Land’s Sake CSA Report 2018

Report Summary

Thank you for being a part of our 2018 growing season! Our season this year was marked by some surprising weather patterns, including an unseasonably wet spring and fall, with a sweltering hot summer in between. As usual, the weather affected each of our crops differently, allowing a shift in the composition of the share from last year. Last year’s more temperate weather led to a soaring in our tomato crop and a wonderful carrot output that blew 2016’s drought conditions out of the water. This year the abundance came in different forms; while the carrot and tomato crops were still quite sizeable, we had moderate gains in many of our other crops and were able to offer a more diverse spread that included the intentional addition of many more choice options than ever before. With our new direct seeding implement mastered by the farm staff, we introduced the CSA members to a diverse array of leafy greens, such as komatsuna, salad mix, tatsoi, radicchio and chicory, rather than the somewhat ubiquitous braising mix of 2017. Our PYO offerings were remarkable this year, with an ample cherry tomato crop, supplemented by tomatillos, husk cherries, beans, peas, as well as many new additions to the flower and herb gardens. We also focused on providing more choices than ever before, especially for the items that show up in the share week after week. In the spring we began offering a choice between scallions and scapes, followed by many choices between herbs, greens, beets-or-turnips, peppers-or-eggplant, kohlrabi-or-napa and more! As usual, we farmers are fascinated by the community’s appetite and loved watching as our share members would express strong preferences for one or the other item, only to have their proclivities completely negated by the next member’s tastes. The selection of vegetables we are able to grow in this region touches every taste bud on the human palette, and reaches into so many of the world’s culinary traditions. We hope the increased diversity of our international crops, as well as the new choices we offered this year, made for an especially memorable feast on your table.

Because we value the commitment CSA shareholders make to us, we track the value of our shares carefully, and aim to always give CSA shareholders more value compared to the farmstand. In addition to ensuring that we distribute a variety of types of crops each week, we also make sure to pass on any additional bounty to you. This year, thanks to our productive season, we were able to give substantially more value than the cost of the share—often even when the value of PYO crops is excluded! We hope you enjoyed your weekly pick-ups throughout the season, and appreciate all your support for the work we do here at the farm.

CSA Cost vs. Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full Share</th>
<th>Small Share</th>
<th>Back to School Share</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Share cost</td>
<td>Actual value, without PYO items</td>
<td>Actual value, without PYO items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share value*</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$822</td>
<td>$1240</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Actual value, total</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1240</td>
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*Share values do not include items without specific quantities, such as herbs or hot peppers
**First eight pick-ups only; does not include three Winter Share pick-ups

Pre-Harvested Crop Distribution (i.e., excluding PYO): Total Quantity and Number of Weeks
Because we focused on larger quantities and more choices this year, the average number of items is slightly down from last year. We hope you enjoyed having a greater say over which vegetables you bring home!

Similar to last year, the most frequent choices were between types of greens (kale/collards/chard) but this year we included even more choices—at least one every week!—such as the frequent eggplant/pepper choice and the spring garlic scapes/scallions option.

The sporadic rain and extreme heat of this year’s season meant that our carrot crop was unable to meet the astounding carrot yield of last year’s more temperate conditions. Still, members took home a hefty load of carrots this year with a range of flavors thanks to our exploration of some new varieties.

We completely avoided the aggressive deer damage of last year, and the increased yield speaks for itself. Not to say that this was a remarkable cucumber year by any means, but we certainly bounced back into the normal range, bringing high summer gazpacho and cold cucumber salad back into the picture for our members!

Our share of bunched greens remained as consistent as ever, with just a few gaps in the fertility of collards and chard in the hottest period of the summer. We’re pleased to have been able to make a choice of bunched greens as a weekly staple for ¾ of our pickups this year.

We were able to include lettuce in the share this year in the form of salad mix as a way to combat the persistent deer damage to our head lettuce.
Onions:
Total pounds, weeks
- 11 lb, 7 weeks
- 17 lb, 10 weeks
- 7 lb, 7 weeks
- 8 lb, 9 weeks

Weed and disease pressure made this year a mediocre year for our onion crop, with a complete failure of our shallots which became effectively a stinky diseased mush. However, the onion shares were actually much bigger than last year because of our choice to include fresh onions throughout the earlier parts of the season.

Peppers (bell or sweet):
Total pieces (pc), weeks
- 38 pc, 12 weeks
- 20-30 pc, 12 weeks
- 24 pc, 12 weeks
- 10-20 pc, 12 weeks

The sweltering heat of this season made it a great year for abundant, fully ripe sweet peppers, as we continued our trend of increasing the diversity of our more flavorful and smaller peppers. The average number of peppers in the share went down, only because we incorporated them into a choice with our eggplant far more this year, allowing pepper-lovers and eggplant-lovers to customize their share.

Summer Squash:
Total pounds, weeks
- 17 lb, 7 weeks
- 13 lb, 6 weeks
- 10 lb, 7 weeks
- 7 lb, 6 weeks

This was a decent year for our summer squash crop, with a moderate level of fruit on the plants, ended swiftly as usual and with a little help from the squash vine borer pests, which focused particularly hard on our zucchini plants.

Tomatoes:
Total pounds, weeks
- 48 lb, 10 weeks
- 32 lb, 7 weeks
- 27 lb, 10 weeks
- 19 lb, 7 weeks

The tomatoes appeared two weeks earlier this week, and as a result the end of the season was early and abrupt, throwing off the tomato expectations for many members. Many of our heirloom varieties did not tolerate the extreme heat this year, and as a result our offerings were less colorful than last year.

Winter Squash:
Total pieces, weeks
- 17 pc, 7 weeks
- 20 pc, 7 weeks
- 10 pc, 7 weeks
- 13 pc, 7 weeks

Both years, winter squash was distributed weekly in the fall. Similarly high yields this year of robust squash, especially flavorful in 2018 due to intense midseason heat.

PYO (Pick-Your-Own) Crop Distribution: Total Number of Weeks Given

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks with a PYO item</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perennial herbs were available all season long both years. We were excited to add new varieties to our herb garden this year, such as tarragon, by popular demand!</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 weeks</td>
<td>20 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flowers: Weeks</strong></td>
<td>17 weeks</td>
<td>18 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herbs: Weeks</strong></td>
<td>20 weeks</td>
<td>20 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beans: Weeks, quarts (qt)</strong>*</td>
<td>13 weeks, 16.5 qt</td>
<td>9 weeks, 17 qt</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cherry Tomatoes: Weeks, quarts</strong></td>
<td>8 weeks, 8.5 qt</td>
<td>9 weeks, 16 qt</td>
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<td><strong>Peas: Weeks, quarts</strong></td>
<td>2 weeks, 1.5 qt</td>
<td>3 weeks, 3 qt</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tomatillo/Husk Cherries: Weeks</strong></td>
<td>3+ weeks</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
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*Quantities given here are for full shares only*