



## **Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – October 18, 2017**

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[www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Nov. 4-6. Farmer to Farmer Conference. Northport ME.

<http://www.mofga.org/Events/FarmertoFarmerConference/tabid/293/Default.aspx>

Nov. 7-8. Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. VYCC West Monitor Barn, Richmond, VT

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2032920>

Nov. 7. Growing Better Brassicas. 9:30-3. Saratoga NY

<https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=832>

Farm-Scale Decision Making Workshop: Evaluating a major change to your business model.

Nov. 16- Rutland, Nov. 20- Barre, Nov. 30- Richmond, Dec. 6- Lebanon, NH

<http://www.sevendaystickets.com/events/48709767/farm-scale-decision-making-workshop-series>

Dec. 12-14. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show. Manchester NH.

<https://newenglandvfc.org/> Rooms in main hotel already sold out, nearby hotels are available.

Jan. 22, 2018. VVBGA Annual Meeting, Fairlee VT. Mark your calendars.

Feb. 18-20, 2018. NOFA-VT Winter Conference, Burlington VT.

<https://nofavt.org/35th-annual-winter-conference>

### **REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**

(Charlotte) With the temperatures being warm, harvesting blackberries and fall raspberries has been great. We have seen SWD in the raspberries and around the blackberries, but we have been able to pick the berries when they are ripe and the cooler temperatures have greatly lessened the numbers. Our spaghetti squash soared along with the pumpkins this year. We will have to plan on how to market these crops for next year.

(Rochester) Twenty-eight degrees the other night has probably brought the fall raspberry season to an end. The crop was very late this year, presumably due to the cool summer we think, so a lot of potential fruit was left in the field. But one shouldn't complain about a first frost as late as October 17. We have had a satisfactory season overall and look forward to taking care of other tasks now, and getting a little more rest.

(Northfield) I just wanted to add myself to the list of folks who found squash vine borer in their squash fruits. What a drag!

(Westminster West) The other day, I wore a T-shirt and was sweating, today, it's a winter coat and wool hat and I'm cold all day! Still straight out busy with harvesting and marketing, interviewing for next season's crew already and planning the training sessions. Yields do seem off this year, especially on winter squash. But comparing yields, when different soils and seasons are involved, make it difficult to know why. Off-hand I'd say the late spring and colder temps really did hurt. Finished seeding the last cover crop today and starting garlic planting tomorrow

(S. Burlington) Harvesting herbal leaves and flowers. Herbal root harvest was a little later due to warm and dry weather. Ashwagandha's fruit ripened very late (in the Solana family), and most of the fruit didn't ripen at all before root harvest. Roots seem smaller than last year's harvest, but overall bountiful. Still harvesting third and fourth cuttings of aerial plants with only a frost nip on the tulsi, lemon balm and basil. Oct. 16 was the first major frost. I am looking forward to seeing all the shriveled plants marking the end of the harvest season. On to garlic planting. Concerned that warm weather will cause seed to sprout; not sure how long to wait this year! Noticing a crazy flush of box elder bugs throughout the city...wondering if that's normal. Very tick heavy fall, as well! Counting my blessings and my dried flowers, leaves and roots.

(Plainfield NH) Farm stand is shut down and we are on to just wholesaling and doing our fall CSA, Sales remain strong. Still picking solanaceous crops for wholesale. Last of the Hail Mary corn harvested. On Labor Day I didn't think it would make it because it was just coming into fresh silk. A testimony as to just how screwy this growing season has been. Last of the rye-vetch is in, and starting to do annual service and repair on machines.

Lots of pruning to do. Been trying to make sense of unruly raspberries, and hope to do some detail pruning of the blueberries, as well as initiate a spray program to combat an anthracnose problem that has been building up over the years. Three-quarter of the potatoes are up, graded and binned, but still a lot of root crops staring at us. Cleaning up stock plants for the ornamentals side of the business, finding some mealy bugs on some of the purchased-in specialty plants that we thought we would winter over. They will be overwintering instead out of the greenhouse and over the bank.

(Argyle NY) Pleasant Valley Farm. We have never had a year that we had to set up the irrigation transfer pump in late September, nor irrigated so much all fall, which we continue to do. The warm weather has been great for maturing the fall crops and increasing yields. The sweet potatoes are nice with great size and little damage from wire worms (compared to much damage last year in the same general area). The fall carrots are nice, great size and Alternaria was mostly on the late summer purple carrots. Onions are smaller but nice (they were in heavy soil that was too wet in early summer).

