

The Farm Weekly

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DRY, DRY, AND MORE DRY

As we looked at the radar image on the National Weather Service website on Saturday, it showed the rain following a perfect line south of Interstate 70. Tim and Ian emptied the rain gauge later that afternoon and poured out 9 drops. So the irrigation is still running continuously.

The irrigation keeps the vegetables from shutting down completely, but for some reason it just doesn't replicate a good rain. It may just be that with the bright and intense heat and sunshine, the transpiration from the foliage exceeds what we can provide.

Last week Tim planted spinach seed for transplanting and fall harvest. Spinach is difficult to germinate at this time of year in normal heat, let alone extreme dryness. In order to guarantee a fall crop, the soil must be moist to encourage the seed to sprout, but it also must be kept from forming a crust that keeps the shoot from being able to break through the soil and into the light.

Lettuce will not germinate in hot weather, and so we must start it in a cool dark place. The last batch for the year germinated inconsistently 3 weeks ago, so Tim replanted when things cooled a bit, but vowed that next year if it is similarly hot, the basement floor will be covered in flats of potential lettuce plants. I can hardly wait!

The transplanter was put away for the year. All the transplanting is done

for 2005. Tim and the guys transplanted the lettuce, some more basil plants, and radicchio. Any other fall crops will be directly seeded.

The deer are at it again. We lost over 2000 lettuce plants last week. We have intensified our controls by eliminating cover. This is why there is no lettuce in your boxes this week. There are some areas where cultivation has been lacking hiding the lettuce. While the competition with the weeds can interfere with growth, in this case it has saved these plants. We are hoping the ruse will continue long enough to get them picked and in your boxes.

The watermelon is a small triumph for us, but there is no worry that Tim's head will swell with this success, for the rest of the melons are inconsistent in flavor, quantity, and ripening. Unfortunately not everyone will get a honeydew or mask melon, but we will have some.

We will have some corn in some of the boxes as well. Germination of this particular variety was spotty due to dry weather. So the number of ears is less than what we wanted, but we want you to have something. The next batches fared better, so hopefully we will have better luck with these later plantings, and you will see more when these are harvested.

We know that it can get a bit monotonous at this time of year with the tomatoes, cabbage and summer squash. Don't forget our

website for recipes. There are some excellent offerings on the recipes page that have been submitted by members in the last few years.

Member Anna C. suggests taking the cabbage and slicing it thin or grating it. Then combine it with any or all of the follow-

ing: grated or chopped carrot, onion, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumber, summer squash, green pepper, sunflower seeds, and add your choice of dressing to taste.

REMINDER...

***Pickups are between 3:00 and 6:00, show up early at your own risk!**

***Please be careful opening and collapsing your boxes. We are getting back several that have been ruined.**

Black Bean Salsa submitted by Kathy W.

- 1 15 oz can black beans -- rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn
- 2 tomatoes -- diced
- 1 red bell pepper -- diced
- 1 green bell pepper -- diced
- 1 1/2 cups red onion -- diced
- 2 jalapeno chile peppers -- seeded and chopped
- 1/3 cup lime juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce

Combine the first 7 ingredients. Mix the last 5 ingredients and pour over the first 7 and chill.

Note: You can replace the first 5 ingredients with 5 cans of your favorite beans and pour the dressing over them and chill for a great bean salad

This Week's Box

Cabbage
Onions
Peppers
Summer Squash
Tomatoes
Watermelon
Corn (?)

Next Week

Onions
Summer Squash
Green Peppers
Lettuce (?)
Tomatoes
Melons (?)
Corn (?)