

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

Crundale, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7EB

01227 730898 (answer phone)

sarah@ripplefarmorganics.co.uk

www.ripplefarmorganics.co.uk



May 2011 Newsletter

We need rain – after a very dry and hotter than average April, we would really appreciate some rain, we have done some small scale irrigation to water in newly transplanted plants, and to try and germinate parsnips (not successful yet). But we will struggle to work any more ground for transplanting while it's so dry and we don't have the set up to irrigate on a big scale, for spuds for example, so now that we've all had lovely sunny, dry bank holidays can you all join us in wishing for rain!! At least the weeds aren't growing though.

Hungry Gap – just a reminder that it's the lean time of year for UK grown vegetables, known as the 'Hungry Gap'. Last season's stored crops are coming to an end, and the new season's crops are not yet plentiful. On the plus side, we are already harvesting new season's spring onions, spring garlic and small amounts of tunnel grown spinach and salad greens; outdoor salads and spinach are not far away, but we still have to wait a while for early summer crops such as new potatoes and courgettes.

Bought-in produce - this is the time of year when we have to supplement our own produce to keep the weekly boxes full and varied. We always source organic produce, and we look to other Kent organic growers first but then source further afield, very occasionally buying imported produce (just onions and carrots). Looking at last season's box scheme the breakdown for origins of vegetables in the boxes are as follows:- Ripple's own grown – 88%, Other Kent Organic Growers 5%, Other UK growers 5%, Imported (Europe) 2%.

Looking at previous years, this still equates to averages of over 90% Home Grown produce and over 95% from Kent. And of course, 100% Organic, figures we are proud of and work hard to maintain.

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

Box Contents

Staples – Potatoes, onions and carrots continue weekly. Potatoes in the boxes through May will be: - whites - 'Valor'; red/white skinned ones are 'Ambo'; reds are 'Romano', all good all-rounders. We have enough of our own old season's potatoes to last until the new ones are ready. You will mainly receive spring and green onions now and 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, leeks, cabbage, spinach, spring greens and stir-fry bags containing a selection of greens.

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 cauli, cucumbers, green garlic and parsley.

Squash – we still have a small amount of 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, May 7th and 21st, and June 4th and 18th, 9am-12midday.

Whitstable Farmers Market The next few Market dates are May 14th and 28th and June 11th and 25th at 9.30-2pm

Bridge Farmers Market The next few dates are, May 14th and 28th and June 11th and 25th, 9am to 12 midday

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

NEW 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/

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

