

APRIL 25TH
ISSUE ONE

THE SEEDLING CHRONICLE



COLLARDS

A PICTURE OF WHATS TO COME

Above: Congregation of Collards at The Rocky Mountain Research Station Greenhouse.

This Weeks Share

Collards: Flash

'Flash' offers repeated harvests of dark green leaves and is very slow to bolt. This variety has a dark green color with broad, wavy, tender leaves. Collards are very hardy and will increase in eating quality into late fall. Days to Maturity: 55. As of share date seedlings are 30 days old. Plant 8-12 inches apart

Onions: Purplette

Flavorful purple-red skinned mini onions that mature early and hold well. Can be harvested at



golf ball size or very young as baby bunching onions with purple pearl ends. days to maturity: 70-120. Harvest young plants 70 days or up to 120 days for more mature plants. As of share date seedlings are 55 days old. Plant clusters 4 inches apart.

Onions: Evergreen Hardy White

Winter hardy bunching onion. Little or no bulbing. May be handled as a perennial by dividing the clumps the second summer to produce a new crop. Days to Maturity: 70-120. Harvest young plants 70 days or up to 120 days for more mature plants. As of share date seedlings are 50 days old. Plant one inch apart or clusters 4-6 inches apart.

WELCOME TO 2011 GARDEN STARTS CSA



Hello everyone! Welcome to a new season with Flagstaff Garden Starts CSA. This year the Garden Starts program has partnered with Foodlink, NAU and the Forest Service. Foodlink helps out with administration support and, as the name implies, strives to create a link between the community and the local food system. NAU's Sustainable Communities program has hired Julia Johannesen to help with the work load, and the Forest Service has allowed us to use the Rocky Mountain Research Station's greenhouse facility. As in the

past, Flagstaff Native Plant and Seed remains the backbone of the now non-profit operation and has hired me for the Garden Starts CSA coordinator held last year by Meredith Hartwell. So rest assured, your veggies, herbs and edible flowers are in many, many sets of good hands!



Above: View Of Greenhouses.



But, alas, I can hear you whispering to yourself “That’s all

very interesting but what about this week’s share? We want to plant!” So, knowing that we will return to these partnerships in more detail down the road, it is necessary, for the sake of planting, to move on. I mean after all the sun is shining. And those clouds

huddled against the horizon in the distance, are not menacing but a subtle reassurance of afternoon shade. When it comes to transplanting, what else could we ask for? Well, actually, a light sprinkle would be nice.

*Rylan Morton-Starner
Garden Starts CSA
Coordinator*

Transplanting and Fertilizing:

At the research station the seedlings have been exposed to cooler temps and windier conditions for the last week. This hardening-off process is beneficial for preparing the plants for the outdoors, where temperatures fluctuate and wind can be extreme. Depending on where you live in Flagstaff, weather can vary considerably, so it’s a good idea to acclimate the plants to your site before



transplanting them to the garden. Here’s how: Place plants in a sheltered, shady spot outdoors. Bring them inside at night or any time of day the weather becomes inhospitable. Gradually expose them to more sun. After two or three days, you can safely keep them in the sun for half a day, then return them to the shade. By the end of the week they can remain in full sun all day and are ready for transplanting. If possible transplant seedlings on an overcast day or in the early evening. Always handle plants gently by their leaves or by the root ball because stems are very sensitive. Try not to disturb roots or expose them to sunlight for more than a few moments. Before transplanting, water the seedling’s roots with a dilution of seaweed extract, fish emulsion, or other organically approved fertilizers, and soak soil around plants thoroughly to help reduce transplant shock. Water plants twice a day until established.

More on the Share

Peas: Snow Sweet

Dual purpose peas. 3-3 1/2" pods with excellent, sweet taste. They are stringless and plump up like snap peas when mature so they can be used as either a snow pea or a snap pea. The avg. 24" vines do not need support. Days to maturity: 60. Sow in shallow trenches, 1/2-1 inch deep, spacing seeds 1-3 inches apart.



Feeding Your Plants:

Flagstaff Native Plant and Seed carries the following organically approved fertilizers for your veggie starts: Seaweed Extract; Fish Emulsion; Peace of Mind, All Purpose Fertilizer; Peace of Mind Tomato and Vegetable Fertilizer; Peace of Mind, Fruit and Flower Fertilizer.



Above: View From Inside Greenhouse.

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.