

Schreiber & Sons CSA

It's a Culinary Adventure
www.schreiberandsons.com

March 13, 2009

Hello CSAers,

First, The Bad News. @!#\$%^&* weather. The record low this Tuesday for Pasco was 23 degrees, until this year. It got down to 14 degrees! We also set records on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Farming is based on the assumptions that weather is normal or at least that it does not fall outside record limits. We have been planting in the greenhouse, even though we have a new roof to increase the insulation capacity and we had the heater going all night it still froze inside the greenhouse. Not Good!

The cold weather has two kinds of impacts on us. We cannot get certain crops in the greenhouse to germinate and/or grow. Also, it keeps the soil temperature too low to plant. A week ago soil temperatures were 39 degrees, today they are 36 degrees—it is actually getting colder. We do not plant until soil temperatures are at 40 degrees. Our entire planting plan is based on the assumption that soil temperatures reach 40 degrees during the first week of March. These cold temperatures are really holding us back. We had planned to be planting in the open fields this week and to have planted a large number of other items in the greenhouse, but we could not. Very frustrating for us.

Second, The Good News. All is not lost. Most of what we planted in the greenhouse were some of the more cold hardy crops and the while their growing is slowed down, they were not killed. See the picture of the bok choy seedlings below. If you ever saw a picture of optimism it is tray of seedlings in the greenhouse. Just think of the promise those seedlings represent. These pictures were taken today... after the freezing temperatures in the greenhouse.

Things will be get better... we are entering into a warmer weather pattern and supposedly we are past the freezing temperatures for quite a while.

Third, Even Better News. It is a long story about why we stopped accepting memberships for small shares, but after some gentle prodding from some members and some want-to-be

members we are going to re-open accepting small shares. We think a medium share is a better deal price wise and variety wise, but we understand that some folks just cannot work their way through this much produce. We hope that everyone with a medium share sticks with it, but if you took a medium share because you could not get a small share let us know and we can “down size” you.

I want to reiterate that a small share is just that-small, it is suitable for two people or 1 person who really likes to eat a lot of produce.

Membership. We have attached an updated brochure with the much maligned words “sold out” removed. If you know folks who may be interested, please go ahead and forward this to them or direct them to our website at schreiberandsons.com.

CSA Activities. We have not scheduled the children’s/Scout Tour but it will be last week or next to the last week of May. I am not sure of the time of day, but I assume it will be a weekend or after school. The CSA Farm Party will be the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.