

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

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April 2011 Newsletter

The recent mild, and fairly dry weather has seen us planting onion sets, early spuds and garlic. The seeding greenhouse is filling up with baby plants and some of these will be ready for transplanting soon.

At this time of year, many of our greens finally start growing again and then, spurred on by a bit of mild weather, do what comes naturally and try to flower. Great for purple sprouting broccoli, as the flower is the bit we eat, the flowering part of the various kales are tasty too, and make good stir-fry ingredients. So for the end of March/start of April we will have a glut of greens, followed swiftly by the 'Hungry Gap' when last year's crops have finished and we are waiting to harvest the New Season's ones. We do get a helping hand from polytunnels and crop covers though to try and bring forward the new season a bit.

Who are you? Still need to allocate a payment made to our bank, £42 received on 14 Jan??

NEW BANK DETAILS A reminder to change your standing order payments to our new account please, Sort Code 60-01-21 Acc No 47871164 (thanks to those that have changed already)

Organic Eggs - Organic, free-range eggs can be ordered as extras. These are from Andrew Ward, a Soil Association registered organic grower, from Wingham, near Canterbury, who supplies us with vegetables from time-to-time for the box scheme. ½ dozen medium eggs cost £1.50.

Recycling Bags – Thanks to all who have been returning poly bags, which have previously held our greens and salad. When we collect enough, we re-use them to pack potatoes for the box scheme.

Box Contents

Staples – Potatoes, onions and carrots continue weekly. Potatoes in the boxes through April may include: - whites - 'Toluca' and 'Valor'; red/white skinned ones are 'Ambo'; reds are 'Romano', all good all-rounders

Greens – Seasonal greens are green chard, leeks, cabbage, curly kale, 'Cavelo Nero' (black kale), spinach, spring greens and purple sprouting broccoli. Also, stir-fry bags containing a selection of greens.

Salad – Mixed leaf salad bags are infrequent at the moment. We may have some rocket soon depending on what the weather does.

Others – You may also have beetroot, parsnips, cauli and swede.

Squash – we still have some Crown Prince squash, which will be supplied as cut pieces, these need to be kept in the fridge and used within 4-5 days.

Wye Farmers Market The next few dates April 2nd and 16th, May 7th and 21st, 9am-12midday.

Whitstable Farmers Market The next few Market dates are April 9th and 23rd and May 14th and 28th at 9.30-2pm

Bridge Farmers Market The next few dates are, April 9th and 23rd and May 14th and 28th, 9am to 12 midday

Extras with Boxes	Potatoes (white or reds)	60p / kg	£5 / 10kg sack
	Baking potatoes	80p / kg	£7 / 10kg sack
	Onions	£1 / kg	
	Squash (Crown Prince)	£1 / kg	
	Kale (curly)	£1 / 250g bag	
	Carrots	£1 / kg	
	Organic med. eggs (Andrew Ward)	£1.50 for ½ dozen	

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. The flower buds and open white flower heads can also 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. You may find them in the salad bags and stir fry bags, as well as bagged on their own.

Also, look out for spring onions and green garlic towards the end of April.

NEW Follow us on Twitter @rippleorganics if you want to know what's happening on the farm day-to-day

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

