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PLUM GRANNY

Sustainably Grown • Berries • Garlic • & More

Capella, NC • (336) 994-2517 **FARM**® www.plumgrannyfarm.com

Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



The signs of coming Spring are popping out everywhere. A few blooming crocuses,



happier garlic in the field recovering from the cold and wind,



and plants growing like crazy in the greenhouse. And the peepers are singing down at the pond!

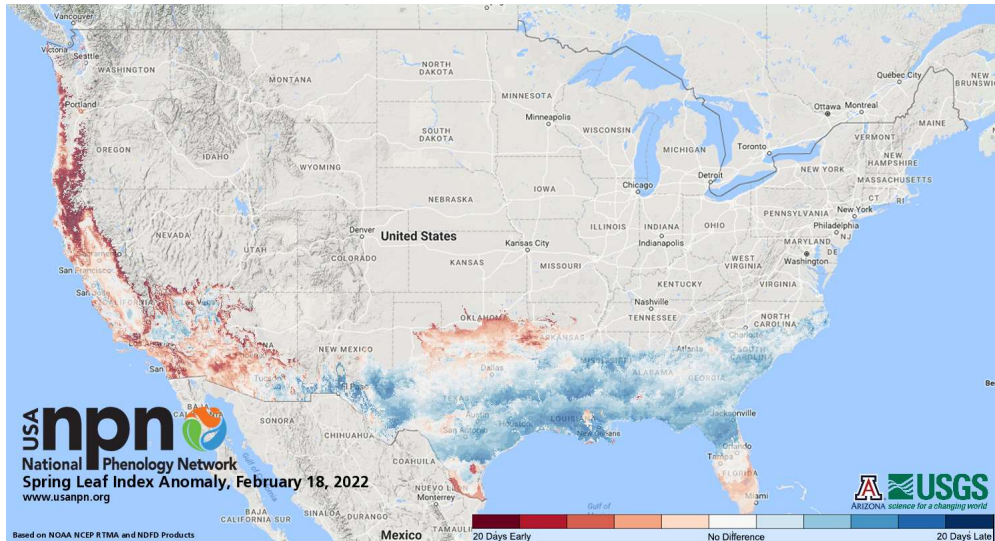
This is always an exciting time because it gives us hope for a productive and plentiful season! And while we are very busy with our preparations for the coming months, we try to look around and observe what is happening around us.

There is a fascinating study of natural phenomena known as [phenology](#). I was introduced to this concept by Pam Dawling, a farmer and author in Central Virginia. She has written extensively about phenology and how they make observations -- as well as planting decisions -- at her farm in Twin Oaks. One of the most common observations linked to a planting action is that when oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear, it is time to sow sweet corn. Have you heard that?

To learn more about Pam's studies and to see a record of the farm's observations for 10 years, check out [this article](#) from her Sustainable Market Farming blog (a highly recommended resource!).

And if this piques your interest and you want to learn more, check out the [USA](#)

[National Phenology Network](#). This resource is a treasure trove of data and terrific information. They describe phenology as "nature's calendar." I was fascinated by one of their continuously updating maps which tracks the arrival of Spring based on observations of lilac and honeysuckles across the US. They track when these species leaf and how it relates to previous observations. This is also a great way to monitor climate change. Fascinating!



Happy Anniversary Jonny!

And speaking of the passage of time....



We celebrated Jonny Scoble's 5th Farm Anniversary this week! Jonny has been a steadfast and critical member of Team Plum Granny. His first day w-a-y

back on February 13, 2017 had him (along with Chris Overby) working on clearing the slope along Highway 66. Don't worry, Jonny! That task is on the to-do list again VERY soon! Thanks for all you do to keep the wheels turning around here!



Blackberry Winter

We've been working a lot on all things blackberry this week. Last week we dug up the rooted tips in our Bramble Nursery bed and this week, our phenomenal volunteer Maggie got them all potted up! We will have a terrific selection of Triple Crown plants ready for you at our Plant Sales this spring!



Jonny and Alex also got the Triple Crown in the field pruned and trellised. They are looking REALLY good!



Last Call! Blackberry Pruning Workshop on February 23

Time is running out to register for our **Blackberry Pruning Workshop** sponsored by the [Stokes County Cooperative Extension Office](#). This workshop on **Wednesday, February 23** from 2-4 will be held here at the farm. For more information and to register, [click here](#). The workshop is **FREE** and you'll get to learn by doing. Registration is limited so make sure to

sign up soon!



That's the news for now from the Farm! We hope you have a terrific Presidents Day weekend. Enjoy the nice weather (next week doesn't look as good). Hoover recommends a nice long nap. Watch while he demonstrates...



**Until next Friday,
Cheryl & Ray**

p.s. Check your inbox on Monday for a **Special Announcement** from us! We are SO excited!