

We will be back at Cobblestone Farmers Market tomorrow with lots of great Organic goodies! A plethora of Sweet Peppers! Tomato Fruit Boxes! and more... See all the details below.



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Our cheerful Echinacea have been encouraging us this week as we've slogged through the heat and humidity. It's hard to be glum with these happy flowers around! But even they have had some droopy moments -- it's rare to see these guys wilt but they have been kindly asking for a tiny sip to help them through. Even the perkier need water!

And slog we have. Our early morning start times have been our saving grace this week. We've been able to get stuff done before it gets so dreadfully hot.

Tater Time!

Thursday gave us a little break in the heat indices and we used that opportunity to dig some of our early potatoes. This year's crop has been a bit challenged --

we know that we won't have the record-setting yields that we had last year.

Ray dug a couple of beds for our *PlumFresh* members last week. He felt that the time was right to go ahead and get the rest of our Sangre early potatoes out of the ground.

The soil conditions were pretty good -- we've been doing a fair amount of irrigating to help the spuds bulk up, but the soil wasn't too wet. Ray, Jonny and Celina headed out with J-Cub to get these 4 beds dug. Let the potato treasure hunt begin!



Onion Obsession

Earlier in the morning, Jonny and Celina finished harvesting the onions. Pretty good yield of our yellow onions and remaining Tropea. The yellow onions got their tops trimmed and will now cure for a couple of weeks in the pavilion.



We had a special Quality Control inspector who made sure that all the onions were nicely spread out and that they didn't have any long tops remaining -- Tuxie!



After all the tops were trimmed, the yellow and red onions settled into their new home. They are now basking in the heat and breeze of the greenhouse exhaust fan.



Raspberry (and Blackberry) Fields Forever

Our brambles field had not been feeling the love this year due to equipment and irrigation issues -- and was really showing it. This week we were able to get the dense meadow that had grown up around the plants cleaned out. SO much better! And the raspberries showed their appreciation for the extra breathing space.



A few other sightings around the farm this week:

Celina and Ray got the t-posts set for trellising the new fruit tomatoes in Ajo. She might be short, but she can sure swing a t-post driver! After the posts were set, Jonny and Celina got the plants all nicely trellised.



The cucumber plants are settling in and growing fast! The first flowers popped out this week, so it won't be too long before they start producing (fingers crossed).





Our early Red Summer Pippin apples told us it was time to harvest before the deer do! Wasn't our best yield but we got enough of these heirlooms for our *PlumFresh* members this week.

The sweet peppers are ripening and the plants are loaded! These are Lipstick, a very sweet and delicious variety that is bigger than a Lunchbox Pepper but smaller than a Marconi or other Corno di Toro pepper. We'll have them at market this week!



Cobblestone Farmers Market Update

Sorry we missed you at market last week, but we will be back tomorrow!

Breaking News! We'll have lots of **Sweet Peppers** from the colorful Lunchbox to the Corno di Toros to the quirky Jimmy Nardello Sweet Italian Frying Pepper. Welcome to Pepper City!



These Nardellos look incendiary, but they are very sweet and an excellent heirloom frying pepper! This variety was selected to be included in the [Ark of Taste](#). Magnifico!

You'll also find lots of other Organic treasures under the Purple Tent: Basil, **Garlic**, Escarole, Frisse, **Fruit Tomatoes (plus a few slicers)** and our famous **Fireworks on a Stick Elephant Flowers!**



And if you've been thinking about getting a **Strawberry Hanging Basket**, this is your last chance! We'll be bringing our final batch of these baskets on Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you! [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) is **open from 8:30-noon every Saturday**. It is located at 1007 Marshall Street SW (at the intersection of Salem Avenue). Plenty of parking surrounds market but make sure not to block entrances or park on grass or other landscaping. Just look for the Purple Tent when you get into the Market area -- we are next to the white building!

In closing, we wanted to share a little adventure we had yesterday. This was a delayed Anniversary present to each other. We've been wanting to make a barn quilt for y-e-a-r-s! Finally, the [King Senior Center Expanded Services](#) program offered the opportunity to do just that. We had a blast with instructor Lauren Byron of [Market on Main](#). Since we didn't quite finish all of the painting during the class, we've got our homework so we can get these quilts ready for their gallery opening.

And stay tuned, this is such a fun activity, we will be working with Lauren to bring this to the Farm next Spring!



Have a terrific weekend -- stay cool and hydrated! And pray for rain!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

