

CPBs are getting notably harder to control, suspecting gradual resistance to Spinosad developing. Released *Pediobius* to control bean beetles for the first time, but I think it was too late. I'll shoot for earliest larval appearance next year.

Doom and gloom aside, harvests have been plentiful and good quality, with some of our best quality summer carrots and beets in several years, though Romance carrot, our sub for Yaya, isn't impressing with it tougher texture. Early and abundant crop of Walla Walla onions, which sized up much larger much earlier than our planned early onion, Bridger. Still really liking Norstar for our first early hard yellow onion, with good size, solid DM resistance, and excellent dry down. Appreciating more and more getting onions in and out early to beat the DM pressure, but also to field cure during the longer days of late July and early August.

CSA members are super happy, enjoying all the fun of coming to the farm, PYO, and hanging out in the flowers. It is great to have the twice weekly enthusiasm of hundreds. I hope this can all continue, as the covid tea leaves are not looking good right now.

Got a game changer new tool from Buddingh Cultivators. They offer a plastic mulch scratcher which is incredible for keeping sides of plastic clean, especially if used in combination with Tilmor's version of the old star-wheel cultivator following behind to break up clods and re-hill the soil to hold the plastic down. Great video on Instagram: look up Sassafrass Farm and checkout how they use this new gem. All the parts and pieces cost \$800 or so.

Trying to keep the deer off our winter squash with three-prong approach: electric temporary fence that is baited, mannequin with full garb (hat and sunglasses) and night solar spotlights on him and talk radio as well, and all parked next to dead pickup truck! So far so good!

Markets very strong at this point. If major Covid restrictions come back our city farmers' market may go down again.

UPDATE FROM UVM EXTENSION AG ENGINEERING

Cleaning Tools and Supplies for Produce Farms. Farms of all sizes all have tools and equipment that need to be cleaned and sanitized. That equipment varies in how well it has been designed to be cleaned, its level of hygienic design. Some items require lots of effort and specific tools to clean adequately, while others are straight-forward. What's the best brush to clean totes? Is spending money on an expensive squeegee to get water off the floor worth it? This blog post and video highlight some things to look for in cleaning tools and supplies for use on the farm.

TECHINICAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR WASH-PACK PROJECTS THIS FALL

Our team of specialists from SCRUB (Sanitizing and Cleaning Resources for yoUr Business) is available to help you overcome a post-harvest bottleneck, or to improve your wash/pack in one of six topic areas listed below. Space is limited to 15 farms per topic. To indicate interest in participating, complete this short form <https://forms.gle/JYVeJVdfUKsGh3dz9> **by August 16.**

Participating farms that sign up for individual assistance with their projects will be asked to take part in the virtual workshop with other growers working on the same topic, where challenges, plans and resources are discussed as a group. As a participant, you will: Complete a draft project improvement plan (a template will be provided to guide this process); Attend and actively participate in the workshop; Implement the revised project improvement plan on your farm; Document your results with photos and a brief description of what you did and share with workshop leaders.

SCRUB Workshop Schedule. Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm. These will be edited and posted later.

September 1. Bin Blitz. Experienced growers and UVMs Ag Engineering present new strategies and cleaning tools to increase the efficiency and efficacy of bin cleaning, sanitation, and management practices. Lead growers show and tell their bin systems, with lessons learned. Participants leave with a plan to improve/ implement new practices.

September 8. Low Cost and High Value. Evaluate low-cost (either money or time) improvements that make a big difference. Experience growers show and tell the thrifty improvements they made and summarize lessons learned., including trade-offs of spending money (or not) to lower risks and increase efficiency.

September 15. Wash/Pack Floors. Learn to improve or repair a concrete floor so that it is smooth and easy to clean. This workshop highlights concrete repair, cleaning and sanitation techniques, water management, products, and resources, as well as show and tell from experienced growers, and Chris Callahan (UVM's Engineering)

September 22. Wash Water Management. Experienced growers and facilitators dig into the fundamentals of managing produce wash water, including show and tell with lessons learned about wash water management, use and monitoring of sanitizers. All participants leave with a plan to improve/ implement new practice

September 29. Tools for Employee Management and Empowerment. Develop management strategies/systems to retain and empower high-value workers, while improving crew morale and culture. Learn from experienced managers of loyal and reliable crews, the pros and cons of their

current management systems, and how they came to be. Participants leave with resources and a plan to improve/ implement one or more new practices or strategies.

October 6. Bubblers/Aerators for Greens Washing.