

We're looking forward to another great Cobblestone Farmers Market on Saturday! Under the Purple Tent you'll find Spring Garlic, Snacking Cucumbers and Sweet Potatoes along with our famous Fire Roasted Green Chile and more. We'll also have Strawberry Hanging Baskets, Asparagus Crowns, Irises and oodles more! See details below...



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

'Tis the season for more than one Flower of the Week -- I just can't choose especially from flowers with such special histories!



This is one of my Mom's roses that she probably planted about 35 years ago. It has such beautiful blooms and churns out hundreds of flowers every season. The flowers always make me think of her.



This stunning white lilac has a very long history. Our plant comes from Ray's Grandma Erickson's lilac bush in Lindsborg, Kansas. Cuttings moved from there to Ray's Mom's in Springfield, VA, to our house in Vienna, VA, then to Albuquerque to here. Whew! That's one well-travelled plant!



This azalea is the last remaining bush of several which were transplanted from a dear family friend in Rural Hall. IW Bunn (known as Bunny), was a master plant propagator. He gave my Dad azaleas, rhododendron, and cherry laurel-- and probably a lot more.

An Ounce of Prevention

We have been struggling with a severe infestation of [whiteflies](#) in the greenhouse this season. We've had them before but never like this! A cloud of them would emerge from the tomatoes and pepper transplants if you brushed the leaves.

We've been using organic methods to knock down the population -- [yellow sticky cards](#) and [neem oil](#) (Azadiracthin) -- and it has taken a lot to get the population under control.

This weekend, I was getting some seed trays out of storage and stopped to pull a few [wild prickly lettuce weeds](#). When I looked down, I noticed that the plant was covered in whiteflies! Could it be that this plant is an attractant for them and was it the source of our problem?

The weeds were right by the greenhouse door, so we needed to prevent them from coming back. Since we don't spray weed killers, landscape fabric was the solution. Jonny and Ray got the fabric installed so we now have a 4' buffer between the lawn and the greenhouse. Easy to mow and maintain.



We know that it's important to keep the areas around your growing spaces trimmed but sometimes things get out of hand (life, right?) It's not just whiteflies -- grasshoppers, cabbage loopers and other undesirables enjoy weeds. By eliminating them near the greenhouse (or garden), we've taken a step to reduce our pest population. This is all part of [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM)

Is Timmy in the Well?

Besides pests, water is something that also requires our attention. Our irrigation system is far better than it used to be. We have hydrants in strategic locations along with underground irrigation boxes that allow us to connect lines to various fields and high tunnels. You wouldn't believe what a hodgepodge it was just a few years ago!

And it's all been great -- until one of the hydrants froze. On the subject of prevention, make sure to drain all of your hoses and water sources when there's a freeze predicted. In this case, we didn't do that, and the hydrant burst. Not good.

So, we have been without water at a very key spot -- for 2 years. Until this week! Ray and Jonny excavated the 3' hole (along with all the pea gravel) and got to work installing the replacement.

Despite the fact that we were accusing Ray of laying down on the job, he adroitly got the plumbing together. And we've got water again!



Let's take a peek at some of what else we've been up to this week, shall we?



The early season tomatoes got their first pruning this week. And Ray got his first case of "Tomato Hands."

The Snow Peas and some of the Snap Peas finally have flowers!! These were planted on February 5th.

World's. Slowest. Peas. Ever.





Our greenhouse pepper experiment seems to be going well. We've got fruit!



The Galahad tomatoes are also setting a lot of fruit -- won't be long!

Summer Plant Sale Update

We are a whirlwind of potting up and tagging around here as we get ready for our HUGE Summer Plant Sale in just TWO weeks! Sooooo many plants this year! There are new varieties of tomatoes and peppers along with lots more herbs.

Our [website](#) has been updated, and we have added a list of what will be available. Things are changing as we continue to seed and pot up so this list will evolve. We'll keep the website updated with the latest version.



Mark your calendar for the biggest Organic plant sale in the area!

Cobblestone Farmers Market Report

It was so great to be back at market last Saturday! We love seeing our wonderful customers. And we've known so many of you since the very beginning.

Got a great line-up of Organic Veggies and Plants for you again this week. The first of the **Spring Garlic** will be on our table. This versatile allium is great for roasting, stir-fry, salad dressings and more. Pick up a sheet of tips for using this harbinger of Spring!



You'll also find **Snacking Cucumbers**, **Sweet Potatoes**, **Dill**, and **Garlic Chives**. We'll be sampling **Spring Sweet Potato Salad with Lemon-Dijon Dressing** again this week-- it was a huge hit last week!



We'll also have our famous **Garlic and Ginger Powders** along with frozen packs of **Fire Roasted Green Chile and Poblanos** and **Roasted Sweet Pimento Peppers**.

In the Plant Department we'll have **Everbearing Strawberry Hanging Baskets** and **Bearded Iris** potted plants and bare root rhizomes.



If you've been wanting to have home-grown **Asparagus**, stop by our tent! We've got beautiful, healthy crowns of **Green** and **Purple Organic Asparagus**. The crowns are about 13 years old and will love to be in your garden for many years to come. You can also grow them in Grow Bags!



Buried Treasure! We'll also have **DIY Potato Growing Kits**. The kits include everything you need to grow beautiful spuds: a grow bag, pre-fertilized soil mix, and potatoes along with a growing guide -- just add water! Perfect for backyard, balcony or patio growing!



Our Purple Tent will be located just to the left of the doors of the white building (same spot as last year). Chad's Chai and K Culture Ferments are our neighbors on either side. [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) is located in the parking lot at **1007 Marshall Street SW** at Salem Avenue. **The hours are from 8:30 until noon.** Parking is located in the

lots surrounding the market and along the street. Please make sure not to park in reserved areas or to block entrances.



We look forward to seeing you there!

That's all we've got for you this week, friends! As we move into the 2nd weekend of April, lots of events are underway. Preparations for Passover and Easter are beginning with [Passover](#) starting on April 12 and [Easter](#) on April 20.

Also on April 12 is the [Full Pink Moon](#) which occurs at 8:22 p.m. on Saturday evening. Fingers crossed for clear skies!



Have a great weekend!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

