



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

Hope you have been enjoying this beautiful week! It gave us the perfect opportunity to get a number of things done. With rain moving back in for the weekend and early next week, gotta make hay while the sun shines, right?



Our week started off fragrantly! On Monday, Cheryl showed a terrific group at the Lawsonville Community Center how to make a potted herb garden. This workshop was sponsored by the [King Senior Center's Expanded Services Program](#). We had fun planting chives, Greek oregano and thyme. A little bit of summer in a dish garden! Thanks to the Paula Hall and her staff along with Alice Kiger of [Stokes Extension Master Gardeners](#) (who kindly took these photos!).



The greenhouse continues to be a beehive of activity. It is really filling up! Today Elise got the first round of cucumbers planted. Target date for first bite: March 24!



Another upcoming greenhouse crop is ginger and turmeric. Ray cut the seed into properly-sized pieces and got them into trays with coir last weekend. They now go into the milkhouse, which is a warm and moist environment. These conditions are perfect to stimulate budding and root development in the seeds. We'll then be potting them up for sale at the Summer Plant Sale (late April) and to be planted in one of our high tunnels.



Big News About the Big Top!

The majority of our work this week has been focused on getting Lil' Abner, our new high tunnel covered.

For those of you who don't know the origin of the tunnel's name, here's a brief recap:



Lil' Abner is a Great Pyrenees who was wandering around Flat Shoals Road one night a couple of years ago. We brought him in to the house for a couple of nights while we tried to find the owner. He was so gentle and mellow, he seemed quite content to just hang out and snooze (a lot!). We named him "Lil' Abner" after the old cartoon character who was a mattress tester.

Since our new tunnel is so big (34'x96'), we thought it would be appropriate to name it after this huge, lovable dog.

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After weeks getting the frame built, it was time to get it covered! This is always really tricky. You have to have a day where the winds are calm. The last thing you want is to be struggling with a ginormous piece of plastic (100' x 48') when a gust of wind hits. Yikes! That sail could carry us over the mountain!

Thursday was about the best day we could get. Winds were a bit more that ideal, but it was manageable. After installing some initial plastic on the end walls, we got that huge piece of plastic pulled over the top and secured it with wiggle-wire in a channel. Take a look!



After the cover was secured, we enjoyed a well-deserved lunch under the big top!



Next we worked on one of the roll-up sides. We're using plastic from the top to create the "curtain" that can be rolled up for ventilation. We attach a pipe to the plastic with special clips and insert a handle into the end of the pipe. It's a very long piece of plastic and metal pipe to roll up -- so the process is pretty exacting.



So, with a huge sigh of relief (and some pretty tired muscles), we crawled on the ladder for a celebration photo! Thanks so much to Cynthia, Anthony and Blaine for jumping in to help!



While we still have a few more things to do (doors, cover the endwalls, etc.), yesterday was a very major milestone for Plum Granny Farm!

Good night, Lil Abner!



That's the news for this week. Whew!

We wanted to let you know about a special celebration that is happening tomorrow. Our friend, Chad Morris, and his partners opened [Chad's Chai Teahouse](#) one year ago. They are hosting an Anniversary event all day on **Saturday, February 10**. From chai specials, birthday cookies, a raffle, food truck and a DJ in the evening, it's gonna be a great day! The Teahouse is located at 617 Liberty Street in Downtown Winston-Salem. Go check it out!



Happy Lunar New Year!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

