

Moving Sale Update! Due to the forecasted snow and ice, Sandra & Fabian's moving sale has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, January 18. We'll have an update next week.



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Flowers blooming in January? Yes! Our Sweet Alyssum in the Lil' Abner unheated tunnel are still blooming like crazy - despite temps in the mid-teens. Pretty amazing -- and still so fragrant!

Weather or Not?

Everyone is trying to figure out if we are getting snow and ice today and, if so, how much. It's always so difficult for organizations at this time of year to predict whether they should be open. Cobblestone Farmers Market decided to close on Saturday, but they were open today from 11-1.



The [snow last Sunday](#) came as predicted -- but we got more accumulation than we expected. It was probably about 4 inches of really nice powder. Ray said that if we had gotten another couple of inches on Sunday night, he would have taken the cross-country skis out for a spin. Last time he did that was in February 2014. He even got to carve some turns down the hill across from the farmhouse.



One thing we know for certain is that it will be COLD! Since Sunday's snow, we've barely broken the 30-degree mark. Having snow on the ground for a week or even tucked up against a high tunnel is unusual around here!



A nice thing about this weather is that it has given us the opportunity to get lots of inside work done. Ray and Jonny have been working on getting the greenhouse buttoned up more. The north wall of the structure has always needed to be insulated and we started tackling that project. Instead of a single layer of plastic, the wall will have 2 layers of plastic with foam insulation sandwiched in between.

Ray hadn't bought insulation in a while and was shocked to see that a 2" sheet was \$60 -- and

we needed 10 of them! Plan B: 1/2" insulation was \$20 and could still do a good job. Ray is jokingly calling it the "Barbie House" now that it's so pink!



Maybe Tuxie will be warmer now?



Cheryl's been deep into Seed Land -- taking inventory of our seeds on hand, then planning and ordering seeds for this year's crops. Next week will be like Christmas as we are likely to get most of our orders delivered. It's always so exciting!!



But in addition to seeds, there's also plant stock to plan and order. We've gotten most of that taken care of as well (ginger, turmeric, potatoes and strawberries) and will be getting bramble orders ready soon.

House Cleaning

Jonny has been working hard getting Lil' Abner cleared of plant debris as we work to have all of our high tunnels ready for planting in a couple of months. Since this is our biggest tunnel (96' x 32'), it had a lot of plant matter to get out!



But now that it's clear, we'll be able to weed and get the beds set for early season crops!



That's what we've got for this week, friends! But before we go, we need to end with a little Public Service Announcement. As the most common form of cancer, skin cancer is diagnosed in around 9,500 people every day in the US. Unfortunately, Ray became one of those numbers this week.



On Monday, he had a [Squamous Cell carcinoma](#) removed from the left side of his nose. The surgeon said that he got it all and that things looked good. Caught early, skin cancer is easy to treat but if not, it is much more difficult and has a poorer prognosis.

If you are feeling like you have heard this before, Cheryl had the same procedure last May. Maybe we should get a 2-for-1 deal?

These cancers are caused by sun exposure, and the most common location is the face -- especially the nose. While we try to protect our skin as much as possible, this probably arose from early exposure and from extensive exposure to sun while driving (driver's nose).

None of us is immune from this cancer -- it impacts all skin shades. Apply sunscreen generously and frequently, wear [protective clothing](#) and learn how to do a [skin self exam](#). Remember five important words: [Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide](#). And if you have any concerns, see a dermatologist. Ray had this little spot on his nose that bled sometimes and was diligent about getting it checked.

P.S. Due to the wintery weather, Sandra and Fabian are postponing the Moving Sale to NEXT Saturday (weather permitting). We'll let you know the specifics [HERE](#).

P.P.S IT'S SNOWING!!!!!!

**Be kind to your neighbors.
Until next week,
*Cheryl & Ray***

