

March 16, 2016



Beaver Creek CSA

your local food connection!

BEAVER CREEK GARDENS
beavercreekgardens.org

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Peppers up!

Full Subscription is \$595.00 for 3/4 bushel all 20 weeks.

Half Subscription is \$350 for 3/4 bushel 10 weeks.

Individual Subscription is \$240 for 1/2 bushel for 10 weeks. We will still take payments on these. Just email me for directions on how to set this up. If you have a friend interested have them call asap as we have a few left!



Garden and Weather Report

Hello from the Gardens!
As you can see from the pictures in this March newsletter, we did begin the seeding and the plants are up, at least most are. We put the peppers in last week and they take quite awhile to germinate, but about half are out of the germination chamber and in the greenhouse with the lazy (slow) half still in there. We have added tomatoes that Desi, Debbie B and I seeded this week. I start the peppers (see picture upper right) early as they are stinkers to germinate and are very slow growing.

The center picture is the cauliflower that you will get in your boxes in mid to late June. The lower right picture are the Asian Greens, Mizuna and Arugula, that I am starting in trays this year. We always have a great fall crop of these two greens, but the spring is a battle against the flea beetles. I am trying to outsmart them this year and get

the plants in the ground with at least 4-6 true leaves so that the beetles won't be able to eat them down to nothing overnight as they do when I seed directly into the ground. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this



works, because that Arugula in spring will taste sooo good!

After the last 1.5 inches of rain that we received this week, we are hoping for a few drying days so that we can begin to work the ground in the field. With those winds I hear outside today (forecasted to 60 mph gusts), the drying will go fast.

We still think the spring will be about a week to 10 days ahead of normal. With that said, we want to try to get in to work that ground as soon as possible so that I can get beds made and ready for transplanting those pictured cauliflower, broccoli and kale.

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We still have availability at most locations!

We have seeded this years Asian Greens in trays to get ahead of those awful spring flea beetles!



Garden and Weather Report

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As you can see below, the broccoli has two true leaves already (true leaves are the 2nd set of leaves that emerge after the two smooth leaves that push up from the seed (called cotyledans). The Cotyledans typically die after the plant matures, but the true leaves stay with the plant. We will be planting the broccoli, cauliflower and kale on our biodegradable mulch and covering them with agribond to protect them against any spring cold temperatures and the cabbage maggot fly that infests the plants when the soil temperatures get to 50 degrees. If we cover until the soil warms up past the 50 degrees, we can avoid this nasty fly that lays eggs at the base of these brassicas. The maggots then get into the main stem of the plant and kill it. There is not much you can do organically once this happens except watch the plant go down.

The picture on the lower right is of our germination chamber. We try to use everything we have for as many purposes as we can. This is a commercial refrigerator that I used early in my CSA but was replaced with a walk in cooler several years ago. Rather than sell or dispose, we converted it into a germination chamber by building PVC shelves and placing an immersion heater on the bottom. Immersion heaters work like your hot water heater except the tank is open. Look closely and you can see the water on the ceiling of the fridge. The temperature stays in the low 80 degree range with humidity at close to 100%. The germinating plants love this environment and it not only speeds up germination, but helps me get much more even germination. We are able to germinate 18 trays which is about 900 to 1300 plants at a time - really speeding things up. For example - those slow peppers typically take anywhere from 10 to 21 days to germinate and although I am still complaining about their speed, I am getting them out in 8 to 14 days instead. Broccoli takes about 2 days instead of a week - very fast.

Everyone have a safe and Happy Easter!

This Months Photo's

