

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

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June 2011 Newsletter

We still need rain – we have caught a few showers giving us one or two mm, and then on Thursday 26, a whole 4mm in one afternoon! We put off our transplanting until the middle of May, but then accepted the drought and ordered new irrigation pipes and another roll of T-Tape (trickle tape), and started the slow process of irrigating all new transplants and sowings. We often have to do this for some crops at this time of year but now we are irrigating everything we plant out, and even gave our first early potatoes a bit of water. We don't have any access to water other than mains, so we pay by the cubic metre (1,000 litres). If you're interested in numbers, we are giving 1,000 litres of water to each 150metres of transplanted crops (roughly), this should be enough to get the crop established but not enough if it stays dry for another month! Although this may sound a lot we are using the minimum we can to avoid crop failure. Organic farming encourages a build up of organic matter in the soil which in turn increases it's water holding capacity but we are aware that we need to look at other solutions, such as rain-water collection, albeit on a small scale but every little helps.

New Season's Crops Our onion and garlic sets were planted before it got too dry so they are growing well, and have been in the boxes for a few weeks now, the spring onions will gradually get bigger, giving you 'green onions'. Our lettuce was irrigated and is now doing well; you have also had our new season's chard. The cucumbers were from Andrew Ward (ours will soon be ready) and our new potatoes will be in the boxes soon. Oh and broad beans this week.

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 also supplies us with some of his vegetables 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.

WYE FOOD FESTIVAL – June 18th-30th, see www.wyefood.com/wyefoodfestival.html for details. This is launched at an extended Wye Farmers Market on June 18th, from 9am to 4pm; stalls will be there until 1.30 and music, food and drink until 4pm.

Box Contents

Staples – Potatoes, onions and carrots continue weekly. Potatoes in the boxes through June will be a combination of new and old. Old season's one are - whites - 'Valor'; red/white skinned ones are 'Ambo'; reds are 'Romano', and the first new potatoes will be 'Maris Bard' and 'Accent'. We are now harvesting spring onions, and as they get bigger green. We don't have any of our own carrots left, so have been buying UK ones but now only imported (European) ones are available. Please let us know if you don't want to have imported produce.

Greens – Seasonal greens are green chard, cabbage, spinach, spring greens and kale. We have curly kale, Cavolo Nero/black kale and red Russian kale which may be packed in mixed bags or in the stir-fry bags.

Salad – Mixed leaf salad bags will be in the boxes more frequently now and you may also receive whole lettuce, pak choi and rocket.

Others – You may also receive cucumbers, broad beans, green garlic and parsley. The mushrooms you have had recently were mainly chestnut (brown) mushrooms along with some white and flat ones, and were from Capel Mushrooms in Suffolk, something to help with May's 'hungry gap'.

Wye Farmers Market The next few dates, June 4th and 18th and July 2nd and 16th, 9am-12midday.

Whitstable Farmers Market The next few Market dates are June 11th and 25th and July 9th and 23rd at 9.30-2pm

Bridge Farmers Market The next few dates are, June 11th and 25th and July 9th and 23rd, 9am to 12 midday

Extras with Boxes	Potatoes (white or reds)	60p / kg	£5 / 10kg sack
	Baking potatoes	80p / kg	£7 / 10kg sack
	Kale	£1 / 250g bag	
	Spinach	£1 / 250g bag	
	Carrots	£1 / kg	
	Organic med. eggs (Andrew Ward)	£1.50 for ½ dozen	
The following can be ordered as extras with your standard box			

Follow us on Twitter @rippleorganics if you want to know what's happening on the farm week-by-week and look at our blog for photos, recipes and general info www.ripplefarmorganics.blogspot.com.

Any of your favourite vegetable recipes will be gratefully received and shared on our blog.

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