

Schreiber & Sons CSA

It's a Culinary Adventure

Schreiberandsons.com

October 5, 2009

Week XXIII (only 5 weeks left)

In this week's box, from your farmer you can expect:

- Bell pepper
- Carrots
- Mixed greens
- Green honeydew for large members
- Little orange pumpkins
- Tomatilloes
- Farmers choice
- Summer squash
- Acorn squash
- Brussels sprouts
- Eggplant
- Bok Choy/Chinese cabbage for medium/large share members
- Mustard greens

Bonfire at the Farm. It was nice having about 150 CSA members at the farm 10 days ago; it was not so nice to have the windstorm. Because of the wind we were not able to have the bonfire. The bonfire serves more than a social purpose, it is how we get rid of our prunings for the year. We need to burn our prunings and we are going to be doing so this Saturday evening. Long before we had the CSA we had our prunings fire on a cool Fall weekend, often at the end of day of pumpkin picking. It was always a very fun event we enjoyed with our friends. This year it is going to be a very casual and laid back event. If you want to come out to the bonfire, we would love to have you come out to the farm on Saturday evening. We will have a bonfire and will have hotdogs, buns and fixings for smores. If you want to come, please do, but please bring a side dish, table service and your drinks. If you want to pick up your giant pumpkin this would be a good time, you probably could get an extra pumpkin or two or three. *If you are going to come, you need to RSVP, so we can plan accordingly. You can email us or call the office at 266 4348. If you want your pumpkin(s), come at 4 pm, otherwise come around 5 pm, I expect the fire will start at round 6 pm.*

What to Expect. There are five weeks of produce delivery after this week, so the count down to the end of the season has begun. This is the time of the year when it gets a little tricky on what to put in the boxes. Right now we are focusing on getting things in the boxes that we might lose if there is a freeze or too much cold weather. We have already ended eggplant harvest. We pick one last serving of eggplant before it got cold- but this is it for the eggplant. It is very likely this is the last of the mustard greens and summer squash. Melons have all been picked. From now on, most of what we have are items that can withstand night time temperatures in the 30s.

We actually have a schedule of what you will be getting each week from here on out. We have a couple of surprises for you. Things we have been growing all seasons to give you towards the end of the seasons. We have some really fun fall, seasonal items for you. If you like the little pumpkins this week, you are going to love what comes next... each week it is going to get better. However, the last week or two it gets really dicey about how much we have. If it freezes during the next two weeks, there will be less than if it stays warm, so cross your fingers.

If you are an organic member, your last delivery will be November 10th, if you are a conventional member your last delivery will be November 12th.

Brussel Sprouts. I have to take a moment and pat Schreiber & Sons on the back. BRUSSEL SPROUTS. We were able to grow Brussel sprouts. I do not know anyone in Eastern Washington who has successfully grown these crops. The truth is we have been trying for three years and this is the first time we have got a commercial crop. To grow sprouts you need to have a very long cool season---something we do not have here, but by a combination of variety selection, luck, the right weather and lots and lots of aphid control efforts, we have Brussel sprouts. Now if we can just get our kids to eat them.

Surplus produce. We have surplus potatoes, carrots, green onions, bell peppers, hot peppers and lots and lots of cardoon (ha ha ha ha, seriously if anyone wants a second helping let us know). We also have a few watermelons that are too big to go into the boxes.

Boxes. I want to pat all of you on the back for returning your boxes. We average around 80% return rate. That is great and we would like to encourage you to keep up the good effort.

Thank your Pick Up Site Coordinators. Twice each week, the pick up site coordinators come out and pick up the left over boxes. They give away or donate left over produce to food banks. They donate the use of the drive ways twice a week. Undoubtedly, they have had late night knocks on the door and phone calls from people

who have forgot their boxes. Be sure to express your appreciation to these people who have made our CSA possible.

What is going on at the farm. Harvest is over or ending for a lot of crops, including all of the melons and eggplants. We are trying to hold on to a late planting of Japanese eggplant. We are drying peppers, herbs and some other fall seasonal crops. Winter squash harvest starts today. We have planted and transplanted the two greenhouses. We are planting cover crops for the spring organic ground. The biggest job we have going on right now is removing the roughly 50 acres of plastic mulch and drip tape. We hope to complete that by Friday at noon. Now that most of our harvest is over, and once the plastic is up, we have to lay off most of our workers. Assuming this is done by Friday, we have a barbeque for our workers. It is the one time of the year that everyone on the farm stops what they are doing and we all eat together.

Your Farmer

Alan Schreiber