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Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

How are you doing after Fred? We know that so many folks got pummeled with the storms this week. Evidence of heavy winds were all over Winston-Salem when I was delivering *PlumFresh* bags on Wednesday. Huge piles of broken limbs and debris were strewn across so many yards. We hope you made it through the storm okay.

Thankfully, we were spared the worst of it. Stokes County was under a tornado watch until early Wednesday morning. The word "tornado" strikes fear in the heart of a farmer. Especially a farmer with high tunnels and greenhouses. Plastic-covered structures don't fare too well in that kind of storm. But we were lucky. The major impact of Fred for us was about 4.5 inches of rain. Soggy, to be sure, but we were okay.

Our sunflowers did their best to keep a smile on our faces despite the grey sky and clouds. It's pretty hard not to smile when you see those faces, don't you

think?



Harvestin' and Plantin'!

Our harvests are continuing as the summer slips away. We are SO excited about our first harvest of melons! This is our first year growing cantaloupe and our first watermelons in a l-o-n-g time. And they tuned out pretty good! Not a bumper crop but it was respectable. They are heading out to *PlumFresh* members this weekend. Mmmmmmm!



We are also getting ready for fall planting. Snow peas and carrots went in this week and beets will be transplanted today. Fields are being prepared for garlic and fall brassicas, and lots of plants have been seeded in the greenhouse. We are trying to stay focused on the future while our current harvest needs demand

our attention. It's always a juggle -- and we try not to drop too many balls (melons?!)

Devon is putting down "tiles" of hay to mulch the paths in the Test Bed as we get ready to plant beets. Cara is wondering why this hay is being wasted!



Jonny and Dan installed landscape fabric on the new bed of Snow Peas to try to keep down the weeds. Weed pressure this year has been intense so we are trying to mulch or put down landscape fabric everywhere we can to save work/time later in the season.

Ray seeded our fall carrots and got them all set with spray irrigation. It is extremely important to keep the seedbed moist for carrots. It's even more important with pelleted carrot seed (which we use) because if there isn't enough moisture, even if the seed tries to emerge it can't break through the clay coating. Result = No carrots



The insects have been as busy as the people! Our resident spiders have been working their Halloween decoration magic on the boxwoods ...



And Jimmy keeps adding more supers to his beehive. Busy girls!



I Quit!

Ray and I both love to read but we never get much of a chance to read for pleasure. A couple of weeks ago, Cheryl decided to take a book to the Saturday Clemmons PlumFresh pick up. Reading a phone all the time gets tiresome.

I decided to re-read *Turn Here Sweet Corn*, which was written by Atina Diffley. This book chronicles Atina and Martin Diffley's Gardens of Eagan, the first Certified Organic farm in Minnesota, and some of the challenges they

faced (hail, development, oil pipeline,..). As a farmer, it is really inspiring and I needed some late summer inspiration!

One of the things I had forgotten was that every August they would take a week and quit farming. They made a ritual of it -- no farming discussions were allowed, not even talk of the weather. They would take walks, clean things that hadn't been cleaned in a year, nap and scrub the dirt stains from their hands. That's kinda what we are going to do next week -- quit farming, sorta. We still have some stuff to do but it will be minimal. Dan is coming in to take care of harvest, planting and weeding. He'll keep things going but we won't have *PlumFresh* or online sales or other tasks. Just time to rest and putter and catch our breath for fall. So in that vein, we'll be taking a break from the Weekly Update next week. Maybe we'll find another book!



That does it for this one -- we look forward to seeing you in 2 weeks! Stay cool and take good care out there!

Remember to please get your COVID shot, wear a mask in indoor public places, and be kind. By working together we can get past this new COVID surge!

Until September,
Cheryl & Ray