



Happy Saturday, Farm Friends! Farewell February! Hello March!



The little daffy in last week's newsletter shook off the snow and invited some friends to the party! There's nothing like the happy smile that a daffodil brings, is there?

And look at the plethora of maple flowers! It's full bloom season!



Potato Time!

This has been the week for all of the potatoes we ordered (890 pounds) to arrive. On Monday we picked up our fingerling potatoes at [Country Farm and Home](#) in Pittsboro and on Friday we picked up our pallet from [The Maine Potato Lady](#).

Our order in Pittsboro was picture perfect -- we were notified when to arrive and the bags were ready for us.



The shipment from Maine was a bit more bumpy. We received status updates throughout the potatoes' journey south but once they got to the terminal in Greensboro on Thursday at 7:34 a.m., with a scheduled delivery on Friday morning, we were told that they could not be delivered until Monday. With colder weather moving in over the weekend, we knew we didn't want the potatoes sitting in a sub-freezing warehouse or trailer. So, Ray hopped in our trusty truck and hoofed it down to Greensboro to pick up the pallet.



Needless to say, our truck was a tad bit smaller than the other trucks at the loading dock!

Once Ray arrived back at the farm, he and Jonny got them into our walk-in to store them at the proper temperature (~35 degrees) until we are ready to plant. Nine hundred and ninety pounds is a lot to move - and Ray and Jonny were plum tuckered!



Plant Sale Prep

We are less than a month away from our first Plant Sale of the year! Most everything has been

seeded and Maggie started potting up the lettuce Friday. If you missed our Spring Plant Sale plant list last week, please check it out on our [website](#).



While we're working on the March sale, we're also working on the Summer Plant Sale which is **April 17-19**. All of the peppers are seeded, and we've finished about 2/3 of the tomatoes.



We seed peppers and tomatoes differently than we do most other crops. The seed trays that we use for peppers and tomatoes have 20 rows of cells. Each row has between 10-15 seeds per cell -- so each tray has approximately 250 seeds! Once the seedling has emerged and develops the first set of true leaves, it is then potted up into a larger seed tray or a [Fertilpot](#). The baby plants are ready to pot up in about 5-8 weeks. Using this method helps us save space in the seeding process -- which is so very important at this time of year when the greenhouse is SO full!

More Greenhouse Happenings!

Ray was able to get the cucumbers trellised in the greenhouse. After a bit of a slow start, they have started to ratchet up growth and it was (past) time to trellis. Once again, we are using the [Qliper system](#) to trellis our cukes. They were a great tool to add to the toolbox last year.



We are also trying a new greenhouse crop -- Sweet Italian Roasting Peppers! We've grown lots

of things in the greenhouse but never peppers. Most of the sweet peppers you find in the grocery store are grown in Canadian greenhouses. We thought we'd try to shrink the distance between production and consumer!



In the News

We were honored to be contacted by the North Carolina Century Farm program to be featured in their [In the Field blog](#). Since our farm has been in existence for more than 100 years, we are part of the [Century Farm](#) family which is a part of the NC Department of Agriculture.

Growing 30 varieties of peppers, this Century Farm brings flavors of New Mexico to Stokes County

by Jamey Cross | Feb 26, 2025



Our farm has been in the Ferguson family for over 150 years. Ray and I are grateful to have the opportunity to steward this beautiful land and to make it even better for future generations. Thank you for this coverage!

That's all we've got for you this week, friends! This weekend, there is the best chance to catch the relatively rare [Planet Parade](#) where you can see [seven planets in the night sky](#). Friday had the best views, but you'll also be able to see the show for a few more days in early March. Get outside and check it out -- while it's relatively mild and before we have another blast of winter cold!

**Be kind to your neighbors.
Until next week,**

Cheryl & Ray

P.S. Have you heard the [Peepers](#) yet?

