



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Although the view out the window today isn't as nice as yesterday, the rain is welcomed because we got a LOT of planting done this week! Our lil' plants and spuds could use a nice long drink of water.

A Sputtering Start

We've had some challenges this year getting plants in the ground. Rain and mud have been two major factors. However, lack of a tractor has been another. We did not have our Kubota for nearly TWO months (February and March). It was at the dealership waiting for repair. When Ray took it to Riddle

Tractor back on January 31, the sign in the service department said that the turnaround time was 3 weeks. Reasonable. We can deal with that.

But two months is NOT reasonable. Especially when the interminable wait is paired with nonexistent communications. We only had a clue about what was happening because Ray kept calling them.

Needless to say, we have now found other repair options for Jules (the tractor). I guess Riddle doesn't know that farmers actually use their tractors in March....

Now that we finally have Jules back, it's time to get some things done! First up? Potatoes!

Spudactular!

After Ray got the field disked with Jules, he was able to use J-Cub to make up beds. We needed a LOT of space for the crop this year as we more than doubled the amount of seed we were planting.



Why so much more seed? Well, we had a terrible crop last year and actually

ran out of potatoes for *PlumFresh* pretty early on in the season. Additionally, we will be at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) a lot more this year. Our Potato Bar has always been a customer favorite, so the market management asked us to make sure that we had lots of taters to bring this year.



After getting all the potatoes cut, the beds prepped and irrigated so that it was moist enough to plant, Jonny and Elise knocked it out of the park! One-half acre of potatoes (4,400' filled with 720 pounds of seed potatoes)! Woo-hoo!

Lots More Little Green Things in the Ground, Too!

Potatoes don't have to steal all the glory. Yes, they do weigh more but there are other plants that deserve their day, too! How about onions? The bedrock (with garlic) of every dinner. We've got 'em -- about 3,500 of them are now safely tucked in the ground (seeded w-a-y back at the beginning of January!)

Additionally, there's quite a long list of other newly transplanted babies -- from arugula to beets, collards to kale and SO much more. It feels so great to get things in the ground. (BTW, it wasn't just Jonny planting all this stuff -- Elise planted a lot too -- but she was taking the pictures!)



As Seen Around the Farm...

Here are a few other views from around the farm this week.



Raz 1, where all of our blackberries and raspberries grow, is looking in great shape at this stage of the season. It is mostly pruned and weeded and looks great after Ray got it mowed the other evening.

The Osage blackberry flowers are beginning to open. It will probably be a couple more weeks before the crop is in full bloom.



The Joan J primocane raspberries got weeded and are pretty well set for the season. Can't wait!

Strawberries are just starting to produce. We know it's going to be a small crop because of the poor quality plants we received in September, but we'll make the best of what we have.



First cucumber this week! This is from our initial planting (the one where we lost 78 of the 96 plants). We now have replanted our initial round and should begin production in about a month. The early ones should start ramping up soon!

Save the Date! Summer Plant Sale April 21-23!

Make sure you have this date on your calendar for our big **Summer Plant Sale**. This one will feature oodles of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and summer veggies. We will also have Strawberry Hanging Baskets, Blackberry Plants, and a new item this year -- Iris plants!



We will also be hosting a workshop on **Growing Great Tomatoes** on Sunday, April 23 from 1-3. Registration forms will be on our website by April 10.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Be part of the *PlumFresh* Family!



We know you've been thinking about it. We know you go click on the website every week. So, if you have been thinking about *PlumFresh*, you'd better hurry and sign up! More than 80% of our slots are filled already.

You have SIX pick-up options to choose from (On-Farm (Wednesday and Saturday), Buffalo Creek, Cobblestone Farmers Market, **PILOT MOUNTAIN**, and Clemmons. Plus, we deliver to homes and offices in a pretty broad area around northern Winston and King.

There's lots more information about the program [on our website](#). Ready to sign up? [Here's the link](#) to register now. Registration is easy and you can set yourself up for automatic payments, so you don't have to remember those things!

We would LOVE to be your farmer this year!



That's all we've got for this week. Did you get to see any of the [Full Pink Moon](#) on Wednesday night? It wasn't truly full until Thursday, but the clouds had moved in by that time so it wasn't visible.

Many wishes for peace and renewal during this Holy Week: Happy Easter, Chag Sameach to those celebrating Passover, and Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim friends celebrating Ramadan.



Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