Our 3 high tunnels are all planted for winter: one with salad mix, salanova, mustards and arugula), one with spinach (all came up perfect with new seed we just hot water treated) and one with transplanted kale, chard and Asian Greens and some parsley. We continue to use peat moss to amend each fall for organic matter which seems to work well, and this year was first time we experimented with steaming the beds in 2 of the tunnels. We calculated the fuel usage at 100 gallons per tunnel for 8 beds vs. cost of hours to weed, and the steaming won. We will report on that as the winter progresses. We will be watching for Spinach Downy Mildew but so far all is good. Turnips, winter radishes, kohlrabi and rutabagas are being harvested now and put in the root cellar. Busy days but beautiful weather!

#### **FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC**

Ann Hazelrigg

Tomatoes-Found the first incidence of late blight in high tunnel tomatoes in Windham County. Grower still had lots of fruit in the house so was going to try to protect the rest until harvest. The incidence was reported on the USA Blight website and sent to Cornell to be genotyped. Check out this link if you need to familiarize yourself again with the disease:

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/livepath/gallery/tomato/tomato-late-blight/>

When in doubt, just send in a sample, we can check quickly for the pathogen. Also, it is helpful to know if you have it on your farm so drop us an email. Quite a few growers continued to battle powdery mildew that did not respond to Milstop on high tunnel tomatoes. We found only the genus/species *Oidium lycopersici*. A different powdery mildew fungus, *Leveillula taurica*, occurs in other areas (California and observed twice in Long Island on peppers) and produces spores only on the leaf undersides. Since the PM showed up early in the season on some transplants, I wonder if the disease pressure just became too heavy to control successfully with the Milstop.

Blueberries- Had a lot of calls from home gardeners and commercial growers regarding their berries going soft too quickly. This was most likely due to spotted wing drosophila infestation. They showed up early this year and in high numbers.

Still getting calls/samples of mummy berry infections. This seemed to be a perfect year for this disease with all the early wet weather. This link has a lot of good pictures of what infected berries (mummies) look like. <http://www.goodfruit.com/managing-mummy-berry/>

Also, Vern's factsheet describes the disease and management:

<https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/mummyberry.html>

If you saw a lot of the disease, be sure you are ready with a good layer of mulch before the spring to smother any infected overwintering berries that will produce new spores. Also, be sure your bushes are well pruned this winter so the foliage dries quickly and if you apply fungicides, you get good penetration. I remember hearing something about being able to "throw a cat through the bushes" as a rule of thumb.

Brassicas-Black rot bacteria causing leaf edge yellowing in kale. Seed had not been hot-watered treated. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/brassicas-black-rot>

Carrots-Heavy infections of Alternaria leafspot blighting leaves in late plantings of carrots. In addition to cutting down on photosynthesis, the blighted tops make it hard to harvest carrots.

<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/carrot-alternaria-leaf-blight>. We also found powdery mildew on the carrot foliage which I had not seen before.

[http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Carrot\\_Powdery.html](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Carrot_Powdery.html)

Celeriac- Heart rot suspected on celeriac caused by a calcium deficiency. Celery plants grown in hot weather can frequently develop a calcium deficiency in the center of the crown causing it to not develop. Soft-rotting bacteria frequently enter and cause a wet slimy rot. Control is difficult, but efforts to water the plant more regularly and use of mulch may reduce the incidence of heart rot. <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2823&q=377614>

Cucurbits-Oedema (raised crusty bumps caused by wet/humid conditions) found on acorn squash. It was spread throughout the field and may have been more concentrated on the side of the squash that was in contact with the soil.

## **VVBGA LOSES A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE**

David Marchant, River Berry Farm

Paul Boivin died in a motorcycle accident in late September. I met Paul when we worked with UVM Extension to install a pellet corn boiler for our greenhouse. Paul was a dealer of the Maxim boilers that a number of growers installed to provide heat for greenhouses. Paul was great to work with. He really helped us out in determining how to try and heat greenhouses with biofuel. He was always willing to come help with problems or repairs on the units, or to deliver corn for fuel.

Along with being a boiler dealer he was a very innovative farmer, doing lots with ridge tillage, and conservation practices. He was quite involved with helping the immigrant farm labor groups. He will be certainly missed by me and the VVBGA community Here is Paul's obituary:

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?pid=186784808](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?pid=186784808)

### **TECHNICAL TIPS: CROP STORAGE RESOURCES**

See Chris Callahan's blog page loaded with links to storage information resources

<http://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/crop-storage-resources/>