



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Signs of Spring are everywhere -- we just have to look for the subtle clues. For example, this is a flowering cluster from a maple tree. If you look carefully at a stand of trees, you'll probably notice a bit of red fuzziness. Those are likely maple trees covered with these flowers.

Besides the excitement that these flowers bring, they also play a huge role in sustaining bees. Maple flowers are a major source of nectar for bees in these late winter days. We were fortunate to have one of our bee hives located under a stand of maples. It provides close-by nutrition for the hive -- important in the cold days when the less time they spend foraging for food, the better.

No-Go Snow

Wednesday's predicted snow event didn't happen here, but Thursday did bring a nice dusting. We can always rely on our specialized Weather Cows to convey the most up-to-date and accurate news of precipitation here in Capella.



It was coming down pretty hard but that didn't stop them from waiting for their breakfast.



Even with the snow and the bitter cold, we could still see those signs of Spring.



Another sure sign of Spring is that we are now at over 11 hours of daylight per day! We are well out of what is known as the Persephone Period.

What's the Persephone Period, you might ask?

Kathryn of [Eastborn Gardens](#), had a nice description of this. The term "Persephone Days" was first coined by author and gardener Eliot Coleman in his book, [The Winter Harvest Handbook & Year-Round Vegetable Production](#). He gave it this name in reference to Greek mythology.

Persephone, daughter of the goddess of the harvest Demeter, spends winter with her husband Hades, god of the underworld. During this time, Demeter allows no crops to grow. For this reason, Persephone symbolizes the seasons.

Eliot Coleman calls this period as days when the sunlight at your latitude falls below 10 hours a day, from sunrise to sunset. And based on our experience, we know that crops just stall during these days -- even in a heated greenhouse.

The Persephone period changes depending on the latitude where you live. In the Northern Hemisphere, southern latitudes have later (or even no) Persephone days while northern latitudes have to contend with far less light. Of course, this is reversed for the Southern Hemisphere.

Here, our Persephone Period is November 24th to January 16th. A great source for all things related to hours of daylight and more is [Time and Date](#). It's a fun site for all of us gardening and weather geeks out there! And it reminds us that we're just [25 days away from Spring!](#)

Wake Up, Lil' Ginger!

Our shipment of ginger and turmeric from Hawaii arrived, so it was time to get the pieces ready to wake up. Ray carefully cuts the "hands" into 1-1.5 ounce pieces and lays them out in trays of damp [coir](#) (coconut husk). The trays are then placed in our old milkhouse, which is a perfect environment for getting the ginger and turmeric to sprout. We have a small space heater in the building (size=6'x6') with very thick walls, so it holds heat and humidity well.



Just a Month Away! Spring Plant Sale News

We are chugging along getting plants ready for the first plant sale of the season. Our [Spring Plant Sale](#) on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22!

The [preliminary plant list](#) is now available on our website. Please bear in mind that there may be changes as we get closer to the sale date -- we never know exactly what will happen to our

thousands of plant babies in the greenhouse between now and then! But we're taking really good care of them.

That's the news for this week, friends! We'll close with a special shout-out (bark-out?) to our loyal dog, **Gesti**. Today is her Gotcha Day! This goofy, lovable pooch is still a puppy in so many ways, but she's been with us for 13 years! But her soccer ball is only about 11. She's our adorable Dr. Suess dog, for sure.



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



