

# Pinehold Gardens *Field Notes*

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Pre-Summer, 2017



## A DAY IN THE LIFE

Memorial Day weekend has traditionally been the weekend for planting your garden. We would like to recommend three local business as sources to buy your vegetable and flower plants. Plant Land on Howell and College owned by my High School friend Karen and her brother Mark, Custom Grown Greenhouses on 6th St. just north of Layton owned by David's cousin Paul, and our friend and farmer Chris, owner of Simon's Gardens, at the Konkel Park Farmers Market on Sunday mornings.

Besides supporting family owned businesses and the local economy, most of the plants sold at big box stores are shipped from the southern states and diseases can

be quickly transported to the north. That is what happened about six years ago when Late Blight arrived and is now here to stay making it very difficult to organically grow tomatoes and potatoes.

## CSA SIGN UP STATUS

We are at 80 returning and 43 new members. Our goals are 95 returning and 60 new. If you no longer have the sign up form we now have a writable pdf on our website.

## FIELD NOTES

One of last night's weather forecasters pointed out that rain has fallen on 69%, or two out of every three days, since April 1. The statistic for cloudy days is probably higher than 69%,

The cool, wet spring has us doing things differently. In this case, we grew peas in flats, three seeds per cell, then transplanted them into the field. Planting seeds directly may have led to rotting pea seeds.

compounding the difficulty of drying out the ground. The forecaster also said that we could expect this type of weather to be around until the middle of June.

The effects of a cold, cloudy wet Spring on a farm are numerous. Wet ground should not be tilled as brick-like clods will form. Tilling also destroys the soil structure which leads to crusted ground.

Even when there has been enough of a break in the rain to prepare ground for planting, we take the risk of seed rotting in the cold soil or very slow germination. This past Tuesday we planted beans, carrots and beets and the soil temperature was 60 degrees which is barely acceptable, especially for beans.

Even the cool season crops (onions, peas, beets, kale, collards, chard), that have been transplanted into the ground weeks

ago have barely grown as warm soil and sun is necessary for growth.

But summer will eventually arrive and things will grow and we will welcome another season of providing food to our Pinehold community.

## CSA START DATE

Our season is set to begin July 5. If we need to start a week later we will still keep to an 18 week season.

## ON FARM STAND

Our Saturday morning on farm stand opens the Saturday after the CSA starts. During the off season when we have items available we sell on a preorder basis for Saturday pickup. For the next week or so we have a limited amount of asparagus, rhubarb, green garlic and hoophouse grown head lettuce. Look under the *Available Now* tab of our website for how to order.