

Dear CSA members,

It is a beautiful beginning of May, although dry. We have had very little rain in April, and none so far in May; fortunately our well can provide enough water for our current needs, but even so, we are worried about these dry conditions.

Here's an update on what's been going on at the farm since the last newsletter, beginning with the CSA:

- ❖ The CSA starts the week of June 2nd. If you have the Box method, your pickup will be Monday 6/3, and every Monday after that until mid-October. If you have Debit, your pickup will be Thursday 6/6 and every Thursday after that.
- ❖ The full payment for the CSA is due by May 15th. If you already paid us, thank you, and you should have received an email confirmation for your payment as well as your day and method.
- ❖ We plan to send out a separate email a few days before the beginning of the CSA, reminding you about the start date, and listing some important things to keep in mind when you come to pick up your share.
- ❖ As of right now, we have many crops in the ground, and some are already being harvested as you may know from our weekly sales emails: lettuces, spinach, spicy salad greens, arugula, radishes, beets, carrots, kale, chard, parsley, onions, cabbages, broccoli, tomatoes and others – all are in the ground and doing well. Some of these crops, such as the onions, are planted once a year only, but others, such as lettuces, carrots, etc, are planted at 2-3 week intervals. So, we are very busy at this time, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, and doing everything else that goes along with growing crops.
- ❖ The middle of April was a difficult time for us. Ed got sick with a very bad cold, and was forced to stop working and lay in bed. He had been pushing himself too hard to get the new greenhouse finished, and finally was forced to quit. This, of course, seemed like the worst possible time for him to get sick, since we had a list of things to do that just could not wait, and had to get done somehow. Raluca felt very overwhelmed at the time but eventually everything worked out. Our children cooked and took care of the house for us while we were sick and/or busy, and after about 1 week Ed started feeling better, and everything came back to normal.
- ❖ Our new greenhouse is now up and filled with different kinds of tomatoes. We plant tomatoes in the greenhouse to give them an early start, and when the weather warms up, we open up the greenhouse. We planted multiple varieties of cherry tomatoes, regular tomatoes, and heirlooms. We also tried grafting tomatoes this year, hoping for added vigor, a longer tomato season, and possibly higher yields. We are collecting data on the performance of all of our crops, including these grafted tomatoes, and it will be interesting to see what the results are at the end of the season.





transplanted outside.

- ❖ Ed has been involved with a group that is trying to get Genetically Modified foods to be labeled in Connecticut. If you'd like to know more about this effort and possibly get involved, please go to www.gmofrect.org

Peace and Harmony with all Creation

Shundahai