

# Meanwhile Back at the Farm... March 22, 2001

Howdy Folks,

Wow, the article about us in the Country Almanac this week is great. We are the front page article and the reporter really went out of her way to promote us. I'm including it with the newsletter this week. We have already had two owners of farms call us to discuss our moving to them. This is only the first day the paper is out too. We should continue to get calls all during the week. This is very encouraging. A very nice historical local farm, only a few miles from here, of 13 acres is the one I'll visit tomorrow. It even has a mature orchard on it. I'm very excited by this initial response. I'm more hopeful than ever that this move will turn out to be a good one for the farm.

Things are really starting to grow faster at both our farms now. The days are getting longer and warmer now that it's the start of spring. This week we have been planting lots at the main farm. Ryan and Michael have been planting gobs of broccoli seedlings and lettuce seedlings on the terrace faces at the main farm. We also planted 6 beds of snap peas, turnips, beets, daikon, Tsoi sim (a special oriental vegetable, a huge patch of spinach, and a stir-fry mix of ten different tasty oriental veggies. We also planted thousands of flower starts amongst the broccoli and lettuce. We are in the spring rush now with every day having nice weather and getting lots of work done.

The soil temperature is now getting up around 70. It turns out that around 75 degrees the symphylans go deeper in the soil to get away from the heat. This allows the seeds to sprout and get growing quickly without interference from the root eating symphylans. It sure is obvious among the crops that have hardly grown all winter. Suddenly they are shooting up since their roots are being allowed to grow. Today's red mustard is a good example.

Our onions are looking great. Really tall strong tops which will start bulbing in a couple of months. I don't think I've ever seen our onion crop look this good this early. We should have some big 'ol onions this year compared to the dinky ones we had last year. Those little onions were good but this year we'll have super onions.

Some of the lettuce crops we gave up on, thinking they would never grow with the symphylans eating their roots have really shot forward and we should have some really nice salad for the next couple of weeks. Some of our

own broccoli has started heading too so we should be able to harvest it in the next couple of weeks.

Weren't those fava greens really nice last week? Quite a novelty.

Recipes will return next week since Jean Pierre was still moving to Phoenix this week.

## The Food

The box is still a little light this week as we transition from overwintered crops to new spring crops

Lettuce: Random heads from a lot of partial beds around the farm.

Broccoli: From another farm

Borage (flowers): Cut the bottom of the stems and put the bunch in a vase. Each day some more flowers will open for you to use with salads etc. They have a cucumber flavor.

Radishes: One of the joys of the start of spring is a nice sweet radish.

Yellow onion: From another farm

Arugula: The last of this tasty green for a month or two.

Carrots: from another farm.

Mustard: Red Osaka mustard. Its not the usual intense red/purple because it's been under ag fabric all winter but it sure is tasty. We've taken the fabric off now so the next cutting will be nice and dark.