



Happy Saturday, Farm Friends!



A lovely lil' sage flower popped up on one of the overwintering herb plants in the greenhouse this week. Its color is so different from everything else there and it really stands out! And the fragrance of the fresh sage leaves is delightful.

At Your Command

March has arrived -- actually I think it blew in and the wind hasn't stopped. Those of you who have been following us for a while may know that we call March "Command Month." What other month tells you just by its name to do something: for example, March fourth (sic).

Yes, it is indeed the bossiest of months. Yelling at us, telling us that we are behind, and that we won't make it through the year. Every year we prove March wrong, but it doesn't make it any easier to take its harassment. Thirty intense days of Basic Training with a grouchy Drill Sergeant! Sheesh!



But I guess we'll take motivation and encouragement to do our best no matter how harsh the delivery! Maybe Sgt. Grouchy will like what we've done this week!

Tomatoes Part 1

The first round of tomatoes that were seeded w-a-y back on December 26th were planted this week in one of our high tunnels. These Galahad plants had gotten pretty tall and were chaffing at the bit to get in the ground.





We were joking that as tall as these plants were, we should probably be using 8' t-posts to make sure we have enough room to trellis.

The plants are definitely getting a baptism by fire -- well, it's actually wind and colder than ideal conditions. But the high tunnel will keep them protected. Fingers crossed.

That was only 68 plants, and we've got 164 tomatoes remaining. We'll be putting the rest of them in Lil' Abner, our big high tunnel early next week. These are our early season slicers and the fruit tomatoes for the entire year. We'll also be doing succession planting over the rest of the season for slicers.

We had hoped to use Mama Meow for a large chunk of those plants but getting it ready has taken a bit more time than we had planned. This tunnel has not been used for in-ground growing since it was constructed in 2018. It was used for some bag culture growing but mostly for events (remember Small Business Saturday?) and most recently for storage, especially hay. Just to get started was a monumental task. I present Exhibit A.

Mia did offer to take care of the hay situation, but we thought she might prefer home (pasture) delivery instead.



Once it had been cleared, we could fold back the landscape fabric and assess the soil. Before we covered this space with a tunnel, it had some very nice tilth. However, 7 years of hay, lots of foot traffic, and heavy boxes and shelves have done a good job of compacting the soil.



It's going to take some serious work to fluff up this soil for planting. But we can't wait that long. We need to get the tomatoes in the ground now. We moved them into the pavilion on Wednesday to acclimate them to cooler temps, but Thursday's fierce winds beat the daylight out of them. Plus, we were looking at lows of 30 -- too cold for tomatoes with only minimal protection. So back into the greenhouse they went. They will get planted into Lil' Abner in the warmer weather next week.

Cute Cukes!



Our cucumber plants are growing so quickly, and we are starting to see flowers and baby cucumbers. Ray estimates that it's about 10 days from flower to fruit. Fingers crossed that we'll have some by the Spring Plant Sale -- if not before!

Two Weeks Until Spring Plant Sale!

Maggie and Cheryl have been busy getting plants potted up and tagged for the [Spring Plant Sale](#). If it's not already on your calendar, please mark it for **Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22** from 10-3 both days.

The greenhouse is filling up with more and more tagged trays. If the weather stabilizes next week, the plants will move into the pavilion to harden off.



Breaking News! We will have **Asparagus Crowns** available for sale this year. Our asparagus patch is being turned over to a new planting of blackberries, so we are digging up all of the plants. These are beautiful, big crowns that are 15 years old. They will produce for at least 30 years if cared for. We're offering both [Jersey Knight](#) and [Purple Passion](#) crowns.

Also on Our Plate ...

We've not been able to get as much farm work done for the past couple of weeks because we have been working on a project...



We've been getting our rental house next door ready to go on the market! Like most things, it took longer than we had planned but it's done! It hit the market on Wednesday -- and here's hoping for the perfect buyer to fall in love with this very special home!

If you'd like more information, here is a [link](#) to the listing on Zillow.

That's the news for this week, friends! Sunday marks the switch to [Daylight Saving Time](#), the beloved and bemoaned bi-annual changing of the clocks. If springing forward really gives you a hard time, check out some hints from [NPR's Life Kit](#) and their guide to better sleep.



Have a great weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

P.S. The [Peepers](#) are getting really LOUD!

