

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

	Full Share			Small Share			Back to School Share		
	Share cost	Actual value, without PYO items	Actual value, total	Share cost	Actual value, without PYO items	Actual value, total	Share cost	Actual value, without PYO items	Actual value, total
Share value*	\$700	\$822	\$1240	\$450	\$489	\$761	\$345	\$315	\$512

*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

	Full		Small		Comments
	2017	2018	2017	2018	
Average number items	10	9	9	7	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!
Minimum number items	6	6	5	5	
Maximum number items	12	12	12	12	
Weeks with at least one choice	17	20	17	20	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.
Carrots: Total pounds (lb), weeks	27 lb, 15 weeks	20 lb, 10 weeks	16 lb, 15 weeks	10 lb, 10 weeks	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.
Cucumber: Total pounds, weeks	3 lb, 2 weeks	14 lb, 5 weeks	2 lb, 2 weeks	7.5 lb, 5 weeks	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!
Leafy Greens (kale, chard, collards): Total bunches (bu), weeks	16 bu, 13 weeks	17 bu, 15 weeks	13 bu, 13 weeks	11 bu, 11 weeks	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 $\frac{3}{4}$ of our pickups this year.
Lettuce: Total pieces (pc), weeks	15 pc, 9 weeks	15 pc, 10 weeks	10 pc, 9 weeks	8 pc, 8 weeks	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

	2017	2018	Comments
Weeks with a PYO item	20 weeks	20 weeks	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!

Flowers: Weeks	17 weeks	18 weeks	Because we were able to plow and plant into the flower garden earlier this year than last year, we had pick-your-own flowers ready and blooming early on. Many new trial varieties added vibrant pops of color and a larger selection of flowers to the garden. We also expanded into the front field to have an even greater quantity of flowers available. We consciously stayed on top of weekly plantings and weeding in order to maintain a luscious, healthy garden with a bounty of blooms lasting just about the entire season.
Herbs: Weeks	20 weeks	20 weeks	We had more PYO annual herbs available this year (shiso, cinnamon basil, rosemary) as well as a new stock of thyme in two varieties and the brand new addition of tarragon!
Beans: Weeks, quarts (qt)*	13 weeks, 16.5 qt	9 weeks, 17 qt	We had a late start on our PYO beans because the first planting was lost to disease/bad germination, but our subsequent three plantings were bountiful, and made up for the fact that they were available for fewer weeks. Our late bean crop was deep into our property, and allowed members the chance to forge their way through the fields and harvest at will.
Cherry Tomatoes: Weeks, quarts	8 weeks, 8.5 qt	9 weeks, 16 qt	We almost doubled our cherry tomato quantities in the PYO this year due to an especially bountiful fruitset that lasted for 9 weeks. Tomatillos and husk cherries were included as options in this quantity, allowing members to choose which they would like to include in their meals week-to-week.
Peas: Weeks, quarts	2 weeks, 1.5 qt	3 weeks, 3 qt	Despite early damage from deer, our plants grew to be much more robust than last year's short, unproductive plants and we were able to double the peas in your share because of it.
Tomatillo/ Husk Cherries: Weeks	3+ weeks	9 weeks	This year, our husk cherry/tomatillo crop was abundant, and we were able to offer these items in a choice with cherry tomatoes for as long as they all lasted, allowing members to mix and match their pick-your-own quantities week to week.

*Quantities given here are for full shares only