



May 2011 Newsletter

Wow it's hot! It's hard to believe it's only May. Pick ups have started and we're off to a decent start. The weather has been challenging, to put it mildly. A few of the early Spring items I envisioned for the first few pick ups haven't done well. The Hakurei turnips, first round of arugula, and bunching leeks were failures. A sowing of sweet corn rotted in the ground after a week of rain. The radishes did poorly, and the spinach struggled. We had hail a couple of weeks ago that punctured the lettuce and spinach. But even with the erratic weather, other crops are doing great. I'm really excited with the progress of the field potatoes and the onions. The radicchio and escarole are starting to head up. The fava beans and peas are in flower. The first round of string beans and edamame had an excellent germination, emerging only two days after sowing. The first two rounds of summer squash and cucumbers are in and doing very well, and the tomatoes are looking good. And the two rounds of sweet corn in the field now are taking off.



Edamame beans coming up



Steve hilling potatoes with the tractor (above), and spring onions growing nicely (below)



It's not just the weather that has affected the yields this Spring. After moving in in December, we had a lot of work to do, including a huge amount of clean up and building a green house. We didn't get our tractor and tillage equipment together until the sixth of April, making the first sowing of peas, spinach, arugula, and turnips more than two weeks late. We also didn't have irrigation equipment as early as we hoped for due to shipping delays. All of this resulted in a much smaller opening share than I planned for. But the prospects as we proceed into June have me very excited.

Later in the summer we'll be building a 100' by 35' green house which will provide greens for the late Autumn and Winter, and greens, carrots,

and potatoes for the early Spring pick ups next year. We're also planning to plant 2000 strawberry plants in August.

So next time you come to the farm, take a few minutes to walk up the hill behind the barn and see what's growing. If you get to the top of the hill and down the other side, you'll see the garlic beds, just a little over a month away from harvest. And as the Spring turns to Summer, and the quantities in the shares increase, I ask that you all have patience and faith in us, you'll be very glad you did. Be well, Steve

A note from Robyn..... Since we live right here on the farm you may notice our kids Jake (7) and

Silas (4) running amok around the place. They are homeschooled, so they are here at the farm whenever I'm here. If you have young kids feel free to bring them along and stop and play awhile if you can. I have the baby with me so I am sometimes busy with her in the house, and when she is asleep I try to get some work done, but generally I'm here most of the time. The sandbox near the big greenhouse is open to anyone, as are the toys therein. There is also a jungle gym behind the house. Sooner or later (hopefully sooner) I'm getting a kiddie pool as well, so they can cool off. So feel free to plan on staying awhile with your kids when you come for pickup; bring a picnic if you like. I only ask that young ones are not left unattended, since there are some dangers around (tractor equipment with rusty edges, old wood piles with nails, etc.) That said, its been nice talking to some of the members ...hope I get to meet some more of you soon. ☺ Peace ~ Robyn



3 month old Rhea helping with potato harvest for the first share