

Report from the Field

We are happy to report that most of the young tomato hornworms that we are finding are now covered in parasitic wasp cocoons. This slows their growth, prevents them from reproducing, and allows the parasitic wasps to multiply, which is beneficial for us.



Our second planting of cucumbers and summer squash is looking excellent (compared to the first, which was very poor due to the heavy rains). There should be abundance of these for the next 2-4 weeks, depending on weather conditions.



At this time we are planting the last of our root vegetables, beets and carrots, for winter storage. Rutabagas were planted a few weeks ago as well.

For the next few weeks we will continue to plant most brassicas: radishes, salad turnips, bok choy, and the spicy salad mix (mustard, mizuna, arugula, and tatsoi).

Spinach doesn't like to germinate unless the soil is cool. We will plant it every week; we will hopefully get a good planting started soon, but it is unlikely it will be growing well before the end of the CSA. Starting in September, all the plants slow down, so unless they are nearing harvest size by then it takes a long time for them to reach harvest.

The main "crop" we will be planting in the coming weeks is a covercrop. Covercrops are planted for many reasons: prevent soil erosion, prevent soil oxidation, add organic matter, add nitrogen, hold on to nutrients, loosen subsoils, bring up nutrients from the subsoil, inhibit insects

on subsequent crop, etcetera. One covercrop combination that we planted about a month ago is a mixture of clover and cowpeas (for nitrogen), and sorghum sudangrass (for organic matter and to have something for the cowpeas to climb). This is a hot season combination: the sorghum dies at <40F and the cowpeas grow well also. This covercrop will help us prepare the land for next year's tomato crop.

