

# Schreiber & Sons CSA

*It's a Culinary Adventure*

Schreiberandsons.com

May 26, 2009

Week IV

In this Weeks's box

- Asparagus
- Oregano
- Mint
- Spinach
- Radish
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- Bok Choy
- Salad mix
- Spring onions

**Memorial Day Barbeque.** We had about 275 people attend the barbeque. If you missed it, never fear, we will have a fall harvest party. If you made Sunday's event, you should still come to the fall event as it is completely different-you will not recognize the farm in September. One item of business-someone left a very nice collapsible black chair at the party. Let us know who you are and we will drop it off with your box.

**Organic Or Not Organic.** In general, everything we grow conventionally we grow organically, however there are exceptions. For example, we do not have organic apples or pears. In order to have balance, we grow some items only for the organic members. It is our goal that there is good balance between the two kinds of shares. Sometimes we have to offer conventional produce for the organic shares. Our organic asparagus is relatively young and we cannot harvest it for as long as the conventional asparagus. Friday was the last day of organic asparagus harvest, so this week the organic shares will have conventional asparagus. For what it is worth the conventional asparagus is pesticide free. Sometimes we have organic produce for a particular item but it is not available in conventional; this week the spring onions are all organic even the conventional shares will have organic onions.

**The Washington State Diet.** We are putting together our little group of Washington State Dieters. Just think one year-all Washington food. We will probably put together a support group that will include a Master Preserver to help them preserve food, possibly have a few restaurants whip up some Washington only menus and source local produce items. I will host a kick off event in mid to late June and start the event sometime around July 1. Lots of work to do ahead of that date.

I need some help--does anyone know where there is a Washington source of salt or sugar (other than honey)?

**What is going on out at the farm?** The warm weather means the the crops are using a lot of water so we are now watering seven days a week. We have one person on the farm whose job is just turning

water on and off all over the farm. For most crops we water them every other day. We are still planting or transplanting five to six days a week.

On Monday, Tracy and I walk the farm first thing in the morning and decide what to pick for the CSA this week. The farm workers start at 6:30, Tracy and I are at the farm by 7 and finish up what to pick by 8:30. From 6:30 to 8:30, the CSA farm workers weed, after 8:30 they start picking, trimming, bundling, bunching, washing and packing. We pick most of the organic produce on Monday, but finish up by 10:00 am on Tuesday. By 10:30, they start filling the boxes. They complete the boxes and have them loaded by 2:00 pm. The truck departs at 2:17 and has a very strict schedule and it must be at each stop and leave each stop at a very specific time in order to keep on schedule. While the box truck starts on its trip into town, we start picking for Thursday's delivery. By the end of Wednesday we try to have most of the produce picked. Whatever is not done on Wednesday, we finish up first thing on Thursday morning. We start loading the boxes on Thursday by 10:00 and have them filled and on the truck by 2:00 pm for our 2:17 departure. After the truck departs, we shift our attention to weeding, planting seeds and other farming duties. On Friday, we do other jobs around the farm, including weeding, big transplant and seeding jobs. We also pick for the Saturday Farmers Market. The workers work until noon on Saturday and occasionally until 3 if the work load is especially heavy. As a rule, farmer workers never work on Sundays, except for three workers who come in and cut the asparagus. This takes 3 hours, and the workers rotate the responsibility for cutting the asparagus. In consultation with my Crew Chief, I lay out the responsibilities and workload and the workers set their hours. They pick the start time and the end time. For example, today I noticed the workers were departing at 4:30 instead of the usual 5:00 pm. When I asked my Crew Chief what was up with the earlier departure, he replied, "We decided that we wanted to start at 6:30 instead of the usual 7:00, so we can get home earlier."

One other thing going on at the farm is bailing our one acre of alfalfa. Does anyone want to buy a small amount of alfalfa? We have a small amount if you are interested.

This Friday and Saturday we will start the process of planting 4 acres of cantaloupe (that is 23,000 plants). We will finish this by Tuesday. On Friday of next week we will start planting 8 acres of eggplant (45,000 plants).

Never a dull moment on the farm.

If anyone wants to volunteer to weed, let us know... we have lots of weeds begging to be ripped out by their vicious little roots.

Your Farmer,

Alan Schreiber