

Saturday's forecast is looking pretty nice -- light clouds and cooler! And rain isn't expected until later in the day. We'll be bringing the goods to make your Saturday even better with our NEW Roasted Sweet Peppers, Garlic Sampler Bags, Hot Peppers and MORE! Details below.



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome to Arrrrg-ust!



The quintessential summer flower with the quintessential historic well. This old well at the farmhouse still works and is the perfect backdrop for these geraniums. Such a happy and cheering sight as you walk up the sidewalk to the house. I think this was our best choice ever for this planter! Thank you, [Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse!](#)

And as farmer lore goes, there's a lot of need for cheering in August. This is the month that farmers start to lose it. One of my old mentors said to never make any rash farming decisions in August because you're just too exhausted, too hot, and too ground down by the day to day (weeds, pests, disease, crop failures) to make rational decisions. All true and good advice.

So, we planted those geraniums back in July to prepare us for this month. Our fuchsia cheering squad!

Well, we are trying our best to deal with some of the weeds and pests -- although they do make it pretty difficult. Jonny and Celina have been working on getting weeds out of South 1 -- a new flush of pigweed popped up and Bermuda grass and fescue were threatening to take

over the okra,



So we keep marching on through the fields trying to catch up, but with the recent (welcome!) rain, they've just been growing like ...well, weeds!

The pests are also testing our patience. This seems to be the year of the whitefly (and aphid, and spider mite...). In one of our high tunnels (Ajo), we had an explosion of whitefly in the first squash crop. Clouds of them would swirl around the plants and they were completely out of control.

We used lacewing larvae as predators and even had to use some organic sprays like [PyGanic](#) and [AzaGuard](#) to curb the infestation. We had hoped the problem was gone when we pulled the squash plants out last month. Nope. They are back with a vengeance. More lacewing larvae to the rescue and this time we are employing sticky traps to try to contain the swarms. These cards just went in on Tuesday and they seem to be doing the trick. Next week we'll stretch out yellow [sticky tape](#) which should be even more effective.



And Just Like That



Jonny had barely gotten the final touches finished on cleaning and resetting the greenhouse last Friday (we were trying to find him a feather duster!) before the Great Fall Seeding Push began!

Thousands of seeds have already gone into trays and at least that many more are still to go.



And some of them are already popping up -- these Arugula were seeded on Sunday!



A challenging thing this year is that we have 2 new greenhouse trainees.



They are totally clueless about the relationship of paws to seed trays. Walking on them seems to be perfectly natural and those big fluffy tails were just meant for dusting off seeds, right? I am trying to get Detroit to take on training duties, but he seems to not be interested in the assignment.



Look for more details on what we'll have available at the **Fall Plant Sale (September 6 & 7)** in next week's newsletter!

Time for the Weekly Field Walk

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

So what do we do now? The cucumbers in Lil' Abner are really taking off! And some of them have hit the top pipe (collar tie). We don't want to let them flop over the pipe because it may crimp the vine but we don't want to prune it either! Decisions, decisions!



The seeds that were sown last week in Tabby are starting to pop -- at least the beets and summer spinach is. The carrots currently have a flush of weeds that we need to hit with a flame weeder ASAP so we can knock them down before the carrots emerge. Tricky timing.

We got the remainder of our ginger planted on Thursday. This is the first time that we've used this bed for the crop. We'll be able to cover it with shade cloth to give it the conditions that it likes.



Is that Asparagus?!

Last week we mowed down the asparagus field in preparation for planting blackberries in the early spring. Mowing stimulates the growth of the crop, but we weren't expecting it to grow

so quickly. It rocketed out of the ground! And while most of it was too far gone before we even noticed it, we did munch on a few prime spears as we were checking it out.



Cobblestone Farmers Market Update

We are looking forward to a nice -- and maybe cooler market day on Saturday! We're bringing a couple of new items this week -- and one is Brand new!

You know our delicious fire-roasted green chile that we have in the fall? Well, we are letting our roaster do its magic on Sweet Peppers this week! Ray will be roasting up Corno di Toro Italian Roasting and Pimento Peppers here at the farm. Then roasted peppers will be packed in a vacuum-sealed bag. They can be frozen but eat 'em while they are freshly roasted!



Also making its 2nd appearance this week are our popular Garlic Sampler Bags. This is a great way to try three different varieties of garlic to discover your favorite. The net bags are nicely finished with a tag that describes the varieties, and the bulbs are individually marked. Increase your garlic knowledge!

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: A new crop of Genovese Basil, **Summer Squash**, some Snacking Cucumbers, **Garlic**, **Frisée**, Poblano Peppers and **Hot Peppers including Serranos!**

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!

That's the news for this week folks! But we wanted to bring to your attention an important message about the upcoming elections. Yesterday was [National Poll Workers Recruitment Day](#) -- but it's not too late to take action to volunteer to be a poll worker in November! These are very important roles for citizens to play to keep our democratic system working. Elections officials are having a harder time getting folks to step up to fill these key positions.

An important fact: These are not partisan positions! While specific duties and compensation

vary depending on location, poll workers are the face of the election office during voting. Most jurisdictions task election workers with setting up and preparing the polling location, welcoming voters, verifying voter registrations, and issuing ballots. Poll workers also help ensure voters understand the voting process by demonstrating how to use voting equipment and explaining voting procedures.

[Click here to see how you can participate.](#) The Lookup Tool will point you to specific North Carolina and County information.

Be a part of Democracy! Help America Vote!



Have a great weekend, friends!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

