



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

We've had quite a variety of weather conditions this week, have you? From dense fog to cool temps to flash floods, it feels like we've seen much of what Mother Nature can throw at us in a very short time!





Despite all of the weather curveballs, we've been able to knock some things off our to-do list this week!

### **Tomato Love**

While our main season tomatoes are still a few weeks away, they have been getting a lot of love this week. The plants are doing extremely well but they needed pruning and trellising. These little Love Apples take a LOT of work!





We've also gotten lots of weeding and further brassica clearing done this week. We are now a brassica-free farm! Well, for a few weeks, anyway! We've always been advised to have no brassicas (kale, cabbage, kohlrabi, etc.) in the fields during the month of July. These plants can attract a lot of pests, particularly harlequin bugs, to your fields. We've been wanting to do this for several years and we finally pulled it off for at least half of July this year. Hey, half a loaf is better than none, right?



Planting is also well underway -- finally getting in some additional summer crops (okra, tomatillos and eggplant) as well as more rounds of lettuce and



carrots. Gotta keep on planting!



### Dadgum Deer!

Unfortunately, we've spent a LOT of time this week on deer fence (sound familiar?). We've added additional 10' posts and line and intermediate fencing, but nothing seems to work. Last night, Ray rigged up a new line of electrified fence (with a new charger) in hopes that it will deter further intrusion. Ray is beginning to feel like Elmer Fudd.



Image source: [www.tvinsider.com](http://www.tvinsider.com) and Looney Tunes

See the resemblance?



It was game-on when the deer got into the sweet potatoes. They had been chowing down on the swiss chard (no one seems to care but Cheryl).



Then they moved to the strawberries. They must have heard us talking about needing to get tips for planting. Our usual source, [Banner Greenhouses](#), won't have strawberry plants this year so we have to grow our own.





And then the sweet potatoes.

Sigh...this gets really old.



But back to the good news... we finished up the garlic harvest this week with German Red. Hooray! The 2022 harvest is finished and is in the barn! Stay tuned for information on Seed Garlic sales starting in late August -- we've got a terrific crop of Organic Seed Garlic for your home garden. And -- just to get a date on your calendar -- we'll be having our very popular **Growing Great Garlic at Home workshop on Sunday, October 9th!** More information and registration details will be available in early August.



That's the news from the farm for this week. A special treat is in store for Sunday -- it's [National Ice Cream Day!](#) We celebrate ice cream frequently at

the farm -- at the end of a long hot day, Team Plum Granny has been known to enjoy a Klondike Bar. Dark Chocolate or Reese's Cup are the reigning favorites. Take a moment to enjoy a cool treat for yourself on Sunday -- or maybe even take a friend out for a scoop!



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**Be kind, love your neighbor, and pray for Peace and for an end to all of this senseless violence.**

**Until next week,  
*Cheryl & Ray***

