

Ripple Farm Organics

LOCAL & ORGANIC

Crundale, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7EB

01227 730898 (answer phone)

sarah@ripplefarmorganics.co.uk

www.ripplefarmorganics.co.uk



October 2011 Newsletter

What a wonderful sunny September. We have had lots of 'un-seasonal weather' to contend with so far this year, more sun in April and September than during the summer (or so it seems!), as well as the drought in April/May, a cool summer, and then a week or two ago, the forecasters were talking of a very cold October (let's hope they get that bit wrong, it's hard to believe after basking in the high twenties during the first weekend!). I think we'll be happy not to break any more weather records this year.

Some crops have done well despite (or because of?) the un-seasonal weather this year, potatoes and onions in particular, but lots the outdoor summer crops suffered in the cool, wet June that followed the April/May drought. Many of the sweet corn, courgette and squash plants died off, and those that survived didn't do as well as usual. So it's a real shame we weren't able to give you much sweetcorn this year but at least this un-seasonally hot and sunny September has started to ripen the squash, so not a total disaster there.

Pumpkins we will be putting small pumpkins in the boxes on Thursday 27 October, and will have to let you know nearer the end of October if we have any large ones to sell.

Farm Walk— Our annual farm walk for our customers will be held on Sunday Oct. 30 and we'll walk around the fields below Wye Crown, meeting at our workshop at Sidelands, Upper Olantigh Road, Wye TN25 5DQ. A reminder and directions will be in the boxes nearer the time. There will be a farm walk with Martin, apple bobbing and tea, coffee and juice provided. Come prepared for whatever the weather throws at us. We'll aim to start the farm walk at 2pm, please arrive from 1.30pm.

Apples Organic apples grown by Little Knell Farm (Soil Association), at Ash near Canterbury are available to order as an extra with your vegetable box. We have 'Worcester' at the moment and should have some 'Cox' soon, they are priced at £1.60 / kg. We also have our own 'Spartan' apples (£1.60 / kg) and 'Lord Derby' organic cooking apples from Burscombe Cliff Organic Farm, Egerton.

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.

Box Contents

Staples – Potatoes, onions and carrots continue weekly. Whites in the boxes in October will be 'Cosmos' a tasty all-rounder, reds are 'Amorosa' a lovely, slightly firm variety, the favourite of many of our staff. Also there's 'Charlotte' a well known salad variety (but not very waxy this year due to the dry growing conditions) and 'Arran Victory' – a purple skinned roaster, very dry so don't try to boil it.

We continue to harvest our own carrots and onions.

Greens – Seasonal greens are leeks, broccoli/calabrese, green and rainbow chard, cabbage, spinach and kale.

Salad Mixed leaf salad bags will be in the boxes most weeks .

Others – Also through October you may receive beetroot, squash, cauliflower, red cabbage, celery, swede and the last of the tunnel crops (tomatoes, bell peppers, chilli pepper).

Wye Farmers Market Oct 1st and 15th and Nov 5 and 19, 9am-12midday.

Whitstable Farmers Market Oct 8 and 22 and Nov 12 and 26 at 9.30-2pm

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Extras with Boxes All Organic The following can be ordered as extras with your standard box | New Potatoes white/red | 70p / kg 10kg = £6 |
| | 'Pink Fir Apple' potatoes | £1 / kg |
| | Baking potatoes | 70p / kg |
| | Salad Bag | £1.20 / bag |
| | Kale | £1 / 250g bag |
| | Spinach | £1 / 250g bag |
| | Carrots | £1 / kg |
| | Onions | £1 / kg |
| | Medium eggs (Andrew Ward) | £1.50 for ½ dozen |
| | Apples (Knell Farm) | £1.60 / kg |
| | Apples 'Spartan' (our own) | £1.60 / kg |
| | Cooking Apples (Burscombe Farm) | £1.30 / kg |

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