



Locally, Sustainably and Educationally Grown

Summer CSA: Week 2



The summer heat is kicking into full gear! This week we experienced consecutive days of 90 degree weather with 50-60 degree evenings. Our GDD (growing degree day) dependent crops are growing like crazy! As you'll notice, this week we have cucumbers in the CSA, and we're very excited about it. Our other warm weather crops such as



zucchini, tomatillos, and tomatoes
are soon to follow!

Things to Remember

- CSA pickup is every Wednesday from 4pm-6pm.
- We do not distribute our CSA's in boxes, so please bring a reusable produce bag to transport your share home in. Small produce bags will be helpful too as we start distributing some vegetables without bags or ties.
- If you can't make it during this time, please email or call us to arrange another time to come get your share. Contact info can be found at the footer of this email.

"So, what's in the CSA for this week?"

Summer CSA: week 2

We could not be more thrilled to provide you with a bountiful share of hand harvested, hand washed, passion borne fresh vegetables

Red Ace (F1) Bulk Beets

Mokum* (F1) Carrots

Cucumbers* (several varieties)

Sugar Snap and Sugar Ann Peas

Lacinato, Redbor (F1), and Winterbor (F1) Kale

Red and Green Salanova Lettuce*

Azur Star (F1) Purple and Winner (F1) Green Kohlrabi

Bright Lights Swiss Chard
Flat and Curly Leaf Parsley
Aroma (F1) Basil

Cut flowers available for \$6 a bouquet

U-pick herbs readily available upon request

Oregano

Rosemary

Thyme

Lemon Balm

Marjoram

* = new this week

Student Biographies



Chaoben Li, or Ben, is an exchange student from Wenzhou, China. Wenzhou is located in the Zhejiang province in the southeastern part of the country and was home to over three million people in 2010! Ben has been in Bozeman since January to study environmental science and environmental engineering as a junior. Ben has never had previous gardening experience before, but his favorite vegetable is potatoes and

Written by Kaylee Arnold



Teale Harden is a senior in the Sustainable Food and Bioenergy System program with a focus in Food Systems. She is currently finishing the final courses necessary to complete her degree, including Culinary Marketing: Farm to Table. Teale previously worked with Towne's Harvest Garden last summer during her practicum and looks forward to continuing to engage with the public about local

his favorite fruit is watermelon. While here at Towne's Harvest, he is getting the opportunity to grow his own potatoes in the Strip Garden near the main entrance of the farm!

When he's not at the farm, Ben likes to play basketball and video games. When he heads home in August, Ben plans to continue his studies in environmental engineering to potentially deal with pollution problems. We will miss Ben when he heads home, and he says that he'll miss the smaller and kinder population of beautiful Bozeman, Montana.

foods while helping to distribute CSA shares. She hopes to relocate to the Bay Area this fall to pursue a career in food and environmental justice.

Tool of the Week

By Ariana Bergeson



Row Cover

Row cover can come in many shapes and sizes. It can be black, green, white, or transparent - each have their benefits and drawbacks. For the most part row cover is a fairly cheap and reasonable investment. The row cover we use is Agribon ag-19. The purpose of using row cover on the farm is to help protect plants from heat, hail, frost, animals, and other environmental factors that could cause damage to the crops. We use a white, semi-transparent fabric that we value primarily for its protection from pests and frost, but also for its ability to keep the soil warmer than uncovered areas. Warmer soil encourages faster plant growth! It also allows for air to flow freely in between the plants so they don't overheat.

This year we have put row cover on our zucchini, kale, cabbage, broccoli, peppers, cabbage, and kohlrabi. Row cover can work wonders, but it can also overstay its welcome. If not taken off at the right time it could cause more harm than good. A good rule to know is when the leaves get big enough to touch the inside of the row cover it is time to remove it! Another caveat with row cover is that it can make weed management more difficult because it also encourages faster weed growth. If timing and weeding is kept up, row cover can be a saving grace for sensitive vegetables.

Crop of the Week

By Ariana Bergeson



Peas, or *Pisum sativum*, have been cultivated and used around the world since nearly the dawn of agriculture. They come in many different shapes, colors, and sizes but are all equally delicious. Eat them in a salad, stir-fry, casserole, or just right off the vine! No matter how you choose to enjoy these green pods, they are a great source of Vitamins A and C.

This year we have planted several different varieties of peas. Sugar Ann, was the first variety we harvested but they were slow to keep producing. Early in the season we considered taking down the peas due to weed and pest pressure, specifically damage from pea leaf weevils and Richardson's ground squirrels. We decided to keep them up, hoping that they'd grow out of both issues, and they have done rather well. The second variety of snap peas are Super Sugar Snap, and they were planted on 3/29. We have been harvesting off of that variety for several weeks now and it has proven to be very successful. We also have a variety of snow pea that have also been doing well in the field. Snow peas are a flatter, less sweet pea cultivar that are more commonly used in stir-fries. The majority of our peas that we harvest are of the Super Sugar Snap variety. This is because they have continued to flower and make plump pods throughout the early season. This variety can grow to be several feet tall and can continue to produce if the conditions are right. We are currently reaching the end of our peak pea season because of the rising temperatures. We hope that you enjoy these sweet treats as much as we have!



Need a great summer gift to give to family member, friend, or acquaintance?

Follow the link below to purchase the newest addition to our CSA program - harvest bucks! Harvest bucks are a gift certificate for our on campus farm stand. Harvest Bucks are unique because you receive an added value of 10% more than what you paid for! For example, if you purchase \$50 of harvest bucks you will receive \$55 worth of coupons to use at our farm stand on anything that you'd like!

If you've already purchased harvest bucks and haven't already received them they can be redeemed at our campus farm stand during any hour of operations.

Farm stand is held every Thursday from 3:00pm-5:30pm at Montana State University in-between the Student Union Building and Barnard Hall.

<http://townesharvest.montana.edu/communitysupportedag/>



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