

JUNE 15TH
ISSUE SIX

THE SEEDLING CHRONICLE

This Week's Share

Winter Squash:

Honey Bear: New compact acorn squash produces squash weighing about one pound. The bushy plants spread to only 4 to 5 feet allowing for closer spacing in small gardens. High yielding plant has demonstrated tolerance to powdery mildew.



Spaghetti: Fruits average 9" long, and turn from buff to pale yellow when mature. Keeps well. Flesh is pale yellow and breaks up into spaghetti-like strands. Pulp can be removed easily with a fork after boiling in shell for about 30 minutes. Also bakes well.

Note on Winter Squash: Winter squash need plenty of sunlight, and a fertile, well-drained soil. Be careful not to disturb roots when transplanting. Plant 12-18 inches apart. Bees and insects are critical for good pollination and fruit set.



WINTER SQUASH

A PICTURE OF WHAT'S TO COME

Above: Winter Squash, Spaghetti and Honey Bear

WELCOME TO THE 2011 GARDEN STARTS CSA

The once overflowing greenhouse at the Rocky Mountain Research Station is now empty, transformed from a spotted green canopy to bare tables. It's a gloomy thing to see, but knowing the plants will be better off in the ground makes the sight bearable. In the emptiness, I imagine the space as it was: A bustling household of sorts, with siblings growing up alongside one another, the older members leaving first, the younger soon after, until eventually the house becomes desolate.

No house, especially one so full, remains completely free of sickness and disease. Like a cold, bugs come in, jump from one plant to another and wreak havoc on the plants. This year Thrips seemed to be the biggest problem (Basil being the hardest hit). However, let's



not dwell on that, for the positive aspects- as always seems to be the case with growing- far outweighs any adversities.

In the end, all experiences combine and leave us with a better understanding of the growing process. I know I have learned a lot this season, and look forward to using this knowledge in the future. And on behalf of everyone involved in the Garden Starts program we thank you, the shareholders. For it is you who deserve the most credit,

because without your support none of this would be possible. With this said, it is with pleasure that I follow the plants out of the greenhouse and into the heat of summer.

Rylan Morton-Starner
Garden Starts Coordinator



More on the Share

Cucumbers:

Diva: Fruit are dark green, semi-glossy, spineless, and 6 to 8 inches long. Mild sweet flavor, crisp texture, and tender skin make this an excellent eating and slicing cucumber. All female plants have high yield potential. Tolerance to multiple common cucumber diseases.

Wisconsin SMR: Black spines, blocky, slightly tapered fruits grow 2 ½ inches thick and 6 inches long. Very productive. Perfect for dill pickles. The plant is resistant to Cucumber Mosaic virus and Scab disease.

Note on cucumbers: Plant in full sun, well drained location. For better drainage plant in hills, 2-3 plants per hill. Pick fruit before color turns to yellow. Regular picking promotes more fruiting.

Basil: Nufar

Large leaf type. Leaves up to 4" long, sweet scent and flavor.

Genovese basil that is resistant to Fusarium wilt. Plant in full sun 2-8 inches apart.



Violets: Helen Mount

The true "Johnny-Jump-Up". Also known as Hearts-Ease. 1-2 inch tricolor flowers in purple, yellow, and white. Abundant blooms make dainty garnishes. May reseed. Plant in full sun to partial shade; rich, moist, well-drained soil. Space 6-9 inches apart. Flowers are Edible. Harvest when fully open.

Cover Crops

Its hard to think about winter in the summer, but cover cropping is something that shouldn't be ignored. Cover crops help build soil quality in a variety of different ways. Below are some examples of how cover crops can help in your garden:

- Control weeds
- Protect soil from rain or runoff
- Improve soil aggregate stability
- Reduce surface crusting
- Add active organic matter to soil
- Break down hardpan
- Maintain biodiversity
- Fix nitrogen

- Scavenge soil nitrogen
- Suppress soil diseases and pests

This year we chose to include winter rye seed in the share. Rye can be grown alone or can be used with a nitrogen fixing crop, such as vetch. Rye is a cold-tolerant grain making it an excellent cover crop for fall planting. It has a well-developed fibrous root system that reduces leaching of soil nitrates. The top growth provides soil cover and suppresses weeds. Winter Rye is very easy to establish. Simply prepare a seed bed free of clods and weeds, broadcast seed evenly over plot, and rake in. Be sure to cut rye down before it goes to seed and to plow it under the soil so it can begin to decompose before planting spring crops.