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PUMPKINS: Are ready for u-pick. **Where are they?** Right across from the U-Pick fall greens. Caution- stems have little stickers so be careful with little hands! **LIMIT is __2__ PER MEMBERSHIP (FOR THE SEASON, NOT PER WEEK)** If you **share with someone**, you can get only 1 for your half. We are disappointed, as we usually have enough for 3 or 4 per, but the pumpkins suffered from lack of bee pollination just like the squash did.) Some plants did not even have a pumpkin. So please don't take more than the 2 pumpkins or some folks won't get any. We counted them very carefully! **Everyone needs to get theirs in the next two weeks.**

And if you are here today but cannot take your pumpkins, or you want **to wait till your kids are with you, yes, it is ok to come back on an alternate day.**

DROP SITES: we cannot deliver pumpkins. Good time to come out and get greens too!

NOTE: we try to keep some wheelbarrows just outside the side door of the store – take one with you. If you are not physically able to go out to the pumpkin patch, let staff know. We have some pumpkins up here for that purpose.

PRESEASON SIGNUPS: are available as paper in the store, and on-line. Yes, we are limiting our planting plan to the same size we had this year, so make sure you get your spot by signing up now. For those who can't pay all now, there is an option for you to just do a deposit to hold your spot.

WINTER SHARE signups available now too.

Time to pick our crop of the year! With all the plants being stressed in one way or another, I decided to choose a crop that did well despite all the challenges. And that would be ---- **2017 has been** Although the spring greens struggled, they hung in there despite not much **declared the** water and very hot temperatures. Not the type of weather kale and collards **Year of The Greens!** enjoy! I couldn't believe they were still putting out new leaves when we cleared them from the field last week. And the Fall greens- wow! We planted them in flats in the greenhouse in early July and babied them until they were big enough to transplant out. Most days it was over 100 degrees in the greenhouse, but they germinated like little champions. I had to keep my timer alarm set at intervals to remind me to get in there and water them several times a day. We also took extra care with the soil preparation in the field too. Jeff deep-watered the soil before he even made the planting beds, which took 2 days of 24 hour watering. Then after the bed preparation, the soil had to be deep watered again. After that we put down the plastic mulch. (In addition to weed control, that helps keep the moisture in the soil.)



The third week of July was planting time. Of course it was even hotter and drier. Sprinklers were set at intervals so the crew could turn them on as soon as one small section of planting was completed, because by then the little plants would start to wilt. Then it was an overnight watering of everything again, and the next day we could put on the floating row cover. Interesting note – although row cover is generally used to keep crops warmer in the early season, we discovered that it also can be used in the hot weather and will help keep the plants hydrated. We can water right through it. It also enhances the growth of anything leafy, producing bigger plants and larger leaves. And it helps keep insects away from the small plants.

In the end, it looked like almost all of the 6,000 plus transplants survived becoming our hero crop of the year. Also heroes were our field crew that worked so hard in the hot conditions to make it happen!

Clair