



NEWSLETTER

Summer Transition Time

Between the Early Spring and High Summer Crops



Just when you feel you have had your fill of salads—lettuce, radishes, green onions, baby greens—the season for those vegetables winds down. Hotter days and warmer nights are not what they like, but the high summer veggies are “lovin’ it.”

But we are still a couple of weeks or so away from the main crops of summer

staples like peppers, onions, and tomatoes. Should we call it “low summer?” Sounds too negative, because early July usually brings us such delights as beets, berries, broccoli, carrots, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, greens, green beans, herbs, leeks, mushrooms, onions, peppers, potatoes, rhubarb, summer squash, and those first tomatoes!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We at Rolling Prairie Farmers Alliance encourage all kinds of eco-friendly behavior, including the 3 R's.

We encourage you to *Reduce* your use of resources by bringing your own reusable basket, tote, bag, or box to pick up your weekly share. (For those concerned about a recent report that reusable bags can harbor bacteria there is a simple solution: throw them in the laundry, especially if they have been used to carry meat products.)

We encourage you to *Reuse* by bringing back containers you get from use, especially the green pulp and the plastic pint and quart containers. If you get potatoes in mesh bags we can reuse those as well.

Some people like to bring other types of containers, such as egg cartons or plastic clamshells they get at the supermarket, rather than *Recycle* them. Please check with your site coordinator whether he is able to handle those.



“GREEN REVOLUTION” AND GLOBAL WARMING

A study by Steven Davis of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (in Palo Alto, California) concludes that the extensive use of chemicals in farming promoted by the so-called Green Revolution actually helped to reduce the Carbon load in the atmosphere by preventing more tropical forests from being burned and converted to crop



production. But the study is based on the assumption such slashing and burning would have been the only response to population pressure, and David Pimentel of Cornell University notes that his research shows organic production can achieve the same productivity as chemical ag. The study downplays other negative effects of chemicals in ag.