



The Beanstalk

Easy Bean Farm's Weekly Newsletter

Easy Bean Farm

5075 100th Ave. NW Milan, MN 56262

easybean@fedtel.net

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Nevada Buttercrunch Lettuces: Last week I was really bummed because deer had munched through the round of lettuce that was set for harvest. I added a few more strands of wire over our 8' fence... and a few scarecrows (known as Jenkins on our farm)... and, so far, they have done the trick! I have seen no new deer prints in the field!

Arcadia Broccoli: I was surprised that this round of broccoli did as well as it did with the very high temps last week... but, while the heads aren't HUGE, they are really good.



Bright Light s Swiss Chard: These are the multi colored bouquets of leaves.

Marketmore Cucumbers: The cukes keep coming!

Itachi White Cucumbers: Some of these are a little more yellow than white... but the taste and texture is really wonderful! The skins are very thin and I don't recommend peeling these.

Conehead Cabbages (Full): This is not actually the name of this variety (I think it might be called Farao)...but we have called them coneheads for so long that, on our farm, that is now what everyone calls them!

Yellow Wax Beans: This second round of beans is MUCH better then the first... and they are just starting to mature. There should be bigger bags next week. They are crispy and very delicate... I like them best raw!

Basil: What needs to be said about basil! It is best stored with the stems in a little

jar of water, out of the sunlight, as you would keep cut flowers. There will be more and more Basil in the next few weeks.

Raven Zucchini or SlickPik Yellow Squash: *These are basically interchangeable... and we are on the cusp of having LOTS of them. I'm not one to sell products that I didn't make... but I have to say that I LOVE making zoodles with my spiralizer. Once I figured that out, and bought some good parmesan and olive oil, I never felt like I had too much squash!*

Green Bell Peppers: *The peppers are just starting to trickle in. There should be more in coming weeks.*

Zefa Fino Fennel: *The other day Malena made an amazing cole slaw with thinly sliced fennel and yogurt. It was amazing!*



From the Fields

Folks,

Week 7. Today is my Birthday... but its been a fairly difficult week, here at the farm, so I haven't had much of a chance to celebrate! A week ago I was feeling like things were, mostly, going VERY well... but, 7 days later, a few big problems have cropped up and, we are doing our best to figure out a good response. The high humidity and fast, heavy rainfall of last week, have brought on a few fungal diseases that, while not yet devastating to the crops they are hitting, are worrying. WE have kept up a fairly good program of spraying beneficial micro-organisms to keep these plant diseases at bay... but it looks like it was not enough. We are seeing black rot showing in the next few rounds of brassicas (cauliflower, broccoli, cabbages, etc...),

some wilt in some of our cucumbers, and verticillium wilt is beginning to show on some of the eggplant. None of these diseases will likely wipe anything out, completely, but it will probably negatively affect the yields of at least a few of them. We are also waiting on the pepper and tomato crop to reach maturity (they still look good)... and they are taking a little longer than planned for... so the box, this week, and perhaps for the next week or two, might be a little smaller than we had planned for. The good news, so far, is that the crops that we have planted



for later in the season are all looking very good, the melons look fantastic, and are nearly ready and, when the tomatoes finally come, it looks like there will be scads of them. After 25 years of doing this I always expect that it will be less devastating when things take a little turn for the worse, during the farm season, but it never is. It is deeply frustrating how much work goes into some of these crops and how suddenly, this far into their growth, things can go wrong. It is hard to not take it personally and wonder what I should have been doing to prevent the problems!

In any case, there will still be lots of vegetables, ahead, but it could be a week or two until we are running back at full capacity! We will do our best to make it up to you for the remainder of the season!

Mike



