

JUNE 8TH
ISSUE FIVE

THE SEEDLING CHRONICLE



SUMMER SQUASH AND ZUCCHINI

A PICTURE OF WHAT'S TO COME

Above: Straightneck Summer Squash and Zucchini

This Week's Share

Tomatoes:

Moskvich: Fruits are early, deep red, and cold tolerant. Rich taste. Smooth and globe-shaped. Indeterminate. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 60

Bellstar: Short-season, early plum. The medium-sized, red fruits are easy to harvest. Compact plant with a concentrated early set. Determinate. Days to Maturity: 65

Gold Nugget: An early, prolific, golden cherry tomato. Round to slightly oval fruits have a deep yellow color. Healthy, compact plants with a concentrated early set.



Determinate. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 56

Orange Blossom: Medium-firm, globe-shaped fruits have a nice texture, and are mildly flavored, balanced with a little acidity. Determinate. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 60

Sweet Peppers:

Ace: Amazing yields of medium-sized, 3 to 4-lobed, green bell peppers. Nearly every flower produces a pepper. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 50 green.

Apple: Mild, juicy, and sweetly fruity. Avg. 4" top-shaped fruits are slightly rounded. Medium-sized plants yield well in diverse climates. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 57 green

WELCOME TO THE 2011 GARDEN STARTS CSA

As June is upon us. There is no sign of frost in the forecast and if the wind dies down it will be perfect weather for everything outdoors--most importantly planting! We are moving from cool season crops to warm season crops. That's to say that the crops already in the ground can be neglected...well, maybe not *completely*, but I don't think it would do them harm if we focused our attention elsewhere. After all, it's with weather like this where when I turn my back on those cool season crops, even for just one second, as soon as I

return, they have doubled in size. So let those established plants show off so that we can prep the stage and allow the newcomers to step in and make their mark. I'll be out of town for this share, but that doesn't mean the plants won't make it. They will be waiting as always... and it will probably do them some good to have a break from my constant pestering.

Rylan Morton-Starnier
Garden Starts Coordinator

Nightshades

Though they taste nothing alike, peppers and tomatoes have more in common than one might suspect. For starters, they are members of the same family. They both belong to what is commonly called the nightshades. Like any family history, the story of the nightshades is full of strange and mysterious characters. The more monumental members (the ones you might find displayed in fancy frames above the fireplace) are common agricultural crops such as peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, and even potatoes. Though these tasty crops give the family its good reputation, there is also a darker side to the nightshades. Many of the plants are considered toxic. One member, Belladonna, has earned the name the "deadly nightshade". This plant is a perennial native to Europe, north Africa and western Asia. When consumed the foliage and the berries can be extremely toxic.

But, let's not worry too much about that. This week we are interested in peppers and tomatoes. Mainly with what to do with them to help get them going strong. For tomatoes, take note of the difference



between determinate and indeterminate. Determinates are bush varieties and do not need pruning. They can be grown with or without support and the fruit ripens within a concentrated time period. On the other hand, indeterminate is a climbing variety and should be staked, trellised, or caged. For best results they should be pruned by removing the "suckers" (see picture above) from the lower branches. Indeterminate fruit ripens over an extended period. Space peppers and tomatoes 12-24 inches apart. Indeterminate varieties of tomatoes can be spaced further. Abundant soil phosphorus is important for early high yields. Too much nitrogen causes rampant growth and soft fruits susceptible to rot. Since these are warm season crops plant in full sun. If nights drop below 35 degrees be sure to protect the plants with walls of water, row covers, etc, or if they are in pots bring pots inside.

Note to Members:
The Garden Starts CSA recycles! Please bring your flats and empty 6-packs back during the next pick-up and we'll use them again.

More on the Share

Hot Peppers:

Early Jalapeno: 2-2 1/2" x 1", sausage-shaped, blunt fruits mature early; dark green changing to red. Earlier, but lower yielding, than Conchos or El Jefe. Widely adapted. Days to Maturity: 60 green.

Hungarian Hot Wax: Yellow hot pepper with smooth, waxy fruits. Easy to stuff and to peel after roasting; thick-fleshed for frying. Early and widely adapted. Days to Maturity or Bloom: 58 pale yellow.

Summer Squash: Straightneck and Black Beauty Zucchini

Straightneck: Lemon-yellow, slightly rough, club-shaped fruits are generously produced on vigorous, semi-open plants. Harvest when 4 to 7 inches long.

Zucchini: Dark green, glossy fruits are long, straight and slender. Firm, very tender, good flavor.

Plant 9-12 inches apart.

Provider Bean:

Compact plants are easy to grow and adaptable to diverse soil and climate conditions. Produces 5 1/2" fleshy round pod green beans. Purple seeds. Days to Maturity: 50. Sow seeds about 2" apart, 1" deep.

Marigold: Lemon Gem

Bite-size for use as edible garnish. Hundreds of petite flowers cover neat, low mounds of lacy foliage with a citrusy scent. Long-blooming for beds, borders and containers. Ht. 8-10". Days to Maturity or Bloom: 60. Spacing 12 inches.