

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News August 13, 2018
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www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15, 4-6 pm. Field based Conversation on Foliar and Fertigation applications. Green Mountain Girls Farm, Northfield VT. Join Nathan Harman, Soil and Plant Health Specialist with Advancing Ecological Agriculture for a discussion of foliar feeding and fertigation goals and demonstration of equipment and methods used on the farm to apply non-denatured (not purely water soluble) products (nutrition and inoculations) to a modest vegetable, fruit and pasture production. Free. <http://eatstayfarm.com/about-us/directions/> RSVP to: Mari@eatstayfarm.com

August 15, 3-5 pm. High Tunnel Twilight Meeting. Grafton County Farm 3855 Dartmouth College Hwy. North Haverhill, NH. Join UVM Extension's Chris Callahan for a discussion on high tunnel ventilation, and UNH Extension's Becky Sideman and Heather Bryant for a discussion of high tunnel tomato nutrient and insect management. To register, contact Heather Bryant at heather.bryant@unh.edu.

Aug. 21, 3-6 pm. Improving Soil Health. Good Heart Farm, Worcester VT. Join Becky Maden, Vegetable Nutrient Management Specialist with UVM Extension and farmers Edge and Kate

(Craftsbury) Our PYO blueberry operation is in mid-season form. We opened on July 21 and have been going daily since. We have created a Facebook page (managed long-distance by a brother-in-law) and keep our website fresh with pics of the day, articles, updates. We advertised twice in a weekly paper, offering a coupon discount to readers. This has paid for itself many times over. We again used 15 second radio spots but have no evidence of this being useful. We are meeting many new customers through <http://www.pickyourown.org/>. Our community farmers' market hosted its 3rd annual Celebrate the Blueberry Festival (which we help sponsor) on August 4. For the first time we had a table, and sold out our 56 pints in no time. Our bushes are thriving and full despite hours of operation from 7am-7pm during this peak. The drought which has hampered a few other growers has had no negative impact here. One geologist/picker suggested that because the hillside is a thin layer of soil over bedrock, any precipitation sits on the rock and holds moisture against the roots. Maybe. No signs (knock wood) of SWD to date

(Charlotte) We just closed our farm for the blueberry season. A week earlier than last year. A large loss in blueberries this year due to the lack of rain. Black raspberries did very well. Wholesale was good, and we had a few different accounts which is good. The next few weeks are getting all the rest of the blueberries off the bushes and cleaning up the raspberries and black raspberries.

It is a good year for grapes and raspberries but not for pears. Looks good for seaberries and northern kiwis, but not for crabapples. I guess diversity is where it's at. Noticed it has been raining hard in Lunenburg and Montpelier but not in Elmore. Thank goodness for irrigation, what a smart investment. For our first 20 years it was not needed, but our next 20 years really needed it! We learn as we go and it gets hotter and drier and we either find new ways to grow or take a break from it all. The trees have deep roots and so do the growers.

(Plainfield NH) Wholesale and retail markets are remaining strong into "the doldrums of August." Melons, blueberries, corn and tomatoes help promote the sales of other, lesser value, crops like squash, eggplant, peppers. Labor shortage continues to be a problem, and this week our three college kids wrap it up, so we will be struggling by Labor Day. Weed control has been suffered. It's hard to think about weeding when the blueberries need to come off the bush.

The drought that so seriously affected us as of our last report has subsided with ample rainfall, but the continued showers, heat and high humidity have us scrambling to keep diseases off crops. I expect my fungicide bill to be pretty high this year.

SWD counts are low, but this weather has us concerned about the fall raspberry crop; both for Botrytis and possible SWD buildup. Last year we waited too long to spray and lost a section of the crop as well as diminishing our sales for the rest of the season. The crop looks good; we have put in additional cane support. Autumn Britten should be into their season by next week. We continue to pick a few blueberries for the farm stand, but have harvested most of the crop which is primarily early Blue Crop, Duke and Patriot.

We will try to lift the onions this week and move them to greenhouse benches to cure, but with 2 acres of onions, I hope we can find enough space, it will be a stretch. Potatoes are bulking nicely, but there is a lot of foliar junk that I think will bring early senescence in the russets. We used Envol as an early white potato this year, and they are beautiful, clean, and earlier than the reds by two weeks. We are not wholesaling potatoes yet, but have an abundance of fingerlings, reds, whites, golds and russets on the shelf of the farm stand and for our CSA.

So far corn earworm counts in the traps have been low unlike for some other farmers. Picking some nice Montauk and ~~therop~~ looks good; we have

If you see wilting with black streaks on the stems or wilting without the fluffy white rot, cut open the stem lengthwise or cut under the skin to look for browning in the vascular system. This would indicate bacterial canker. This can spread though out a house through pruning. We have rapid assay kits to test tomatoes and positively identify this pathogen very quickly. See: <https://extension.umn.edu/plant-diseases/bacterial-canker-tomato>

Tomatillos showing damage from the three lined

REMEMBERING ERIC ROZENDAAL

The celebration of his too-short life was attended by hundreds of people yesterday at his farm in Starksboro, Vermont. It was a testimony to the growers, buyers, family and friends that his big spirit touched. Thanks to all the people that shared their thoughts. Here's the collection shared with his family. http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Remembering_Eric_Rozendaal.pdf