

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

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June 2010 Newsletter

A mixed bag of weather during May, back to cold 'March like' weather for a while, a mini heat wave and some May-like weather in-between! The late onset of spring has delayed a few early crops, but no problems otherwise so far for the new growing season. The year comes full circle as May/June sees us sowing and transplanting our squash plants as well as putting the last of our stored squash into your weekly boxes, and transplanting leeks into the field as well as harvesting the last of last year's late crop.

All of the 105 acres, spread over 5 fields above Wye (formerly part of Wye College Farm) are now fully organic and part of our rotation. We are growing vegetables on just under one third of this land this season and have grass/clover leys sown on the remainder. We now have organic 'Romney' sheep owned by Alan Barr, from Lenham grazing the leys, which we are hoping will mean less or no mowing. Having the sheep to graze the leys is a more energy efficient method of farming than the mowing that would otherwise be necessary.

Organic Eggs

We are now offering organic eggs to be delivered with the vegetable boxes. These will be from Andrew Ward, a Soil Association registered organic grower, from Wingham, near Canterbury. Andrew supplies us with vegetables from time-to-time for the box scheme and we fit in well with his existing egg delivery round. ½ dozen medium eggs will be priced at £1.50. Please order by midday Monday to add eggs to your Thursday delivery. Organic eggs and chickens are always produced on a genuinely free range system, where the hens are encouraged to use the ranging area.

POTATO QUALITY – A REMINDER

SOME OF THE POTATO VARIETIES HAVE BRUISING (SHOWN AS BLACK AREAS UNDER THE SKIN) AND SOME HAVE WIRE-WORM DAMAGE (SHOWN AS SMALL BLACK HOLES). WE TRY AND GRADE OUT THE WORST AFFECTED BUT WE ARE ALSO GIVING YOU EXTRA POTATOES AT NO EXTRA COST. THE DAMAGE CAN USUALLY BE CUT AWAY WHEN PREPARING THE VEGETABLES, SO HOPEFULLY YOU WILL STILL HAVE ENOUGH THAT IS USABLE. BUT IF YOU DO GET A PARTICULARLY BAD SELECTION, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN GIVE A REFUND.

Box Contents

Staples - Old season's potatoes are 'Valor' and we should be harvesting new potatoes during the 2nd half of June. Onions and carrots continue weekly. Now that our own carrots are finished we are buying organic carrots, imported from Italy. We may have some of our New Season's bunching carrots sometime during June. We have spring onions ready now and you will get these as well as last season's onions (Dutch) for a few weeks until our own grow a bit more.

Greens –seasonal greens are green and rainbow chard and spinach

Salad – mixed leaf salad bags will be in the boxes weekly now as well as whole lettuce some weeks.

Others Green (wet) garlic (use as you would a spring onion). Also look out for bunching beetroot, spring cabbage, cucumbers and courgettes towards the end of June. The broad beans may not be ready until July.

Wye Farmers Market The next few dates are June 5th and 19th and July 3rd and 17th

Whitstable Farmers Market The next few Market dates are June 12th and 26th and July 10th and 24th

Extras with Boxes	White Potatoes (Old season's)	80p / kg
	Mixed Leaf Salad Bag	£1.20 each
	Onions	£1 / kg
	Spring Onions	£1 / bunch
	Spinach	£1 / 250g bag
	Organic med. eggs (Andrew Ward)	£1.50 for ½ dozen

The following can be ordered as extras with your standard box

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