



Some Information Resources for Commercial Vegetable and Berry Growers in Vermont

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Welcome to growing vegetables and/or berries in Vermont, I'm glad to know you will be farming and I am available to provide information and answer questions as best I can, by email or phone. Here are some resources for commercial growers that you should know about.

1) I produce an e-mail vegetable and berry newsletter every couple of weeks and I will add you to the list if you wish. It is free of charge, and features 'reports from the field' that are sent in by growers across the state and the region, commenting on growing conditions, pests, markets, etc. All past issues are at: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/newsletter/datenavbar.htm>

2) The Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower Association is a statewide group of about 400 farms (about ¼ are in nearby states). Membership dues are \$60 per calendar year if paid before Feb 1st, otherwise \$70 per farm. Reduced fees are available if payment is a hardship. See: <https://vvbga.org/>

VVBGA member benefits include a listserv with ~ 900 members (farmers and service providers). The listserv is for sharing farming experience and information, and buying and selling equipment, plants, etc. The VVBGA also holds an Annual Meeting in late January at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee VT, and sponsors webinars and on-farm workshops in collaboration with UVM Extension.

Members of the VVBGA also get meeting discounts and have access to the Community Accreditation for Produce Safety ([CAPS](#)) program and a Soil Health planning and recordkeeping platform, to help with [RAPS](#) (required agricultural practices) compliance.

3) I maintain a vegetable and berry grower web site with a variety of information on crops, equipment and supplies, meetings, pest management, regulations, and much more. See: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

4) The [New England Vegetable Management Guide](#) and the [New England Small Fruit Guide](#) are produced by Extension personnel and updated often for the latest on crop production. These guides provide detailed information on insect, disease and weed management for conventional and organic growers.

5) The UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic, run by Dr. Ann Hazelrigg, ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu accepts images by email and/or plant samples by mail to identify insect or disease problems. Dr. Margaret Skinner, margaret.skinner@uvm.edu is our Extension Entomologist; she is a whiz at insect pest ID and works closely with Ann. This valuable service is free of charge for commercial growers, see: <http://pss.uvm.edu/pd/pdc/>

6) The UVM Agricultural and Environmental testing lab offers many kinds of soil testing at low cost, including standard soil tests for vegetable crops at \$15 per test, see: http://pss.uvm.edu/ag_testing/ For high tunnel soil tests, please use the University of Maine <https://umaine.edu/soiltestinglab/> and select the long term high tunnel soil test, \$30 per sample. We work closely with that lab and Becky Maden, UVM Extension nutrient management specialist can help you interpret the recommendations, rebecca.maden@uvm.edu.

7) The UVM Extension Agricultural Engineering program, run by Chris Callahan chris.callahan@uvm.edu has a wealth of information for growers seeking technical guidance on everything from crop storage to high tunnel ventilation, see: <https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/> I look forward to working with you and will be happy to visit the farm when it makes sense to do so. Feel free to call or email anytime with questions.

8) UVM Extension offers many more programs and services that may be of use to you. These include the [Agricultural Business Management](#) program, and the [New Farmer](#) project. UVM also has the [Vermont Entomology and Participatory Action Research Team](#) which focuses on vegetable insect pests.

9) Many other agencies and organizations offer support for commercial growers, too. These include the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets [produce program](#), the Northeast Organic Farmers of Vermont ([NOFA-VT](#)), the [Intervale Center](#), the [Vermont Farm and Forest Viability program](#), Vermont [Farm to Plate](#), the [Vermont Land Trust](#), and the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#)) of USDA.. There are many others too numerous to list.

Feel free to contact me with questions or requests for information!

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