Vermont Vegetable and Berry News July 6, 2010

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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Moretown) New potatoes are coming in strong and look and taste great. Snap peas before the 4th of July certainly made up for the failed crop last year. Cuke beetles are finally starting to fade, just in time for the cabbage moth to move in.

(S. Royalton) Direct seeded sweet corn is rib high, cantaloupes are starting to size up and are starting to look like fruit not just green baseballs. We started pulling greens onions, incredible growth on them the past few days. Beans, however, in a holding pattern, they are progressing every slowly.

bordering on just a bit too much rain. Cool weather for a few days last week slowed summer squash down a bit. Tomatoes continue to look great in the greenhouses and out in the field. A bit of early blight in the potatoes. Rose chafers are enjoying my greenhouse basil. Cucumbers are coming in real stro Green Fin doing much better than the expensive euro cuke plants and not needing to be fed constantly. I also get the impression market customers prefer a plain cuke. Control of angular leaf spot and anthracnose appears to have been achieved with the controls I mentioned last time. Started harvesting okra yesterday.

Peppers and eggplant all showing nice fruit set. Outside plantings of melon and winter squash looking happy. Markets continue to be well attended but sales remain sluggish. Deer have finally decided to come in and help with the pruning to boming in a

A rainy afternoon goofing off led to the discovery that our onion topper does beets and turnips too. Woodchucks under control for the moment but the deer are getting bolder. Really happy with directsown head lettuce. We have very few weeds so it's much easier than transplanting and the heads seem to hold in the field a lot longer.

(Plainfield NH) Starting to coat up things for the arrival of worms and blight, in the field and tomato greenhouses. We found the big horned worm moth, so we went in with dipel and some bravo, as we were hit hardest first in the tomato greenhouses with late blight last year. Blues are all netted and we will start picking in earnest this week. With all the talk about bank failures I have found one that is rock solid: the weed bank on my farm. Had to abandon my clover living mulch in between plastic this year as the galinsoga and chick weed were so thick that I decided to go for the fallow strategy until further notice, though it breaks my heart burning up organic matter by fallow tilling. Trying to keep the thrips down on the onions and keep the tops healthy and the hoppers were worrying a planting of beans, but potatoes are far enough along so there doesn't seem to be enough injury to warrant any action. Picking field cukes and squash now and starting to wholesale tomatoes. Much of the corn I planted May 15 rotted in the cool weather we had at the time the corn could have used a little heat to get it out of the ground. Replanted and stand is much better but won't earn any bragging rights. Note for this winter: rebuild the max emerge units on the old planter.

(Rochester) The effect of the May frosts on our raspberries is showing, now that the real summer heat has arrived. Some die-back of the fruiting canes is evident in all varieties with the greatest damage at the lowest elevations. Blueberries may make up for some of it as three of our four varieties have set a large crop. We will also get some summer blackberries for the first time, the canes having wintered over fairly well. Our workampers have arrived and the extra energy is appreciated.

(Enfield NH)

Hopefully, a little heat and dry weather will result in improved production but will also require vigilance for the incoming little varmints.

(Westminster West) We do need rain but things are fine really. Winter squash is running and setting fruit like crazy! Picking tons of summer squash and green beans. Started pulling garlic, seems about 10