

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

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April 09 Newsletter

The mainly, mild and dry March weather enabled us to do a good amount of early planting and cultivating, and we're hoping that the rest of Spring will ease us gently into a proper summer (after the 'proper' winter), fingers crossed. Our plant-raising greenhouse is steadily filling up with baby plants. We do not heat our greenhouse and just use a few electric heat-mats under the more tender plants (tomatoes, basil, cucumbers etc).

Home-delivery by Bicycle

A new venture in Canterbury, 'Velocity Couriers' has enabled us to offer doorstep delivery of our vegetable boxes within Canterbury by bicycle and trailer. We have a few customers already receiving their weekly box this way and the boxes cost just £1 more, delivered to your door. Velocity Couriers also deliver produce from Canterbury Wholefoods by bike, if any-one is interested, they can be contacted on 07799 484186 / 01227 769940

Wild Garlic

The short wild garlic season is here. We harvest the leaves from a large patch in woodland at Burscombe Cliff Organic Farm, Egerton and in return we provide waste potatoes for the organically reared pigs and cows there. Wild garlic was in the salad bags on 26/3 and you should get more, either in the salad bags, stir fry bags or on it's own. The flower buds and open white flower heads can all be eaten, and look lovely in a salad. Try a few leaves in a sandwich, or add at the very end of cooking to retain more flavour.

Stir-Fry Bag

The winter stir-fry bags seemed popular and we will be packing a spring stir fry bag this week (2/4) containing russian red kale, purple sprouting broccoli, pak choi, wild garlic and maybe more.

Box Contents

Staples- Potatoes in the boxes may be any of the following: - , 'Valor' – white skin, Ambo red/white skin and 'Romano' – red skin, firm .

Onions and carrots will be in the boxes weekly. We still have some carrots bought from an organic farm in Norfolk but we're not sure if we will get any more UK ones after they run out, so may have to buy imported carrots later in the month. The percentage of the carrots we had left in the field that are frost damaged is very high so we will not be able to put any more of our own in the boxes. We are growing an increased area of early carrots this year and they have just germinated but it takes about 90 days before they are ready to harvest.

Greens –seasonal greens are purple-sprouting broccoli (eat the leaves and flowering shoots), spinach, green chard, cabbage, leeks and green kale

Salad – salad will be in the boxes most weeks during April

Other –. We have a spring cauliflower variety, which should be ready April and we may also buy some in from Andrew Ward, organic grower at Wingham . Parsnips should be in the boxes at least once during April.

Mushrooms – We may buy in organic mushrooms again this spring, to add some variety to the boxes.

Wye Farmers Market The next few dates are April 4th and 18th and May 2nd and 16th

Whitstable Farmers Market The next few Markets will April 11th and 25th and May 9th & 23rd

Extras with Boxes The following can be ordered as extras with your standard box	Standard White Potatoes	1kg @ 80p	
	'Valor'	4kg @ £3.20	10kg @ £7
	Red Potato – 'Romano'	£1 / kg	10kg / £8
	Carrots	£1 / kg	
	Onions	£1 / kg	
	Spinach	£1 / 200g bag	
	Mixed Salad	£1.50 / bag	

Thanks for your continued support, from all at Ripple Farm Organics