Vermont Vegetable and Berry News July 2, 2020
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(S. Royalton) The pumps fall silent for the first time in 7 weeks. Damage done by not having a big enough system to move wa

(Grand Isle) Got our insect exclusion netting up after hearing reports of SWD. Monitoring for cherry and cranberry fruit worm. Have found both moths in our traps. Lots of green berries, watering a lot. For the first time not opening for u-pick because of COVID-19. We will pick and sell or donate to food shelves.

(Plainfield) I experimented with using a surfactant (Dawn dish soap) on the 2nd stage (shoot strike) of the blueberry mummyberry disease. That hits the leaves later in May, when the buds are opening, and makes a white sweet "powder" that attracts the pollinators that then spread the mummyberry fungal disease. The first stage little fawn deer size "turd" mushrooms (that we physically disturbed) come in early May when the forsythia blooms. A surfactant seems to have definitely knocked it back (that and the warm, overly dry weather). I am also interested in trying hydrogen peroxide mixed in as well. I will let you know how it works when the berries ripen. So far the crop looks bountiful! Here is hoping! Last year I had a half crop due to mummyberry loss (and a little drosophila loss as well). I see some new leaf growth on my blueberries, despite the record drought.

(Westminster)

Tomato: have seen some Botrytis/gray mold and Sclerotinia white mold (canker with fluffy white mycelium) in high tunnels where humidity was high. No leaf spot diseases yet in the field that I have seen. Blossom end rot common on some cultivars. Had an interesting sample with

Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) is a beautiful cover crop that is a great choice for a short-term summer cover or perhaps seeded between plastic rows to reduce splash and erosion and suppress weeds. *Drill 10-20 lbs/A, and broadcast at 12-24 lbs/A.*

Non Legumes

Sorghum Sudangrass (*Sorghum bicolor x S. sudanense*) Sorghum sudangrass is a cross between grain sorghum and sudangrass. Sorghum sudangrass can reach 6-12 feet tall, but should be mowed when it reaches 2-3 feet tall to prevent it from becoming fibrous and difficult to manage. To optimize growth, you will need to add nitrogen fertilizer (40-80 lbs/A), which will be cycled on to the next crop. *Drill 35-40 lbs/A or 40-50 lbs/A broadcast.*

Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), also known as blue or purple tansy, is a good cover crop for use in rotation on vegetd8.423m7.0 GþÞ 570.82 Bgrom becPhacea.seps Tf1 lе

Research conducted by our team over the last couple of years suggests releasing Trichogramma wasps throughout the second leek moth flight may reduce damage by more than 50% (https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/vepart-publishes-new-research-brief), and topping your onions prior to curing may eliminate leek moth damage while not impacting quality after 6 months of storage. The same tactic is also an option for managing leek moth in garlic, Crystal Stewart at Cornell Cooperative Extension has shown that trimming the tops of the garlic in the field rather than drying the whole plant intact does not increase disease issues or reduce bulb weight (