

Kingfisher Farm 2023 CSA Season in Review



What a great 2023 CSA season, despite the many challenges! Here we've put together a breakdown of the weekly events and the weekly CSA boxes as we look forward to the abundance of 2024!

January: A time of planning – lots of spreadsheets, data analysis from last year, and piles of those beautiful seed catalogs. I like to lock in our seed orders by the first week in January to ensure we get the varieties we rely on – at this point, we know which varieties grow well on this hill and it's a good feeling to get those seeds locked in. Of course, who can resist trialing new stuff every year? I allow myself to be tempted by at least 4 or 5 new varieties a year!

February: Plenty of time in the orchard pruning and setting aside scion wood for grafting and making new trees. We also joined in partnership with NOFA-NY to provide half-price CSA shares to families and individuals in need. CSA members contributed 25% of the cost, with enormous generosity!

March: Get onion seeds started! There are even a few early tomato and long-season pepper seeds it makes sense to get going in March. We also did grafting workshops at Madison County Cooperative Extension and at Salt Lake City Farm.

April: Insane hot spell! We had 90 degree days in early April – it was miserable for onion planting time. Tiny, vulnerable onion plants that shake off spring wet and cold, absolutely despise sun, wind, and heat. We plowed on, and those early conditions really knocked back our onion crop. The heat wave also sent our nursery trees headlong into bud burst, so that many trees remained in the nursery an extra year rather than digging them with open buds.

May: An intense drought set up by mid-month and continued well into June. Worst possible time for a drought! Baby plants with no root system are screaming for water (by the thousands). We irrigated like crazy, while keeping a wary eye on the ever-diminishing pond.

June: The drought continued, the smoky haze rolled in. For better or worse, we worked through it all, pulling out every trick in the bag to keep young plants alive. Fortunately, we had Andreas for help, one of the toughest workers to show up at the farm yet. We stuck with it – Jackie, myself, Andrew, Andreas – and by force of will, we got all the spring planting done. Somehow, through it all, the apple trees set fruit!

July: Rains returned! We settled into a harvest, weed, plant mode and began to really reap the rewards of the farm. We got the fall crops planted into good conditions. My family and I took a 4-day vacation to Montauk, camping on the beach!

August: Steady, abundant harvest. Reasonable amount of rain. August settled us into a nice season, and we knew we had made it at that point. Aside from the scarcity of onions, most of the 40+ crops we grow were in great shape!

September: Love the abundance of September! Beautiful organic apple crop!

October: Warm, sunny, very little frost. Frost came very late in the month. Easy conditions for planting many thousands of garlic and harvesting many tons of root crops!

November: A mellow, easy November for continued and prolonged harvest of tomatoes, peppers, mixing nicely with abundant Fall crops!

December: Made a few late batches of apple cider, got most jobs at the farm tied up, and finally took a break! Rest a bit, and let those new ideas for expanding and improving the farm percolate. We always enjoy the solstice and the peace of the holiday season!

June 5

•Cherry Tomato Plants

•Basil Plants

•Swiss Chard

•Kale

•Spinach

•Lettuce

•Radishes

•Spring Onions

•Pea Shoots

June 19

•Bok Choy

•Spring Onions

•Radishes

•Kale

•Escarole

•Lettuce

•Beets

•Broccoli

•Cauliflower

•Spinach

•Garlic Scapes

June 12

•Kale

•Spinach

•Lettuce

•Radishes

•Spring Onions

•Pea Shoots

June 26

•Beets

•Sugarsnap Peas

•Zucchini

•Garlic Scapes

•Cucumber

•Spring Onions

•Swiss Chard

•Escarole

•Lettuce

•Cauliflower

•Radishes



July 3

- Sugarsnap Peas
- Broccoli
- Kohlrabi
- Sweet Onions
- Lettuce
- Beets
- Radishes
- Zucchini
- Cucumber
- Swiss Chard

July 18

- Celery
- Carrots
- Cabbage
- Fennel
- Broccoli
- Beets
- Cucumbers
- Zucchini
- Sweet Onions
- Fresh Garlic

July 11

- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Beets
- Sugarsnap peas
- Lettuce
- Zucchini
- Cucumber
- Sweet Onions
- Fresh Garlic

July 25

- Tomatoes
- Eggplant
- Green Beans
- Cucumbers
- Zucchini
- Yellow Squash
- Peppers
- Celery
- Fennel
- Fresh Garlic
- Sweet Onions



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a large, ripening tomato. The tomato is green at the top and transitions to a reddish-orange at the bottom. The background is a blurred garden with green foliage and pink flowers.

August 1

- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Eggplant
- Peppers
- Sweet Corn
- Lettuce
- Cucumbers
- Yellow Squash
- Carrots
- Sweet Onions
- Garlic
- Beets

August 8

- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Sweet Corn
- Zucchini
- Garlic
- Green Beans
- Cabbage
- Swiss Chard
- Beets
- Lettuce
- Sweet Onions



The background of the entire image is a dense, close-up photograph of various types of tomatoes, including cherry tomatoes and larger Roma-style tomatoes, in shades of red and orange.

August 15

- Carrots
- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Romas for sauce
- Green Beans
- Sweet Onions
- Beets
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Summer Squash
- Garlic
- Cucumbers
- Lettuce
- Pristine Apples

August 22

- Melons
- Sweet Corn
- Carrots
- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Romas for sauce
- Yellow Beans
- Sweet Onions
- Summer Squash
- Garlic
- Cucumbers
- Lettuce
- Escarole
- Red Scallions





August 29

- Carrots
- Sweet Corn
- Fingerling Potatoes
- Delicata Squash
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Romas for sauce
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Lettuce
- Red Scallions
- Garlic

September 5

- Broccoli
- Sweet Corn
- New Potatoes
- Acorn Squash
- Red Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Spinach
- Lettuce
- Storage Onions
- Sansa Apples
- Garlic



A close-up photograph of a basket filled with various apples, including red and purple varieties. The apples are piled together, and the lighting highlights their smooth, slightly textured skin. The basket's wooden rim is visible at the top and right edges.

September 11

•Fingerling Potatoes

•Tomatoes

•Sweet Corn

•Peppers

•Toscana Kale

•Swiss Chard

•Spinach

•Lettuce

•Storage Onions

•Garlic

•Sansa Apples

September 18

•Broccoli

•Cauliflower

•Delicata Squash

•Fingerling Potatoes

•Tomatoes

•Peppers

•Spinach

•Lettuce

Apples!

•Storage Onions

•Brussels Sprouts

•Garlic







Jackie



Andrew



**Thank you from the
Whole Farm Family!**



A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat, a white t-shirt with a graphic, and blue shorts, is smiling and giving a thumbs-up. She is standing in a field of dark brown soil with rows of small green seedlings. To her right is a red tractor with a black mesh guard. The background shows a green field under a bright sky.

So much more to come in 2024!!

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