
(Salisbury NH) We need rain. Our hillside can handle lots of rain (like last year) but this lack of rain is killing us. Some success stories--broccoli and cauliflower did okay. We do not have irrigation and can see why it can make a huge difference. The battle of the bugs has increased--Japanese, cucumber, potato, and flea beetles. We had beautiful tatsoi and it was ruined by flea beetles. We're trying again with Chinese cabbage and bok choy under row cover this time. Germination has been poor on plantings of carrots, beets and lettuce without rain. We just keep replanting. Last year we had string beans, summer squash and zucchini with all the rain and this year we are still waiting. Our tomatoes, however, are a success. The hoophouse gave us just enough of a jump so that we have ripe tomatoes. Customers are slow to come. Not sure if it's the heat or the fact that we didn't get our permanent sign up until a few weeks ago. Eggplant and peppers look like poor yield; lack of moisture we assume. Finally signed up for credit card machine as we heard many people say sales increase approximately 30-35%. Most people don't have a lot of cash on them these days.

(Little Compton RI) The drought has been particularly bad and amplified by the heat. We have lost so many crops that we couldn't get water to and even ones that we did. Carrots came up then melted in the heat! I haven't seen anything like it in all the year I have been doing this. We were fooled by late June rains that seemed to keep us even in the soil moisture department. When the drought came in earnest, we realized that down deep the soil was dryer than we thought. Now I see the effectiveness of the "irrometer" units. With one of those in place I would have known of drought conditions earlier and got water to the plants that were falling behind before they got stressed. Our early potato plants went down, I am hoping it was heat and water related and wasn't blight. I haven't heard of any in this region yet. Our later ones in a different field look O.K.

(Wolcott) It's been a remarkable growing season so far, everything is so fast and so early to finish. It all looks good so far, but our work is compressed by everything coming on early. We usually don't harvest any annual Brassica seed until the first week of August, but the crop will likely be ready the end of third week in July, which puts it on top of the intensive season of pollinations and emasculations for hybrid seed production and breeding plot work. Usually the farm crew has a lull in the middle of the season where the hand pollination work fits in, but this year the lull was much earlier and briefer, and now they're getting slammed pretty good. No late blight on tomatoes so far, but we're doing preventive sprays with sulfur. We'll have to switch to copper if the blight comes in.

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