

# What's Cookin'...at Brookside?

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Greetings CSA Family and Friends!

Kaput! The summer veggies are goners folks. We have had day after day of light frost, and are now building compost piles with the detritus of former abundance. Amazing to think what those tomato, squash and pole bean vines once gave us.

We got the fall-winter greens planted. The main bed is in the former potato section, and other greens are at the far western section where the spring grains existed. Thanks to the volunteers who have helped plant these in recent weeks, including Mindee, Deb and Anna.



In addition to the compost crops, more garlic and potato onions need planting. Our compost crops are a mix of legumes, specifically banner fava beans, bell beans, Austrian peas, vetch, and often some barley too. The Earthway seeder places the seeds below the surface about an inch, which will foil the birds and keep seeds moist if we get rain followed by a dry spell.

We are likely to have wet weather for the next week or so. This should help establish the cover crops, but I am not sure all the corn has dried yet, and I'd like to harvest dry beans. There's a risk they will mildew. The sunflowers and small grains are now being stored in my greenhouse, a perfect dry and warm spot, so they are fine. Sure would be nice to have a barn at the farm right now!

While summer veggies are "finito," your baskets will remain heavy with the staples of potatoes and onions. Lettuce is still doing fine and spinach will be coming along soon. We are going to be low on carrots and beets until the new batch kicks in. We may begin distributing winter squashes soon. Winter baskets will have these sorts of items plus Jerusalem artichokes and Cole crops. We will process the dry corn with a sheller and distribute whole kernels, which are fine for stews or corn meal.

Brookside School hired a new Garden Enhanced Nutrition Educator, Tara. She's begun giving classes tours of the farm and we are planning to build an outdoor classroom—basically a small cover over picnic tables and a stainless steel sink to clean veggies. It is no secret that Tara wants to help incorporate farm produce into the cafeteria. The kids continue to munch veggies gleefully when they visit.

To raise funds for farm building projects, such as the outdoor classroom and the barn, look for a raffle of our incredibly spooky Giant Pumpkins at the Harvest Moon Festival, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm along Main Street. Yes, these pumpkins do strike fear in the hearts of sturdy, macho men. But that's not all! It is definitely good luck to rub their smooth skin.

Happy Eating!            Jason