

Pinehold Gardens Field Notes

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Briefs

- July Field Notes will have drop-site information

- Strawberry upick will be in 2-3 weeks

A DAY IN THE LIFE

The days have been pretty much the same for the past two months and will stay the same until we start picking for market and delivery. It's outside at sunrise and inside at sunset taking a break for lunch and a small late dinner.

Planting, weeding, setting up irrigation, tractor field work and fixing lots of equipment occupies our lives.

HOW TO REACH US

Our website is updated at least weekly so check the News & Muse, Calendar and Available Now tabs for the most recent updates.

We only have a land line and check messages during the lunch hour and at the end of the day. We return messages at lunch and the following morning for evening messages. The most likely time for one of us to answer the phone is from 7 to 8 am.

We do not have broad band internet access on our block so we check email via dial up between 7 and 8 am and at the end of the day. We try to answer emails the same day.

We email occasional newsletters during the off season and weekly newsletters with each delivery.

FIELD NOTES

What else can I say other than this is sure some wacko weather we've been having. We were able to start planting onions on May 11, almost four weeks behind our usual start date. As the fields dried we planted early season crops. Some things didn't mind the cold, cloudy, wet days (peas, beets, potatoes, head lettuce and Swiss Chard) while others did (beans and carrots). We risked planting in cold soil and if the seeds rotted or if weeds out competed slow germinating seeds, we tilled in the bed and started over. Last Tuesday we started transplanting out our warm season crops. If I were a pepper plant I don't think I would be happy right now with the 50 degree drop in temperature. And if I were to pick one thing that has had the most effect on the growing season so far it would be the lack of sun. Plants do not grow without sunlight.

STRAWBERRY UPICK

Last year we started picking on Fathers Day. This year the blossoms started opening on May 27 and it takes around 28 days for the fruit to form and ripen. Specific days and times will be posted on our website for the upick and a separate email will be sent

verifying the dates and times.

HERB PLANTS

Parsley, basil, rosemary, sage, oregano and thyme plants will be available at the strawberry upicks for each member household as part of your share.

FARM LIFE

The Wynodette chicks spent the month of April in a huge box in our dining room because it was too cold in the coop for them to join the rest of the flock. We don't miss the peeping, the dust or the robin trying to join them by flying into the closed window. They are growing into beautiful birds.

Our pig Peaches is much happier with the cooler weather as she doesn't shed until July, our "normal" summer month.

David's California girls, the Italian honey bees, couldn't make the cross country trip because of the cold weather until May 22 so they are off to slow start.

FARMERS MARKET

We do not expect to have produce available for sale at the farmers market or our farm stand until July 2.

JULY 1 CHECKS

As a reminder, if you sent us a postdated check as a partial payment, it will be cashed July 1.

PUBLIC MARKET

We will not be adding the public market as a dropsite as we did not reach a critical mass of interested members.

The Seed

Good farmers have a responsibility, even an obligation, to do what they can to provide beautiful, healthy food for people. But they can't be held completely responsible for the results of their efforts. There are many mitigating factors to contend with. The land and soil conditions, pest populations and diseases, seed stock, plant and seed information and, of course, the weather. Anyone of these things can have a significant and possible tragic impact on any harvest, be it corn or potatoes. To judge a farmer simply on one outcome — the amount of this or that product at the end of the season — with no other measures taken into consideration, not only is unfair but is inaccurate if the what is to be measured is whether or not he is a good farmer or a bad farmer. It would seem that the same would hold true for teachers as well. Judging a teacher's performance on the results of a test seems only little more sophisticated than judging a farmer on the amount of tomatoes he produces each year. Communities should support farmers and teachers as nurturers of body and mind and should be careful about who it deems worthy of those titles to be sure. Perhaps as in farming it is best for the community to get involved as important as food and education is. It's a lot to ask, but what's more important than the minds and bodies our community members, especially the youngest.