Vermont Vegetable and Berry News August 25, 2009 Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension (802) 257-7967 ext.13, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

AUGUST BERRY CHECKLIST

(adapted from NY Berry News, by Cathy Heidenreich, Department of Horticulture, Cornell Univ.)

All Berry Crops:

- 1. Leaf Analysis Still time to get this done if you move on it now! (\$25 per sample at UMaine lab, see: http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu/. For sampling instructions and optimal nutrient levels in different crops see: http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/tissuetest.htm.
- 2. Fertilization Nothing further except late season N applications for strawberries.
- 3. Weeds Hand-weeding or spot applications to control weeds in new plantings.
- 4. Diseases and Insects Make applications promptly when environmental conditions are conducive to disease development or economic thresholds are exceeded for insects. For control options see: NY small fruit guidelines: http://ipmguidelines.org/BerryCrops/ and New England

4. Straw Mulch Less straw may be available for this season due to growing conditions. Be sure to secure sufficient straw to cover your planting early. A general rule of thumb is 2-3 tons/ acre, more if you are in a colder area with little snow cover or have plants on raised beds (4-5 tons/ A). Be sure straw is free of glyphosate residues and weed-seeds!

Strawberries, new plantings:

1. Plant establishment Continue to direct runner plants from aisles back into planting row area. Remove blossoms as they open to encourage good plant establishment and growth. Oultivate for weed control.

Blueberries, established plantings:

- 1. Soil pH If your pH is still above 5.0 remember to schedule a late fall sulfur application (200 lb/A). The prilled form of sulfur takes a little longer to break down in the soil than the powdered formulation but tends to be more user-friendly to work with.
- 2. Weeds Hand weeding and spot treatments.
- 3. Insects Japanese beetle continues to be a concern. Continue blueberry maggot monitoring program for late season blueberries; wet weather has made soils highly conducive for maggot flies to emerge. If you are trapping maggot flies continue to protect fruit.

Blueberries, new plantings:

- 1. Soil pH If your pH is still above 5.0 remember to schedule a late fall sulfur application (200 lb/A). The prilled form of sulfur takes a little longer to break down in the soil than the powdered formulation but tends to be more user-friendly to work with.
- 2. Weeds Hand weeding and spot treatments.
- Wildlife Watch for deer browse on new plants. Take immediate steps to deter feeding.

Raspberries and blackberries, established plantings:

- 1. Diseases The weather continues to be wet keep ripening fruit protected from gray mold.
- 2. Insects Scout for Sap beetles and Japanese beetle. Potato leaf hopper may also be a problem on raspberries, causing leaf yellowing from margin to midvein.

Raspberries and blackberries, new plantings:

1. Plant establishment Keep weeds at bay with spot treatments and hand weeding.

Currants and gooseberries:

- 1. Diseases Continue to watch for leaf diseases such as white pine blister rust (yellow-orange powdery spots), powdery mildew (white powdery spots), or leaf spots (black necrotic spots) on leaves. Be sure to check both upper and lower leaf surfaces.
- 2. Insects Scout for Japanese beetles, and two-spotted spider mites.

SOIL HEALTH FARM MEETING, SEPT. 2nd, WELLSPRING CSA, MARSHFIELD VT, 5-7 PM

At this farm meeting we'll look at soil structure, explore the profile of a soil pit to identify compaction or root limiting layers, examine soil health tests, and discuss fertilization options for vegetable farmers.

Directions: From the west: take Rte 2 east. Turn right onto Patty's Crossing after signs for

The 16th New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference (NEVFC) and Trade Show takes place every other year, and includes 30 educational sessions over 3 days. Located in Manchester NH this is a must-go event for commercial growers of every persuasion. Topics include major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops, and much more, from irrigation to greenhouse and tunnel systems. Farmer-to-Farmer meetings throughout the conference allow you to discuss specific issues in more detail. There is also an extensive Trade Show with over 100 exhibitors. For program and registration details visit: http://www.newenglandvfc.org/.

LATE BLIGHT FAQs

What would a newsletter be this season without some late blight information? Here's a great set of frequently asked questions and answers, regularly updated, from Dr. Meg McGrath at Cornell: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/department/Facilities/lihrec/vegpath/lbfaq.pdf.