

**Ryan Fitzbeauchamp, Evening Song Farm
Abenaki land; Shrewsbury, VT**





Tropical Storm Irene

August 28, 2011



Tropical Storm Irene: Before and After





New field, same growing practices

2011



My
understanding
of what
healthy soil
looks like on
our farm





A diversity of crops requires a diversity of production techniques



Cropping systems to address (in order of difficulty)

- Summer transplanted crops for fall harvest
- Spring transplanted crops, and large direct seeded crops (peas, beans)
- High-density spring transplanted crops (onions, leeks, shallots, scallions, head lettuce)
- Small direct seeded crops (carrots, beets)

Cropping systems for Summer transplanted crops:

- 1) No-till production on rye cover crop residue

















**Cropping
systems for
Summer
transplanted
crops:**

2) High
Residue no-till
with Yellow
Blossom Sweet
Clover













High residue no-till versus shallow (1-2") surface tillage with a power harrow. Both photos taken the day after 6.5 inches of rain



**Cropping
systems for
Summer
transplanted
crops:**

3) Transplanting
into clover sod















Cropping systems for spring transplanted crops and large-seed direct seeded crops (peas/beans): 1) mulching with shredded hardwood bark















Bark as a compost feedstock



Densely planted spring transplanted crops (onions, leeks)
Semi-permanent ridges with mulch



July: As much tillage/tarping as necessary to eliminate perennial weeds and loosen subsoil compaction



Mid-August: raise ridges, seed winterkill cover crop, **flatten ridge tops**



October/November: cover crop begins winterkill



November: Mulch field with straw



April-May: peel straw from ridge tops into valleys, apply fertilizer and compost to ridge tops



Transplant or direct seed into composted ridge tops



June-July: one light hand weeding



August: harvest, additional compost applied and fall crops seeded or transplanted



October-November: fall crops harvested, additional mulch applied



Mulched field overwinters



Small, direct seeded crops: Mulched semi-permanent ridges with compost mulch on top of ridge



Ridge tops mulched with compost, seeded to fall carrots, then oversown to crimson clover 4 weeks later



Carrots densely seeded on ridges, grown with no bare soil, harvested without soil disturbance, on an overwinter clover cover crop





Additional crops on mulched semi-permanent ridges:









Thank you!

Questions or thoughts:

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