

This Week on the Farm

Hello to all,

Finally

Week five is just beginning and I hope that all the kinks are out of our system and we can begin posting weekly newsletters.

Another season is off and running full force. Harvesting, planting, packing, washing, the list of chores goes on and on. That's one of our favorite aspects of growing vegetables for all of you. The diversity in things we manage each day always keeps us on our toes.

The theme to this season so far is definitely rain. We have had around 12 inches of rain in about 20 days which is almost unheard of. We have not yet had to irrigate once up to this point, that is also unheard of. The rain has been great for all of the crops we already have planted in the field. It has not been great for future plantings however as we had around a sixteen day period where we could not get in the field to plant anything. Now that we have some dry days here we have been working feverishly to catch up on planting both seeds in the field and transplants from the greenhouse. It has also been a big chore trying to muddle through mud to harvest every day. The cloudy days also greatly affected this years strawberry and asparagus crops as both came and went so fast we didn't know what happened. Last year we were harvesting both into late June.



This Weeks Box

Mesclun Mix- Mesclun mix is an array of baby leaf greens and lettuces. Our mesclun mix includes baby choy, baby kale, mizuna, leaf lettuce and several other baby greens. This mix adds a bit of zip as well as other mild flavors to a salad or stir fry. Mesclun mix is best used by mixing with lettuce or stir frying with other vegetables.

Green Butterhead Lettuce- Butterhead lettuce is slightly different than the leaf lettuces you have been receiving so far this season. Butterhead lettuce is smaller and forms a packed head of yellow blanched leaves in the middle. The yellow hearts are the best and most tender part of the head. Remember wash and rinse several times to get all of the grits out.

Summer Squash or Yellow Zucchini- This week you may receive either yellow summer squash or yellow zucchini. Great for stir frying or cooking on the grill.

Cucumbers- We tried growing cucumbers under blue plastic mulch this year. In the past we have used black mulch or none at all. The blue mulch has worked extremely well as the cucumbers are thriving.

Green Zucchini- Our first batch of green zucchini is growing in full force. We are growing a special kind of zucchini that is bred to be very dark green and supposed to be packed with more nutrients than other varieties.

Broccoli- This is the second week of broccoli harvest this year. Our broccoli heads have been a bit smaller than normal this year. I am speculating it is weather related. They also have been getting sunburn even more than normal. If there is a bit of purple tinge on your broccoli don't be alarmed it is still good to eat.

Snow or Sugar Snap Peas- This week is the end of the line for this year's pea crop. Peas hate the heat of summer and are growing twice as fast as we can pick them. They are a bit larger than last weeks peas but still good to eat. We suggest eating them right away as the longer they sit the starchier they become. You may receive either snow peas or snap peas this week.

Green Beans- This week is the first crop of many beans for this season. The first green beans of the year are always a great treat. Eat them fresh or cooked.

Swiss Chard- Chard is the beautifully colored large ruffled leaves in your box. Chard is good for stir frying, fresh eating, or a great addition to salad.

First fruit Share Delivery

Our first fruit share delivery will be coming up next week. Sweet cherries are first up for fruit deliveries this year.

The fruit share will work by filling out an order form that will be emailed to you. The form has to be returned via email before this Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. Payment will have to be mailed to us and received by Friday of this week or your fruit will not be delivered.

Next week the fruit will be delivered to your pick up site with your name on it. It is extremely important that you take the box or bag with your name on it if you choose to order fruit. Look for an order form in your email today. Fruit will many times be short notice as the logistics of processing a weekly order form as well as the ripening of the fruit put time in a pinch.



Peas, Peas, Peas

Pot Luck Event

Our intent was to have a potluck at the end of June but with all of the rain and the subsequent catch up work we just couldn't get it organized.

We are now scheduling a farm gathering for the end of July. Every member is invited to come and visit the farm take a look around and enjoy the country. All you have to do is bring yourselves as well as any kind of dish to pass that you wish. We should have an exact time and day in our next newsletter.

Greens Share

The greens share will be starting next week. The week of July 11. We will be sending out a reminder email near the end of the week as well.