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Reminders: School schedule and Holiday weekend. Think about if you need to change your pickup day, either temporary or permanent. Call or email those changes. Need to know by the previous weekend if possible, but last minute is better than nothing. We will be strict on people showing up on the wrong day unannounced after we have completed the harvest for that day, as that means there would not be enough for the people who are scheduled for those days. Every year, there is an epidemic of that the **week of school starting**. Wed/Thurs is so busy and people don't make it in but come on Fri/ Sat. Please think ahead and switch if you feel it might be necessary. **Labor day Weekend** – same thing. Remember, your produce will be happier and healthier for you in your fridge waiting for you when you return, so think about switching to Wed/thurs that week, even if you have to dash over here after hours on Wed or Thurs. Just give us a call, preferably sat, sun or Monday before, and we can harvest for you with the Wed/Thurs group that week.

Drinking Water: in case you missed it in a previous newsletter, reminding that the only city water that is accessible to members is at the **sink in the farmstore**. (we do have city water that we rinse the vegetables in as well- but that is in our wash station). All other spigots are well water.

In the Shares: tomatoes now starting to come on, so more tomatoes soon. Up to now, we have been alternating days/types of tomatoes between the different pickup days. Corn – so hard to estimate exactly when it will be ready for the first picking – I predict we will have it for the week before Labor Day weekend, but *possibly* the week before. (see more on corn below)

Field news: We are still working on getting the rest of the crops planted for the rest of the season. We have charted the typical growth pattern related to changes of daylight length and average temperatures, and this means that even though this is the hottest part of the year, we have to get everything in the ground by the end of this coming week to have things be big enough to pick during the weeks of October. The last carrots and beets were planted the third week of July, the winter greens went in the week before that. Right now we are getting in the things like turnips, kohlrabi and lettuce. Each planting this time of the year is double or triple the amount of each crop then we plant during April thru mid-July, so it's a challenge to get it all done (and keep those tiny seedlings alive when it's so hot) But things look good, we did lose some of the winter greens, (got burnt up) but not enough to make a significant difference. (Winter u-pick greens are usually ready for picking sometime in mid- September.)

Walking the Farm: If you haven't been over to crops on the other side of the ditch, check it out. Along the borders by the white fence is all the Winter Squash, which is fun to see. We have Spaghetti Squash this year in addition to the Sunshine Kubocha, Acorn and Honey Boat) Onions are "ground curing" and gradually being pulled and moved into one of the greenhouses for fall distribution. **Corn- you gotta go look at it!** (it is straight back – you can reach it easily by walking down the south driveway to the left of the chickens) I think that the growth process of corn is my favorite of all the crops, because what happens to produce that ear of corn is so visible and dramatic. First there is just the stalk and leaves, then another stalk starts growing up from the middle, that produces the "tassel". At the same time, a little whorl of leaves starts forming midway up the stalk. Inside is the beginning of the cob. Those leaves end up forming the "husk" around the corn. The cob sends up shiny threads called "silks", as the cob enlarges and forms the "ear". These silks grow until they stick up through the top of the ear. Each place where a silk develops from the cob is a place where there will be a kernel of corn. So each potential kernel has its own silk. Each silk must be pollinated to form that corn kernel! That's where the tassel comes in. As the tassel develops at the top of the corn stalk, it forms little things that look sort of like seeds, but are really filled with pollen. The pollen is released at just the right time to fall on the silks. (the pollen is the sweet smell you will notice) If one silk does not get pollinated, there will be an empty spot on the cob with no kernel.

This is really an amazing thing to show your kids (for you too!). Since there are two different crops of corn, you can see all the development stages.

If you missed the special newsletter "The Root Connection story" and want one, ask in the farmstore. Sequel should be next week

