



ORGANIC GREENHOUSE TOMATO PRODUCTION 'TWILIGHT MEETING'

**OLD ATHENS FARM, WESTMINSTER, VERMONT
WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2008, 4:00-7:00 PM**

Mike Collins and Rebecca Nixon own and operate Old Athens Farm in Westminister, Vermont. They sell produce wholesale to food co-ops and natural food supermarkets, and at farmers' markets. Mike manages 3 acres of mixed vegetables, berries and herbs; his main product is organic greenhouse tomatoes, for which he is widely known. He has 10,000 sq. feet in production, and he utilizes production techniques such as grafted transplants, carbon dioxide enrichment, zoned bottom heat, and biological pest control. Mike will explain his approach to soil fertility, show us grafted plants at various stages of growth, and talk about his experiments with different furnaces and fuels for heat. The greenhouses are heated primarily with waste vegetable oil from local restaurants. There are also a variety of back up heating systems including oil, propane, and wood in the different greenhouses.

Directions from the South:

Take Exit 4 off I-91, turn left off the ramp, back over the interstate to the intersection with route 5. Turn right, go straight through Putney village, staying on Route 5 north for about 3 miles. Take the left before Harlow's Sugar House (Pine Banks Rd.). At 2.8 miles turn left on Daigel Rd. You will see the greenhouses in the second driveway on the left, number 463.

Directions from the North:

Take Exit 5 off I-91, turn left off the ramp, go under I-91, then take the first right, Kurn Hattin Rd. You will crossover I-91, then after the Kurn Hattin school campus take the first left, Piggery Rd. At the Y, just before you would go back under I-91, bear right onto Pine Banks Rd. Your first right is Daigel Rd. You will see the greenhouses in the second driveway on the left, number 463.

Questions? Vern Grubinger: vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu (802) 257-7967 x13