

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News –



(Fairfax) Swede midge, grape leek moth and SWD all in one year; what fun. Gone are the days of benign neglect. I knew it was time to reduce the brassica acreage; Swede midge was just the encouragement I needed. It destroyed our main kale crop, but luckily we were able to go 3 miles down the road to plant our fall broccoli and it is doing very well. Rotations of 1,000 feet or more are recommended so looks like we've got lots of planning to do for the winter. Other than that the sweet corn and peppers have been fantastic.

(Tunbridge) More red peppers this year than in the last 20 combined. Last planting of zucchini wilted and died. Basil turned yellow; the patch right next to it that had bolted was not affected. Still have one more planting under a row cover. Beans are doing great. Kale got hit hard by flea beetles, waiting for it to grow out. Other fall greens like arugula, tatsoi, pak choi had no flea beetle pressure. Outside tomato plants are pretty much done. We had a great run with them. It was nice to have them early and not need to worry about them going into the fall. Onions are all in, best crop ever despite the maggot early on. We put the nematodes to them 3 times 2 weeks apart. Putting the onions on plastic probably saved the crop since we would not have had enough help to weed them. Cukes are done. Broccoli is beautiful. Carrots are tasty; finally got the barrel washer set up, why didn't we get one sooner?

(Benson) We're having a great time performing all of our fall chores about three weeks early. Three days topping beets last week, put 600 lb. of watermelon radishes in the root cellar and it looks like we will have to harvest fall carrots early October. I prefer to wait until Nov. 1 for the sweetest fall carrots. Making fall plantings of kale, spinach, chard, Asian greens etc. We've started construction on a 30 x 144 high tunnel with root zone heat and hope to be able to plant into it in a couple of weeks. Very much looking forward to fall weather, deer hunting, winter markets and the need for wood heat.

(Williston) Days are noticeably shorter and evening temperatures are cooler. We were lucky enough to get some decent rain recently. Plants are still producing but regrowth is slower these days. Starting to harvest shallots to dry. Lemon grass is ready to harvest too. Winter cover crop of pea/oat/vetch is growing nicely especially after the rain. Starting to get hoop house ready for fall planting of herbs and flowers.

(Plainfield NH) Shorter, cooler days and some much needed rain last week have abated the summer drought on our farms, now the task of picking up the irrigation pipe before mowing it with a bush hog. Isaac brought no CEW (surprisingly) to our farm; the Heliiothis trap showed only one moth.

SWD is present on our farm, but not yet in numbers to make the fruit unacceptable to the buying public. This stay of execution is perhaps being generated by weekly applications of synthetic pyrethroids or spinosad and trying to keep the fruit cleaned off; maybe some luck as well. The Valley News did a front page story over Labor Day on SWD for us all, but despite that, the story was defused somewhat by thoughtful responses and quotes by farmers and Extension people on both sides of the River. No damage from it, yet. Otherwise trying to get stuff cleaned up and covers down despite a shortage of people

Looking to harvest lots of fall crops, and doing our final sweep through fields for weeds in preparation for cover crops. Will start to transplant into the high tunnels very soon.

(Plainfield) Lots of fall greens, wholesale demand is strong. Great tops on the rutabagas, hoping the roots fill out. Hybrid butternut is mature and ready to cut, looks like a good yield. Carmen and Italia red peppers pouring in. Fall raspberries starting to ripen. Spraying Entrust alternating with Pyganic in hopes of holding off the SWD.

(Hampton NY) The cool nights and lack of moisture have slowed most production to a crawl. I doubt the 4 inches of rain we recently received will matter much at this point. Kale and Swiss Chard are liking the weather and turning on productions again. Agribon over the tomatoes plants that lost leaves to had Septoria definitely reduced the amount of sun scald. A late night visitor picked every Roma tomato that I had off of 72 plants so no bushel sales this year. The pumpkins are going on the stand this weekend and the corn stalks are going up next weekend. Early planted winter rye is already up 6" with more being planted this weekend. New garden area for 2013 has been soil tested and limed.

#### UPDATE FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Ann Hazelrigg

Squash: Black rot showing up in butternuts. This is the fruit symptom associated with the leafspot and stem symptoms called gummy stem blight, which causes oozing on the stems near the soil line. [http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/factsheets/Cucurbit\\_GSBlight.htm](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/factsheets/Cucurbit_GSBlight.htm)  
This is one of the diseases you are trying to control on squash/pumpkins when you spray for powdery mildew. This disease originates in the field, although you may not see it on the fruit until they are in storage.

Tomato: More late blight showing up; it's hit or miss around the state but all areas seem to be represented. As we see more morning fogs and dew and fall rains, it will keep spreading. Leaf spot diseases (Septoria and Alternaria) are really making headway now due to recent rains and heavy fruit loads.

Garlic: Have not seen much Fusarium basal rot.

<http://www.nevegetable.org/index.php/crops/garlic?start=3>

Saw some late season (3rd generation?) onion maggots infesting garlic bulbs.

<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/vegetables/onion/om.pdf>

Also, more reports of damage from onion leek moth tunneling in hollow leaves.  
<http://web.entomology.cornell.edu/shelton/leek-moth/index.html>

Basil: More reported downy mildew in basil; it looks like dirt on the leaf undersides and is hard to control. <http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/BasilDowny.html>

Impatiens downy mildew is showing up in Vermont, yet another new disease. Symptoms include stunting, dieback, defoliation. Leaf undersides are covered with white downy mildew spores. Destroy all plants or landfill and consider growing other bedding plants next year as this one may be around a while and will wipe out the common garden impatiens very fast.  
<http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/news/impatiens-downy-mildew-confirmed-massachusetts>

Green stink bugs have seemed to die down a bit. Lots of damage seen around gardens in sunflower, tomato, corn, etc.