

Report from the Field

Hooray for the hot weather! And for the lack of rain! The changes in the past week are dramatic, and very encouraging: the peppers we have been so concerned about are doing much better; we will start harvesting beans in a week; the first eggplants will be harvested this week; cukes are greatly improved; the greenhouse tomatoes are in full swing. Cherry tomatoes and large tomatoes will both be available this week, and from here on (fingers crossed) through the end of September. Aiyana is holding the largest tomato we've ever harvested: a 2.4 lb heirloom.



On the sad side, our first planting of squash/zucchini and watermelons are not doing well, we'll still get a harvest, but not nearly what we'd planned for, due to the excessive rain that set the plants back. We did a second planting however, and it is doing well so far.

The peas are done; the picture shows what was required for the last few harvests. Those are two milk crates strapped to each foot.



The lettuces are planted every two weeks. It is very difficult to get lettuces to germinate in hot weather, they prefer soil temperatures in the 60's to 70's (on Sunday, the soil temperature at a depth of 6 inches, at 6pm, was 85F). We try to mitigate this problem by putting the seeds in the freezer and misting the soil often to keep the temperature down. We planted last week, in thick of the heat. We were happy to see our efforts were mostly successful: most of the varieties germinated. We'll be planting again later in the week to try to ensure a continuous supply.