and the
gladiolas and sunflowers are coming along nicely.