



2011 Season

Week six

July 4, 2011

## Zilke Vegetable Farm CSA

### Zilke Vegetable Farm wishes you a Happy Fourth of July!!

The saying is “Knee high by the Fourth of July” and our sweet corn has willingly met that mark. At this rate, we will expect to harvest the first ears of our corn around the first of August.

We are on the cusp of veggie explosion. The early plants that survived spring’s torments are giving what they have, and the replanted veggies are in the midst of a growing frenzy.

Some plants seem to double in size every day. Some of our things are petering out. The peas just cannot produce sweet pods and peas in this heat, and we will be pulling all eight rows (350 feet each!) this week for boxes. Look for some combo of peapods, peas ready to shell, or pea tendrils.

Likewise, the kale and broccoli are spotty. While we planted sufficient quantities for 150+ members, less than half that amount survived for harvest. Rest assured, if your box does not contain a favorite, more is planted and growing along happily—you will soon have some of everything our good ground has to offer.

#### What *might* be inside your box this week:

**Leaf lettuce**

**Garlic bulbs**

**Basil or dill**

**Onions**

**Kale**

**Broccoli**

**Peas, pea pods, or pea tendrils**

**New red potatoes**



### Farm Updates

Wow what a great show-er we got Sunday night—over a quarter inch. This was especially welcome after we spent three hours watering by hand the tomatoes growing at the Carpenter Road farm.

It is supposed to be a great growing week for both veggies as well as weeds. Most of the past week has been spent

hoeing, weeding, and scouting. We spend a good portion of every day walking the fields, looking for signs of healthy plants and those under stress from pests, disease, or temperature-related fungal problems. We are giving up on the potatoes on the Day Road farm, as the Colorado Potato Beetle continues to

decimate the leaves. We will be digging them early and hope that the potatoes on the Carpenter Road farm stay pest free. Some of you will get early red potatoes. Oh joy.



## Zilke Vegetable Farm

12725 Half Rd  
Milan MI 48160

[zilkevegetablefarm@gmail.com](mailto:zilkevegetablefarm@gmail.com)

Tom 260 2324  
Vicki 260 2326



Veggies on the move:

Corn

Onions

zucchini and yellow crookneck



No rain was predicted this week, so we spent a good portion of Sunday pulling this trailer with a 300 gallon water tank through the fields to individually water the tomatoes. Two hoses are attached to a Y spigot at the base, and one of us drives while one or two others water

each plant in turn. Those rows are 675 feet long! And there are a lot of them!

We have several other watering options at our disposal, when the skies don't share their goodness with us often enough.

One is the basic garden hose, hooked up to an outdoor spigot. We have accumulated enough garden hose to drag water all the way out to the ends of the 250 foot rows here at the farm—doable, but a major hassle to move that length of hose over every growing row.

Drip tape is a handy option, too—we have a dozen or so rows of tomatoes planted into black plastic, and a length of perforated trickle tape runs under the plastic from end to end. One end has a hose coupler that gets hooked to the 50 gallon water tank; the other end is doubled over and sealed. Water is then allowed to gravity flow into the trickle tape and slowly add moisture to the soil.

We will be adding rain barrels soon to capture and use water from the barn roofs. Let us know if you have any good suggestions on rain barrels for us.

By far, my favorite water source is the lovely rain!