

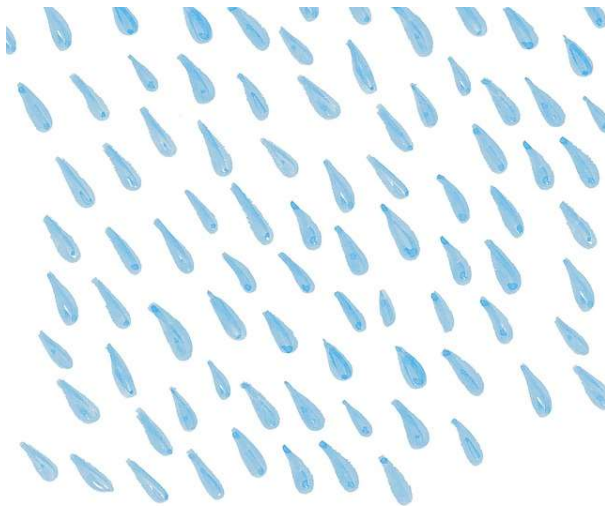
Want to grow better blackberries and raspberries? Check out our upcoming workshop - it's this Sunday, May 15. Details below.

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Just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Plum Granny Farm. Please add us to your address list to make sure that the newsletter doesn't end up in your spam filter.



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Rain Delay! This week's newsletter is coming to you a bit late because we were trying to get all our *PlumFresh* bags packed before the deluge...didn't quite pull that one off. But at least it's all done now.

Thanks so much to all of you who came to our Mother's Day/Second Chance Plant Sale last Sunday. It was great to have the opportunity to talk with so many of you about your gardens and what you want to grow this season. We wish you good planting and abundant harvests!

Many of you took home our wonderful Everbearing Strawberry Baskets during our Summer plant sales -- thank you! Our efforts to help home gardeners grow strawberries came to the attention of Amy Dixon, the garden columnist for the Winston-Salem Journal. She wrote a terrific article about strawberries for the home grower that [appeared in today's paper](#). Amy did a great job outlining the basics of growing strawberries at home starting from picking the right spot to considerations of which type. Journal photographer Allison Lee Isley spent a lovely spring evening with us and captured some amazing photos of berries in baskets and in the field. She even did a video of Cheryl talking about the caring for hanging baskets.

Thanks so much to both of these journalists (both gardeners) for helping their audience become more successful with growing berries at home!

By the way, we'll have these lovely strawberry baskets at Cobblestone Farmers Market when we pop up there next Saturday (May 21).

Other Berries in the Spotlight, Too!

Last Friday, after the first wave of tornado warnings (!), Ray, Sophie and Elise got a new bed of raspberries planted. These raspberries (Joan J) have a luscious flavor and are the earliest of the fall raspberries. They produce shortly

after the Triple Crown blackberries in late July. We have two beds of Prelude already and wanted to amp up production with another variety.

The weather was perfect for planting -- cool and the soil was nicely moist after the rain. They got that task knocked out in less than 1 hour -- 108 baby raspberries all tucked in! We look forward to tasting the fruits of our labor come next July.



The blackberries definitely need to get their props as well. Our planting of Osage is doing extremely well and looks to be on target for producing in mid-June. The plants were covered in blankets of light pink flowers a couple of weeks ago and now the flowers have become green berries. Fingers crossed for a big harvest! Last year we lost the entire Osage crop due to the late April freeze.



Wanna Know More? Two Workshops to Help You Grow Better!

Our workshop on growing brambles -- blackberries, raspberries and black raspberries. -- is right around the corner. ***"Growing the Jewels of the Garden"*** is a 2-part workshop. The first one is on **Sunday, May 15 from 2-4:30**. It will focus on the different types of cane fruits as well as the planting, trellising and tending of blackberries and raspberries in the spring and summer. The second session (late summer/early fall date TBD) will help you get your brambles ready for winter and a successful spring. The workshops will be hands-on and will give you the confidence you need to have success with these wonderful fruits. You do not need to participate in both workshops but there is a discount if you do. The cost for both sessions is \$50; the cost for a single session is \$35. [Click here](#) to register.



The second workshop is on growing Ginger. It's been a few years since we have offered this class and there has been a growing (pun intended!) interest in this crop. We've got lots of experience growing this sometimes temperamental rhizome and you can benefit from our trials and errors. This workshop will be held on **Sunday, May 22 from 2-4** here at the farm and the cost is \$35. [Here is a link](#) to the registration form for this workshop.



Please note that if you register for the workshops, your registration is a commitment to attend. Payment is required before the class (credit card payment is available). We put a lot of time into preparing for these classes and want to make sure that everyone that registers attends!

Fields of Dreams

Farming in the spring is great. It's not too hot, the pests and disease haven't made it to the party yet, and the farm looks so pretty. Let's look at some of our favorite fields right now...



The garlic field is stunning. Those 12,000_ bulbs of garlic are doing incredibly well. Spring garlic season has moved into garlic scapes (just beginning) and fresh garlic will be here before you know it. The bulbs are enormous! Here is an Inchelium Red with a small pocketknife at its base to show how big the stem

is -- and this is not the biggest one!



Peas are on the way! Our planting of both sugar snap peas and snow peas are loving this cooler weather. The plants are loaded with pods, and they are starting to get Plum Granny plump!



And finally the Brassica field (kale, cabbage, Asian greens, pac choi, sprouting broccoli and kohlrabi) is looking mighty good -- although the cabbage looper moths (those little white fluttering things!) are finding the plants. And we can't forget the other Alliums -- bulbing onions, bunching onions and shallots -- they're strutting their stuff too!



That's the news for this week. Sunday night (actually early Monday morning) will see May's full moon. The [Full Flower Moon](#) will be at peak illumination at 12:15 a.m. on Monday. In addition to being a full moon, there will also be a total lunar eclipse. Keep your fingers crossed that we have clear skies for the evening to watch all of these astronomical wonders.



Remember to be kind, love your neighbor and pray for Peace.

**Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray**

