

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello friends, neighbors, and friendly neighbors,

You've probably been sensing something recently that you can't quite put your finger on. You may be asking yourself what that feeling is...is this burrito diet really starting to work? Is hair beginning to grow on my bald head again (I'm bald by the way)?

No, it's none of these things. That excitement you are feeling is tomato season looming on the garden horizon.

This week, we planted hundreds of tomato plants (65 varieties!) on the farm and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the most wonderful time of the year (sorry Christmas) when fat, jolly tomatoes seem to pop up everywhere you look.



Here are some other highlights from around the farm:

- ♣ Planting summer crops (typically our most popular crops) is well underway—we expect to see some of our first summer crops harvested in June (think tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, beans, peppers).
- ♣ Fruit trees and blueberry buds somehow survived this cold, frosty spring! We can't wait for what we hope will be our trees' first season of fruit production.
- ♣ We've been cooking with our garlic tops recently and have really enjoyed them—been using them in stir fry. Let Anna know if you'd like to try some.



- ♣ We may be a bit behind on the trends of this era, but we recently decided to go down the Instagram rabbit hole to share more of the many visually fascinating moments here at the farm. Check out [@jimmyacresfarm](#) on Instagram!

If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see in future newsletters, or have any ideas for how we can improve our customer service or your produce-buying and -consuming experience, please let us know! And as always, please feel free to pass this along to all of your produce-loving friends and neighbors!

Plant like our Grandma Stores Knickknacks

If you know our grandma (Hilda Patterson, or Gwhoa for short), then you know that she is the region's premier flower gardener and arranger, and that she is notorious for taking advantage of every single square inch of storage in her house (she's no hoarder, just highly efficient). By analyzing the shape and size of each cherished greeting card or old beach chair, she is able to hunt down the exact perfect spot for each item. This both maximizes the effective volume of storage space in her house and acts as a makeshift security system as thieves would be hard pressed to find anything they are looking for.

As we plant each row of vegetables, we strive to emulate our beloved grandmother. After planting one type of vegetable in a row, we will go back through and fill the gaps with complimentary vegetables. Knowing roughly how large each plant will get, we can plant with the intent to create a continuous canopy. For example, we recently planted eggplants amongst our bok choy and beets to make a colorful array of plants that also maximizes our space and helps deter the spread of pests between plants.



By planting like our grandmother stores, we...

1. Maximize the number of vegetables we grow in a given space
2. Reduce the weed population through competition
3. Increase the size of our solar-energy capturing canopy
4. Increase our soil's water holding capacity by creating cooler soil temperatures
5. Increase overall diversity

Give it a try in your garden this year!

"Yes!" -Christy Nelson

(In response to me (Jake) asking if she'd want to get hitched sometime soon. I found this to be one of the more exciting quotes of the month!)