

Oops! We had our schedule confused! We won't be at Cobblestone tomorrow but will be there next Saturday (8/19). Pssst... that's National Potato Day!



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Sometimes it's hard to understand plants. This is not a dahlia -- although it definitely resembles one. This is a Turmeric flower. These flowers, or torches, are popping up on nearly all of our turmeric plants. Although our ginger will do this from time to time, this is a new one on us. But what a beautiful surprise! Check out all the flowers in these few plants -- at least 5 flowers are visible.



Our turmeric is doing well this year. It was overwintered in the greenhouse and the plants are huge. And we just added a new irrigation system to ensure more even watering. If flowers are an indicator of contentment, they are deliriously happy.

Just in case inquiring minds want to know, turmeric gets harvested starting in early November. Some growers harvest earlier than that, but we've found that the flavor and beneficial curcumins haven't fully developed. You can't rush these things!



Fall Is For Planting

While the greenhouse is looking like a tropical paradise, our minds are focused on getting ready for Fall (43 days away, FYI). We've been seeding carrots, arugula and summer spinach along with filling lots of seed trays for both our

fields as well as for the Fall Plant Sale.



Speaking of that sale, we set the date to **September 8 and 9** -- a Friday and Saturday from 10-3. Mark your calendar! We'll have lots of plants that love cooler temps and will carry you well into the early winter. We'll also have Seed Garlic! For a full list of what we are growing for you, [please check out the Fall Plant Sale page on our website.](#)



Time for Our Fall Garden Supplies Group Order

Each year we coordinate several group orders with our friends at [Seven Springs Farm Supply](#). We are gearing up for our final group order of the year. Orders are due by August 21 and pick-up will be on August 29. This is a great way to stock up on a broad range of soil amendments and other garden and farm supplies, and save on shipping! For more information on this

opportunity, [please visit our website.](#)



Tales of Two Tomato Houses

Yes, we are thinking about fall plantings but our Summer crops aren't going to let us forget about them! Today we harvested 28 pounds of Shishito peppers, and we've been harvesting upwards of 30 pounds of yellow squash every other day. But the crop that really keeps us on our toes is tomatoes. We trellis all of our tomato plants both in high tunnels and in the field. In the tunnel that holds our Slicer tomatoes, we practice what is known as the "[Lower and Lean](#)" trellising method with our indeterminant varieties (the vast majority of what we grow). This technique helps get the tomato plants -- which are now about 10 feet tall -- down from the heat of the ceiling which keeps them happier and healthier. Additionally, we don't have to climb ladders to harvest the fruit. Good for the plants, and good for the farmer!

In the pictures below, Elise is moving the [Tomahook](#) along the wire to lower the plant horizontally. The end result, as you can see in the picture on the right, is all of the plants in the left row are leaning in the same direction and the overall height of the plant is reduced. The plants on the right have not been leaned. Voila!



Meanwhile, the fruit tomatoes that Jonny planted in Raz House last Friday were doing great -- until the deer decided to hop in the windows for a little snack...



Eagle-eye Elise noticed that about 1/3 of the plants had their tops chomped. Dastardly Deer! So, Ray and Emma jumped on yet another deer exclusion project -- installing deer fence over the end wall windows. So far, so

good. The plants will recover but it is a setback, for sure.



That's all we've got for you this week, friends!

Did you know that today is the end of the [Dog Days of Summer](#)? Yep. And Gestis is wondering where they went. She's looking for her special day.



Meanwhile, the cats are getting ready for the [Cat Nights of Summer](#) which begins on August 17. RingBob found a cozy place to rest up -- he's hoping that we really don't need to use the mower for the next 6 days.



In closing, this week is National Farmers Market Week! And while we won't be at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) on Saturday, we are excited by the activities planned there tomorrow [to celebrate this special day!](#) Go check out some really great vendors and help support our growing (pun intended!) agricultural economy here in the Piedmont Triad.



P.S. We'll see you at market NEXT weekend to celebrate National Potato Day!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

