

Guldan Family Farm



NOTES FROM THE FARM

GULDAN FAMILY FARM CSA
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*This week's share...
Our best guess*

Here's the scoop on the final week of the 2016 CSA.

Everyone should recognize potatoes, candy or red onions, bell peppers, jalapeños, kale, and basil.

New for our final week... Butternut squash - tan with seeds found in the bottom fat section. These actually make the best "pumpkin" bars or pies!

Spaghetti squash - yellow with seeds in the very center. Personally, my favorite way to make them is to cut it in half, bake until the "noodles" scrape out (about 30-40 minutes), and then top with spaghetti sauce. It's so good!

Rutabaga - sometimes called wax turnips. Can be added to mashed potatoes, baked, soups, or eaten raw.

Carrots - it was finally not muddy enough to dig some! I don't think these need much introduction...

Full members will also have a watermelon. Enjoy!

WEEK 16: AND THAT'S A WRAP!

We made it! Thank you so much to all of you for joining us on this year's CSA journey. We truly appreciate your support and patronage this season, and sincerely hope that you've enjoyed the experience, but even more so, the food! We would like to extend a special thanks to those who have been with us all eight years since Mom's "experiment" turned into the operation that it is today.

It's been an interesting growing season to say the least - rain, rain, more rain, and just for a change of pace...rain. But by and large, most of our crops did well if the critters kept their distance. Here's the 2016 season at a glance!

This year's CSA shares included three types of peas, green/yellow beans, four types of onions, red and daikon radishes, raspberries, leaf and head lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, grape tomatoes, all sorts of herbs, potatoes, carrots, beets, sweet corn, rutabagas, asparagus, rhubarb, turnips, kale, Swiss chard, leeks, shallots, egg plant, kohlrabi, cucumbers, zucchini, summer squash, acorn squash, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, watermelons, cantaloupe, green and purple cabbage, green and red bell peppers, sweet and hot banana peppers, jalapenos, celery, broccoli...and a few others that I probably forgot! Wow, I look at that list and I can't help but feel proud of what my family was able to accomplish.

On the flip side, some of those items we really struggled to come up with, if at all for the shares. We did have a tough time this year with peas. Only two of six or seven plantings really turned out well, with the first 3 or 4 succumbing to issues with the rain. Our cauliflower, turnips, and beets also had a disgruntled season for some reason or other - we had hoped to include them for everyone, but apparently they needed some more motivation to turn out. Sweet corn would have had an awesome year if it hadn't been for the raccoons and deer taking turns at the buffet. We were thankfully able to include it a few times, but not nearly as often or in the quantities that we would have liked to. On a positive note, I haven't seen ANY evidence (yet) of either deer or coon finding their way past the new defenses in that last planting of corn. Maybe it'll be ready come this weekend's farmers' market!

So what's next for this family? We'll continue vending at the Mankato Farmers' Market till the end of October with things slowly winding down as we draw nearer to it. About that time I may find the motivation to start canning up the jams and jellies, but since my graduate classes start this week and continue for the next ten, I may just put that off a bit longer than usual. In closing, thank you so much once again to all of you for being a part of our family. Stay tuned for next year's information - we try to have our plan of action decided on by the new year. Lastly... just in case you forgot your bag last week, please return it this time around. So on behalf of all of us here at the Guldan Family farm, Thank you!

-The Guldans

