

**Under the Purple Tent on Saturday you'll find oodles of Sweet Peppers, New Potatoes, Basil, Frisse and MORE! Read all about it below.**



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



We've been trying to make like a Zinnia this week at the farm. Maintaining a perky outlook while we are parched and hot and the bugs are starting to get to us. You know, just another rainless, hot day!

We don't recall seeing the yard as dry as it has been this summer. The only thing growing in the lawn are Plum Granny plants! The miracle of natives!



But the good news is that we did get a bit of rain Wednesday evening. That 2/10 of an inch had a lot of ground to cover. It seems that everywhere around us has gotten a lot of rain, but our friend, Sauratown Mountain, has protected us from the storms -- and rain. Fingers crossed for this weekend and the coming week when it looks like we might get rain every day!

### **Clean Up in Field 1!**

Raz 1 is our largest growing area. It is a permaculture area -- home to all of our blackberries, raspberries, apple trees and muscadines. In addition to these plantings, there is a tremendous amount of grass. All this grass is very nice for pick-your-own events or even just for us -- until it gets totally overgrown. That's what happened this year. Both our sickle mower and lawn mower were broken, and we fell w-a-y behind in mowing. It was really bad!

But over the last couple of weeks, Ray has been mowing with the now-repaired equipment. He got the tallest vegetation cut down with the sickle mower and he could then use the lawn mower to tidy up a bit more.

After using the hay rake to pile all the debris into windrows, Jonny and Celina got this area nice and clear. Truckloads of grass are now slowly composting so that we can add their nutrients to some future crops.





### **Blowing in the Wind....**

It had been on the to-do list for a long time, but we finally took a moment to shell and clean the beans that we saved last summer. Bean planting was on the Monday agenda and wanted to use this seed.

Take a look at this [quick video](#) that shows how Ray was cleaning the shells from the beans. And right after the beans were cleaned, they were planted and are now emerging!





### **Time for a Field Walk**

Lots of other things were happening this week as well -- let's take a look:

Those little cucumbers we told you about last week are getting huge! It's been a challenge to try to keep up with their growth!





Jonny blasted through about a zillion plant trays to get us ready for the big seeding push next week. Now is the time to seed our fall crops -- which is always so hard to fathom during the hottest days of the year! Plus, we are seeding for our **Fall Plant Sale on September 6-7**. Mark your calendars!

It's been a great hummingbird year! We've had these wonderful visitors on the porch while we drink our afternoon coffee. Our hummingbird feeder has been gathering a crowd -- they are going through a feeder each day!



### **Team Plum Granny News**

We wanted to update you on a major change here at the farm. Our wonderful employee, Elise, had a family emergency and had to move back to South Dakota. Everything happened very quickly, and we weren't able to have a proper goodbye celebration.

And we miss her so much. Elise was such an integral part of the farm and was such a hard and conscientious worker. She brought such a cheerful and happy attitude to work every day. Elise was so much fun to work with even on punishingly hot (or cold) days. She loved working on the farm and learning about the intricacies of farming, scouting for pests, planting, and even weeding. We could go on. One of the things about a very small farm is that our long-term employees are like family members. We work so closely and



share so many triumphs and disappointments here in our day-to-day work.

Wishing Elise the very best as she moves into the next stage of her career. Anyone would be lucky to have her as an employee!



### **Cobblestone Farmers Market Update**

Cooler weather is in store for market tomorrow and maybe some rain -- but we're not complaining, we need both!

We'll be bringing the first of our Potatoes tomorrow! These **Sangre New Potatoes** are a wonderful red-skinned potato with a white flesh. We're thinking potato salad, roasted potatoes on the grill or home-fries -- sounds good, huh?



We'll also have oodles of **Sweet Peppers** this week. The Corno di Toro Italian Roasting Peppers are so gorgeous and so very tasty!



We'll have more **Lunchbox Peppers** (the ones that kids just can't stop eating!), Pimento Peppers, Lipstick Peppers and MORE!

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

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!

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That's the news for this week folks! We wanted to share a wonderful event that will be held on Saturday afternoon. [The Big Chill](#) is a fundraiser for [The Shalom Project](#), a local non-profit running several programs to assist our neighbors in need. They take pride in their highly committed staff, board of directors, and volunteers serving clients, patients & guests with a spirit of inclusion, compassion, and justice.

The event has just been moved to the Summit School Athletic Center in case of rain. This is a fun and delicious event -- come celebrate [National Ice Cream Day](#) with free ice cream and a huge ice-cream-themed celebration, complete with live music, food trucks, face painting, and more.

Summit School is located at 2100 Reynolda Road in Winston-Salem (across from Reynolda Gardens). Head on out and CHILL!



**Have a terrific weekend -- and keep your fingers crossed that we actually get rain!**

**Until next week,  
Cheryl & Ray**

