



August 2015 Newsletter



Hello! Happy mid-summer. We hope that you are enjoying the nice weather, and the veggies, especially that garlic, mmm!

The purpose of this newsletter is to give the CSA community an update about what's going on at the farm. We have lately been getting many emails and comments from members expressing concern that the share has been on the small side, with fewer items compared to previous years. Understandably, some members are disappointed and want to know why. Here is a look behind the scenes.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are having a tough year here at the farm. As you know, the spring weather did not cooperate, with drought conditions that overtaxed our irrigation system and had us hauling watering cans up the hill to water the delicate baby greens. Many early crops did not survive this; some did survive but did not flourish; a few crops did make it through. We then, in an epic irony of Nature, had a super rainy June and July, which was great for the parched plants, but not so great for plowing and field prep. Trying to navigate a tractor through mud is fighting a losing battle. It was a challenge to get any field work done in these conditions. Add to these handicaps an ongoing personal family issue that prevented the farmers from giving work the usual manic attention, and we have had a big struggle keeping things moving on schedule.

Hence, many of our usual crops either died in the field, were planted late, or did not get planted at all. Notably missing have been the summer beets, some of our usual greens, and the beans, which sadly did not get planted. We have had many questions about the recent summer shares which do not seem to have much of the typical summer veggies – namely tomatoes, corn, peppers and eggplant. All of these were planted a week or two late, but they are looking mighty fine and we will have a nice haul of the tomatoes starting next week.

Currently they are taking their time to ripen with these unseasonal chilly nights (Mother Nature, what are you doing???), but they are now starting to redden in the greenhouse (see pic to the right). More summer squash are coming as well, as round 2 is now coming into fruit. The early corn bit the dust unfortunately, but a later planting is looking good and we should be eating that next month. Potatoes will continue to roll in....yum! Our onion crop is looking mediocre; we will get some in a few weeks, but they won't be as plentiful as they have been. And we have beautiful flowers and herbs in the pick your own area; please do take full advantage of them. Soon the cherry tomatoes will be in full force. For now there are a few, be sure to have a taste while you're picking flowers.



Later this summer...tons of watermelon and cantaloupe!! Our mouths water every time we pass the melon field (pic to the left). Also celery, some nice lettuces, and cabbages are growing nicely and coming soon. Another round of the lettuce mix, chard, arugula, mesclun mix, kohlrabi, and some other late summer / fall greens are being planted this week as well.

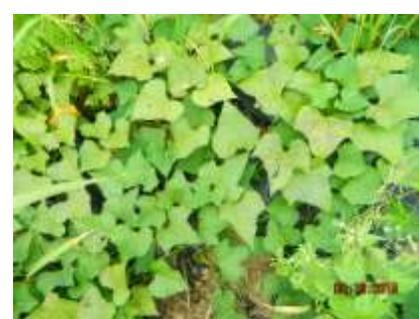
Fall will yield literally tons of winter squash....yes I mean that!! And we have pumpkins, gourds, sweet potatoes and beets all doing well and looking great for fall. Autumn carrots are just starting to peek up out of the soil. We have started some broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage, and soon to be sowed is the fall spinach, lettuce, mustard greens, Asian greens, bok choy, tatsoi, kale, Chinese Cabbage, Hakurei turnips, daikon radish and purple-top turnips.

So, although we humbly apologize for the current lack in the shares, we hope you'll stay optimistic about what is to come, albeit a bit later than usual. We also hope you realize how grateful we are that our members stick with us throughout both the plentiful years and the difficult ones. It is this sense of community that keeps us going during hard times. We thank you for supporting your local farmers! We will continue to work hard to bring you the best possible share we can, with the indispensable help of our awesome work share crew and our superb part time employee Johnathan. Thanks!!

Warmly,

Robyn @ Asbury Village Farm

P.S. Don't forget to pick your basil! It is going to flower and is in need of heavy picking. Think big batches of pesto!!



Pics from top: celery, lettuces, basil, greenhouse peppers, greenhouse tomatoes, Hungarian hot wax chili peppers, cabbage, eggplant, the man in action, sweet potato vines, marigolds, summer squash beds, zinnias (2), snapdragons, and sunflowers.

All pics taken Monday, August 10, 2015 at Asbury Village Farm.