



the Organic Harvester

Weekly CSA Member Version

Week of June 12th

News From The Field

The warmer weather has helped the crops put on significant growth. A couple weeks ago I was scratching my head wondering if there'd be anything to harvest until July. Amazing what some nice weather can do! Looks like we'll have a decent sized distribution given the rough start.

Cut worms continue to be a major pest. So far this season we've lost about 1,000 heads of cabbage, a couple thousand broccoli plants, all of our cauliflower and a few hundred heads of lettuce. We've reseeded these plants and will get them out in the fields surrounded by a hard plastic shield. Hopefully, by providing a physical barrier, the cut worms will not harm any more plants. In the mean time, on Friday, June 17th the crew is looking for volunteers to help catch this pest. Because cut worms are nocturnal, we will begin the cut worm party at 8:30 PM. Bring a flashlight (head light if you have one), bug repellent, and a jar to collect the bugs. The person who collects the most worms gets a prize. We'll meet at the stand.

News From the Farm Stand

We still have plants for sale in the farm stand. Thanks for the suggestions on products you'd like to see us providing. Keep'em coming!

This Week's Harvest

- Head lettuce
- Bok choy
- Rhubarb
- D'Avignon radishes
- Red Russian kale
- Swiss chard
- Mesclun mix
- Baby greens
- Spinach

About Your Farm Manager

Andrew Rodgers



Farming hasn't been in my family for a few generations and I didn't get started until my late 20s. After graduating from college, I worked for Gartner, a hi-tech research firm for five years. While at Gartner I moderated focus groups and saw through quantitative research projects. In 1999 I decided to leave Gartner and find a career doing something to help the environment. After lots of research I realized that some of the worst environmental catastrophes are occurring on farms. Becoming an organic farmer would be a local solution that would benefit the environment.

Organic farming is by far the most challenging job I've ever had on an intellectual as well as physical level. Understanding the complexities of growing food without the aid of synthetic fertilizers and lethal pesticides requires knowledge of soil science, vegetable and fruit cultivation as well as pathology, entomology, and all sorts of maintenance.

This is my third season managing Green Meadows Farm. In 2003 we launched the CSA program. We started with only 50 members and grew on 4 acres. Last year we increased the CSA program to 130 members on 10 acres and received the much coveted 'Certified Organic' status. This year we've slightly increased membership (about 140), but are planting 15 acres. The CSA is the heart of the farm. We retail some produce through the stand and if we have an abundance of a crop, we'll wholesale to stores like Crosby's and Whole Foods.

Current Events

Organic Plant Sale Saturday, June 11th

We will be offering organically grown seedlings for sale in the farm stand on Saturday, June 11th from 9-5. Plant them in your gardens to grow your own organic vegetables.



Customer from last week's plant sale



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