

The Farm Weekly

THINGS ARE SLOWING DOWN

As the sun finds itself lower in the sky and the days cool, the rate of growth slows for the vegetables. The tomato plants are still looking great, but the fruit is taking much longer to ripen and the number of tomatoes getting picked is dropping.

The tomatoes we plant are indeterminate varieties, which means they will continue to bloom, but it needs to be sunny and warm. Determinate varieties are the favorites of commercial producers because they come on all at once for efficient production and picking.

A chance of frost is forecasted for tonight. If it is heavy and broad spread enough, it will knock out the tomatoes and peppers. We'll wait and see on that one, since most weather forecasts are right only about 50% of the time!

The spinach that had such a great start is acting a bit puney although we have some in your

boxes today. The wet weather seems to be stunting it, and the cooler weather is keeping the ground from drying out. Hopefully it will pick up a bit in the next few weeks.

The Wool Gathering was terrific. it was nice to see several of you there. There were literally thousands of folks walking through and buying all of the great products..

On Saturday about an hour after we arrived, Tim called me on my cell phone to inform me that the power was off at the farm, and that he was wondering if I had noticed it when we packed up to go to Yellow Springs. After telling him that it was news to me, he went down to the barn and found that Neva had finally given birth to a male cria.

I quickly came home to be sure that all was well with cria and mom, dipped its navel in iodine, made sure it was up and nursing, and then zipped back down to the Wool

Gathering tents. Now we have only one birth left for the season which could happen any day.

As I was out taking pictures of the alpacas grazing in the front pasture, I noticed that we aren't the only ones farming at Bluebird Hills. I was checking out the goldenrod that is just starting to bloom. Tim won't let me mow this because his bee herds are feeding on it...bee forage for bee herds. I took a picture of one of his Russian bees, the herd that is a bit darker and grayish in color.

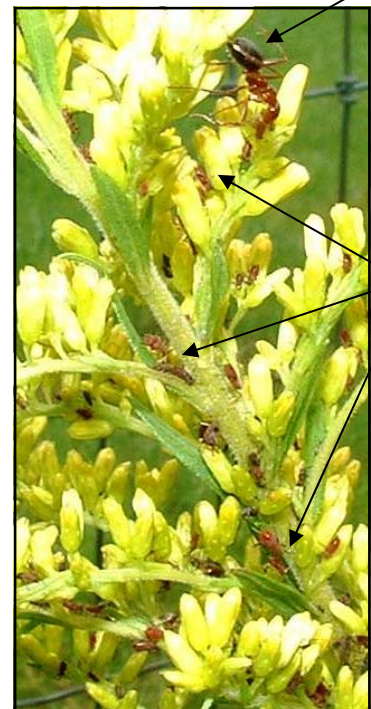
It was then that I spied a cluster of aphids sucking the sap out of some of the goldenrod plants. What was even more interesting was that there were

ants puttering around the aphids. The ants actually herd the aphids together and consume their byproducts.

So we have included two pictures below. We have a photo of one of Tim's girls gathering nectar and another of an ant wrangling aphids which appear as tiny specs, while the ant is up at the top of the picture gathering some aphid honeydew.

We seem to be doing much better this year with box return. Everyone is doing well remembering to return their boxes and we would like to thank you for that since it saves a great deal of time and money.

We are hoping for another beautiful weekend, hope that you have a nice one!



ANT

APHIDS

This Week's Box
Onions
Tomatoes
Peppers
Lettuce
Potatoes
Spinach
Summer Squash
?Spaghetti Squash

Next Week
Onions
Lettuce
?Tomatoes
?Peppers
Potatoes
Summer Squash?
Japanese Greens
Delicata