



Our hardy crew is preparing beds the last two weeks so we can stick many cuttings of our best gooseberries and currants and elderberries which everybody and their grandmother seem to want these days.

Been writing letters to food coops and other organizations expressing my frustration that they are ordering their plants and food from out of state or out of country because it is cheaper. How do they expect any young farmers to grow food or make products if their shelves are so full of product from far away that they have no room for the local ones?

Want to plant cover crops on exposed ground but don't want to waste good seed when it is snowing one day, hot the next, and 15 degrees the day after. Customers from warmer areas want to come pick up their plants but we have to hold them back and say soon, but not yet.

(Westminster) We have 3 greenhouses nearly full with transplants of lettuce, kale, collards, and cabbage, and have started tilling some fields in anticipation of planting. We'll be spreading compost and forming some beds soon. Typically, we start transplanting mid-April.

This year we're planning on growing more root crops and winter squash, as well as cabbage for the fresh market. We'll cut down on the amount of broccoli we grow. No problem selling it, but disease and weather unpredictability make it a tough crop to grow successfully.

This will be the last weekend for our Winter Market, which again had a successful run. People are still leery of shopping amongst large crowds and are happy to buy local. We were able to supply greens from our hoopouses for almost all weekends, so that was helpful.

(Jericho) Hoopouse conversion is in full swing as winter greens give their last hoorah and tomato plants and early spring greens invade. March is keeping us hopping from T-shirts to parkas, mud boots to skis, but we're keeping on schedule for seeding and planting because no matter what, spring will eventually settle in. Crew is happy to be done washing roots and now playing with plants, harvesting greens, and learning new tasks.

This year we finished purchasing all the farmland that we have been leasing over the years, so it's nice to have that security and be done with the work that entailed.

Kind of loving all these zoom workshops, because now I can learn from other growers and virtually visit their farms at the same time I get seeding done in the greenhouse. Or I can watch them late at night instead of reading the news. But we do miss seeing everyone in person!

(Westminster West) It's Showtime here! First plant deliveries begin this week, about a week earlier than last year. New driver, me! Ha-ha, just for this week; hired a regular driver that starts next week. Snow is gone, covers off the garlic field, and the garlic is up and looks really good! Start feeding it early next week. Winter rye greening up nicely. Excited for the season coming.

Getting the tomato and other tunnels fertilized and ready. Putting in a massive new water tank to increase our ability to have water for the greenhouses and fields. Some new equipment arriving soon that hopefully will save time and my back!

(Little Compton RI) Can't believe that last year we opened two weeks ago and didn't stop until Dec 10. This year we have almost no storage crops left and are hard pressed to make a good showing at the local winter market on Saturday. Seems like everyone else in New England is in the same boat. We are going back to our usual opening day of May 25.



