

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – August 1, 2017

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www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 7th, 3-6 pm. Produce Safety: Best Practices from Field to Consumer. Foggy Meadows Farm, 2494 Lake Road, Benson, VT. NOFA/UVM Extension sponsored. Free.

<http://nofavt.org/events/produce-safety-best-practices-field-consumer>

August 9th, 3-6 pm. Farm Smarter Not Harder: Harvest Efficiency for Carrot and Beet Crops. Jericho Settlers Farm, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho VT. \$20 NOFA-VT members, \$25 others.

<http://nofavt.org/events/farm-smarter-not-harder-harvest-efficiency-carrot-beet-crops>

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Starksboro) We are seeing powdery mildew in the high tunnel tomatoes. Also lost a round of flowers/fruit on both tomatoes and peppers, wondering if it was poor pollination on that overcast week. Bumblebees next year! We've had a tough time with leafhopper, they've taken down the first round of green beans, and a few varieties of cut flowers.

I'm thankful we added a few more more successions of everything this year because our spring plantings are already petering out. There's Alternaria on the spring brassicas. Cucumber beetles destroyed a succession of squash and cukes, and a few direct-seeded beds got washed away in the rain. Luckily our summer successions are coming on right now and I'm loving the new kales, the broccoli looks great, and summer lettuces are rocking. Great year for carrots so far.

(Charlotte) We had a bumper crop off raspberries this year. The blueberries came on slowly, but are coming along nicely, and we will probably go an extra few weeks with them compared to past years. Japanese beetles were quite heavy, and the traps weren't enough this year.

(Tunbridge) The sun!! I think it put everyone in a good mood, as many more folks showed up to market. Things are finally kicking into gear where we actually have to stay on top of picking. Greens look great for this time of year. Basil is out of control; I kept the row cover on since it was so cool, and the bonus was no Japanese beetle damage. I may continue to cover it.

Field tomatoes have not started to turn. The cherries have. Onions and leeks are looking nice and big. Walla Wallas are ready. Peppers are behind, but plants look good.

Potatoes are behind, but we planted some corollas really close to dig up as baby potatoes (I saw a this in a Martha Stewart magazine photo of potato salad) they flew out at \$5/lb. I guess they were too cheap. Carrots are great and tasty this year. We will probably have to water in this week when we transplant. With all that rain it was easy every week to just throw in trays of plants without watering. Cucumber beetles are the pest that bothered us most. We never cover the second plantings, but this year they got hammered. Some plants were able to grow out of it.

(Underhill) We are having a very productive blueberry season. No sign of SWD. We were hit with mummy berry, in the range of a few percent of the berries. We were away several days late May-early June, thought we had a mild frost when we came back. Now we know! Thanks to Vern and Ann for helpful information on the listserv.

(Westfield) It feels good to have some dry weather, and the crops did a big spurt of grown. Sweet corn is starting this week we are picking a few day-neutral strawberries. Swede midge not too active hopefully it will stay like that. Sales and orders are keeping at a good pace. Our big trouble is the return of the symphylans in two of our greenhouses. We had to plow down a bed of pepper and re-seed with mustard, we will see if we can kill them like that.

(S. Royalton) Garlic harvest in full swing size running about average, onions seem a little slow to size up, but no sign of leek moth in our traps. Hornworms starting to show up in greenhouse tomatoes; will have to check field tomatoes for them. One good thing with all the rain we had in June the rye and barley we seeded between our winter squash beds was up in four days and out competed most of the weeds. Potatoes also have filled well with all the rain, although

Some root rot in the carrots, some pepper plants lost to Fusarium (thanks to Ann for identifying, I was worried it was Phytophthora) and a big flush of crabgrass. Fall crops are coming along well though some of the potatoes rotted due to the early cold/wet.

(Orwell) It seems to be a season of delayed plantings of field crops, then disbelief in realizing that the window for planting came and went. Clay soil allows us a limited window, between goop and concrete, to get the soil prepared and planted. There is a noticeable difference, however, in moisture management between areas that had spring cover crops planted and those

Once again, late July summer heat extremes in our greenhouses has taken a toll on our lettuce germination. Next two weeks we will start them in the barn for 36 hours to assure even germination.

We have seen some bacterial canker causing wilts in high tunnels. If you suspect this disease, send it to the Clinic, we have rapid assay kits to test for the pathogen. This is one you do not want to spread. Powdery mildew still causing issues in high tunnels. Have received a few calls/samples/ about yellow shoulder or blotchy ripening in fruit. This is not caused by a pathogen but a combination of environmental issues and perhaps nutrition.

<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/tomato-blotchy-ripening>

Gold flecking seen on Geronimo fruit in a tunnel. Another physiological problem (although rule out thrips/spider mites first) related to environmental conditions.

<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/gold-flecking-tomato-caused-many-things>

high humidity environments. This disorder induces a dull aspect to the fruit and weakens the peel, shortening tomato shelf life. Providing a balanced nutritional program, especially between

Peppers: Fusarium crown rot found in field peppers, and in high tunnel tomatoes, where soil conditions were wet. Problem was hit or miss unlike Phytophthora rot which can take out entire fields following saturated soils. Broad mites found in pepper in NH high tunnel. Look for curled/twisted leaves and scarring on the upper part of the fruit.

Potato: Black leg causing collapse of potatoes following wet weather.

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/fact-sheets/pdf/potato_black_leg_factsheet.pdf

Potato leaf hopper causing leaf edge scorch on potatoes, beans, raspberries and maples.

Crucifers: Swede midge damage common on fall crops causing rotting growing points and

There have been reports of damage in crops that are not normally hit hard by SWD (e.g. cherries and early blueberries). As of the end of July, SWD are being trapped in significant numbers in raspberries in Geneva, NY and in cherries in Ontario.

Vermont growers of berries and tree fruit should be prepared to control populations through good field sanitation (e.g. picking crops clean frequently and removing drops), managing plant canopies to increase airflow, using exclusion netting, and/or spraying. Be sure to cool fruit as soon as possible after harvest. If you have PYO it is advisable to educate your customers: tell them to either use their berries quickly or freeze them. If spraying, you can find the Cornell IPM 2017 guide for sprays labeled for control of SWD in berries at <http://tiny.cc/smallfruitSWDsprays> and in tree fruit/grapes at <http://tiny.cc/treefruitSWDsprays>.