



CSA NEWSLETTER

May 12, 2009

A warm welcome to our new and returning 2009 CSA members! This is the first of many newsletters you will be receiving throughout the growing season providing you with news from the farm, what foods to expect in coming weeks, recipes/facts for some of our different varieties or unusual vegetables, and volunteer opportunities. ***Please reply to this first email so I know you have received it and that I have the correct email address for future communication.***

CSA Share and Pick-up Information

June 9th is the first **Tuesday** pick-up (2:30-6).
June 11th is the first **Thursday** pick-up (2:30-6).
June 13th is the first first **Saturday** (Richmond Farmers Market, 9-10:30).

What to expect:

Our CSA pick-ups are set-up like a farmers' market in our farm stand on Tuesday & Thursday in Johnston. We have a chalkboard providing you with options of what to choose from of produce for that week serving as a guideline for each share size to help members determine what and how much to choose. The chalkboard is separated into "Single" and "Full" shares to make it easier for pick-ups. We do not have a weigh-out system, but rather a quantity system. We want to make sure you take the right number of fruits and vegetables home. The Saturday CSA pick-up is at a farmers' market, so try to get there early to pick out the various varieties of produce you would like for the week.



The eighteen-week CSA season will have less variety and volume of produce at the beginning than the bountiful middle and end weeks. Every year the weather and other factors favor some crops over others. For example, last year's cooler weather favored eggplant, but the cucumbers performed poorly in much of the region. These challenges are inherent in farming, and even though they can be problematic, they add interest to our work and offer opportunities to improve our practice and try out new varieties. We look forward to sharing both the joys and challenges of the season with you.

Most people's favorite June crop is strawberries, and with favorable weather, we should have a good crop this year. Numerous blooms are present on the strawberry plants already, which is definitely a great sign towards the harvest expectation. We grow over a half dozen varieties, all chosen for flavor, not size or shelf life. You will notice a distinct difference in size, shape, texture, and taste in the strawberries from week to week.

Please bring reusable cloth bags suitable for holding produce (like those available at Whole Foods and Stop and Shop) to carry home your weekly share.

Bring a few bags each week so that you can pack your produce without crushing more delicate items. If you need directions to the farm or the Richmond Farmers Market, please visit our website.

We ask that you let us know in advance if you will not be picking up your share or if someone else will be retrieving it for you. Email is the best way to reach us but phone messages are okay too. We make every effort to donate extra produce to the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Vegetable transplants still available for pick-up.
Flower shares are available.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me in the interim or during the CSA pick-ups feel free to ask away. Most of the time we try to provide verbal recipes for members who want fresh ideas in addition to the newsletter. We welcome recipes from members and if you have any that you want posted on the website to share, just let me know.

If I've overlooked any CSA details, or if you have a suggestion for future newsletter topics, please email me: jkocab@cedaredfarm.com. *Also, please don't forget to reply via email to this first newsletter so I know it has reached you.* We look forward to seeing you soon!