



### 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



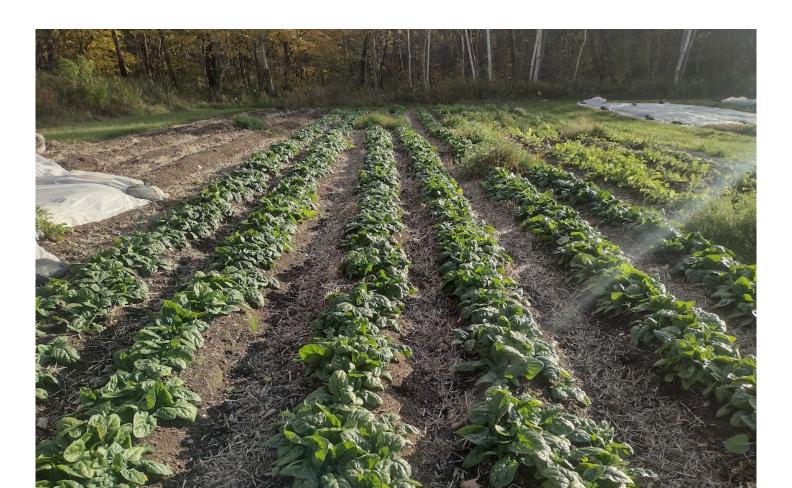
# June-July: one light hand weeding



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:** 

eveningsongcsa@gmail.com

