

ROLLING PRAIRIE

notes from rolling prairie farmers alliance

WEEK OF JUNE 26
2011

Coming Up

First chance at raspberries



Did you know there are two kinds of raspberry plants? *Primocane* varieties produce fruit on canes that grow the first year, usually coming in from late August into October. *Floricane* varieties grow a cane the first year, which then produces fruit the second year of its life. These raspberries usually ripen sometime between mid-June to August.

So, if you are lucky enough to have raspberries as a choice in your bag this time of year, which variety do you think the farmer is growing? Actually, some Rolling Prairie farmers have some of each variety, so if we have a good season you should have another chance at raspberries as Fall rolls around.

The same basic principle applies to other bramble fruits, including blackberries. You may even see a choice between the two types of berries, if we have a good season for both.

Special notice to Merc subscribers in Lawrence: Pickup next week will take place on Tuesday < July 5 due to the Independence Day Holiday and the early closing time at the Merc.



FOUNDED 1994

LOCAL * SUSTAINABLE * COOPERATIVE

NOT ROUNDUP READY

Weeding is hard work. Believe me, my aching shoulder muscles tell me that wielding one of the oldest tools humanity knows, the hoe (in all its various contemporary forms), requires a significant amount of muscular energy.

Given the likelihood that after, say, an hour or so of employing this ancient technology the word “drudgery” floats to the front of the mind, it is no wonder farmers are always looking for ways to reduce this necessary task while still giving our crops a fighting chance at not only surviving, but thriving. The invention of chemicals that would magically kill only the weeds and not the crop must have seemed like a god-send.

Unfortunately, such magic does not come without serious ecological costs.

And while the chemical industry spends copious amounts of its profits to counter negative research and publicity with lobbying and spin, information continues to emerge that even the supposedly “safest” products may create significant threats to our health and welfare. For example, a recent story in the [Huffington Post](#) recounts much of the research suggesting birth defects result from exposure to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup and other popular herbicides.

Like all organic farmers, Rolling Prairie farmers do not use chemical means for weed control, relying both on smart methods of weed control like mulches, cover crops, and timely cultivation, as well as good old-fashioned muscle power when necessary. We’re not afraid to work up a sweat for good, healthy food!

