

Saturday's goodies include a new crop of Summer Squash, Creamer Potatoes and oodles of Sweet Peppers and MORE! Details below.



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



It came! The rain came!!

Yes, it dumped from the skies like Niagra Falls, but the blessed water from heaven finally arrived at the farm! Three delightful inches -- most of which came in about 45 minutes Wednesday evening. And we are grateful! (Surprised and astonished, yes -- but grateful!)



With that additional moisture, we haven't had to be as worried about making

sure that our crops were getting adequate irrigation. But since we have a large number of crops in high tunnels, they still need to be monitored carefully. And yes, there's a spreadsheet for that!

Our field crops have been delighting in this rain. Although they had been getting plenty of irrigation from our wells, there's nothing like a good downpour to ramp up the growth and plant welfare. The Rattlesnake beans that we planted two weeks ago are looking fabulous -- although the Jade beans planted the same day didn't emerge (the seed was too old, I guess).



And the sweet potatoes (seen in the background above), are starting to bloom. More good stuff for the pollinators -- a very happy bumblebee!



Unfortunately, the weeds enjoyed the rain as well. An exploding pigweed crop awaits us.

### **Reset Time**

As we continue to prepare for our big fall seeding, it's a good time to reset and sanitize the greenhouse. Mid-summer, the greenhouse starts looking a bit beleaguered. Random seed trays of not too happy plants, layers of soil under the benches, weeds peeking up along the roll-up sides, various items that weren't in their proper homes... Just your basic mess.



A couple of rainy days made for a good time to turn this around! It started with clearing everything out of the greenhouse and moving the bench tops for a thorough weeding and cleaning.



And it's always great to have the help of two very curious kittens! SO many strings!



After everything was swept and precisely moved back into place, it was time to sanitize the surfaces to make sure that we have a disease-free start for our fall plants.

Thanks to Jonny and Celina for their work in making this happen!



## Time for Field Walk

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

This high tunnel (Tabby) is now seeded with carrots, beets and Summer Spinach! The soil in this space is very heavy and has a lot of clay. To try to loosen it a bit we used bags of coir from our cucumbers to add more organic matter to the soil. It's a long process -- but a good one!



In preparation for these new crops that like a bit cooler weather, Tabby got shade cloth. It was the last of the houses to be covered. And, of course, Dusty wanted to help Ray get all the ropes in place! So many strings...

Hmmm.... One can always find interesting things when you do a field walk. Take this strange watermelon as an example! When it was a small melon, it rolled into one of the holes in the landscape fabric. As it grew, part of it was on top of the fabric and part of it grew below it. Melon binding! Maybe this is a new foodie trend?



## Peachy Keen!

Our lil' peach tree is outdoing itself this year! It is LOADED with beautiful fruit! This tree holds a very special place in our hearts -- we took cuttings from our "miracle" peach tree in Albuquerque and had them grafted. That tree was an amazing producer of delicious peaches even though it was at least 30 years old when we took the cuttings. Yes, it has some fire blight but that doesn't seem to stop the ol' Energizer Peach!





### **Cobblestone Farmers Market Update**

Thanks so much to those of you who braved the rain last week and came to Market! We are so grateful!

Tomorrow is **Tomato Day** and while we won't have tomatoes entered in the competition, we WILL have lots of our famous **Tomato Fruit Boxes** on our tables.

We'll have the first of our new crop of Summer Squash! In the words of one of our customers, these are "Perfectly Sized" squash. They are tender and great for grilling, sauté or even ratatouille!



And a Corno-copia of **Sweet Peppers** await you! These 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!), Pimiento Peppers, Lipstick Peppers and MORE!

You'll also find lots of other Organic treasures under the Purple Tent: Basil (Genovese and Sweet Thai), some Snacking Cucumbers, **Garlic (including the first of the Sampler Bags)**, Frisée, 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! Lots of things happening around the area this weekend. The [Foodees Food and Cultural Festival](#) will be at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds today through Sunday. It's a FREE event with 50+ food trucks, entertainment and more! You'll also find Bookmarks' first ever used book sale on Saturday and Sunday at the Cobblestone Warehouse (1001 Marshall Street SW -- just behind Cobblestone Market) -- [Secondhand Story](#) sounds like a great event for booklovers! And not to be outdone, the [Stokes County Arts Council](#) has a new gallery exhibition as well as a concert this weekend -- plus [Rocky's Coffee!](#)

**Get out and enjoy the weekend, friends!**

**Until next week,  
Cheryl & Ray**

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