



# Earthwise Delights

News & views from Earthwise Farms CSA

May 14, 2010

## The now and future farm

**S**pring planting is still perking along on the farm. This is our third year with this land and we're bringing the sixth of our 14 fields on line so we have more room for your luscious produce. Every day gets us further along but sometimes it seems like we'll never finish!

We're also planning the next phase: a new herb & flower garden that'll have raised beds, pathways and places to sit for classes and programs. We're hoping to have it ready for planting this coming Fall.

So why does it take us three years to get six fields on line but just a couple of seasons to put in an herb and flower garden? The difference is in the soil. The raised beds will cost quite a bit but because we're only setting them on top of the land, not fixing the land itself, we can get go faster. For a small space that's feasible, but for bigger harvests we need to plant straight into the soil.

Getting soil into shape for growing and keeping it up from season to season is one of a farmer's most important

jobs. Whatever's in the soil gets into the produce, so we're passionate about making it wonderful.

In this case we're converting land that used to be farmed conventionally into a sustainable growing environment.

It's much better all around but takes time to get going. We have to build up organic matter and nutrients, plus re-establish and sustain beneficial organisms. To do that we lay out cardboard or paper, then pile on leaves, compost, aged manure and other materials. Over many weeks those break down, we mix it in some, then do it again and again. It takes a lot of natural materials so everywhere we go we hunt for more, so much so that farmer Debi gets a little ribbing now and then about her bushy truck! We also take the chickens from section to section so they can "donate" while eating weeds and bad bugs.

At some point this season's planting will be done but soil development goes on all year long. It's just one of the many ways we keep building... for this season and for our- and your- future.



## Your CSA share

This Spring delivery is #5 for 2010-11. Egg sharers get eggs; Regular & odd-week sharers get:

- Spinach
- Strawberries
- Kale
- Baby yellow squash
- New crop Vidalia onions
- Spring salad mix
- Parsley

Sign-up today! Only

**28 regular shares\* left.**

\*more if medium shares

## Get your gifts!

**G**ift certificates for full year pay shareholders have all been sent. Those for payments mailed on the deadline got to us later so just went out.

We'll soon have a system set up so you can easily buy one from our website. Until then **contact us for more info.** Order by Monday & you'll get it with your Friday delivery!



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## Coming attractions

While we can't say for sure exactly when they'll be ready, here's a list of goodies that're on their way.

### About 1-2 weeks:

- String beans

### About 2-4 weeks:

- Zucchini squash
- Patty pan squash
- Peaches

## Seasonal signup is a-ok again

**A**fter hearing from several folks who for travel or other reasons want produce for only 1-2 seasons a year we've added back that option. It'll take a few days to change the form but as of now we'll accept one season commitments. For now use the same form and write in "Spring Only". Costs are the same as the quarterly pay plan.