

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

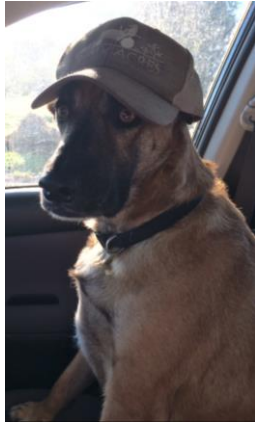
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Hello friends and neighbors!

Somehow it's already time for another newsletter—the past month sure did fly by! And the weather did not disappoint, being unpredictable and surprising as usual...we're pretty sure it was hotter this month than it was in August! It was definitely drier, and both the heat and dryness are making fall planting a little difficult. But as the day lengths have gotten shorter, the plants have slowed down, making it easier for us to take a little time away from the garden to catch up on other things—being a part-time farmer can be difficult! Regardless, we've still had veggies coming in and we're hoping to keep the farm stand up and running as long as there are veggies to be harvested. Keep an eye out for your weekly email as our open hours will be modified going into the fall, and keep reading for more news from the farm:

- ♣ The nice thing about the continuation of summer heat is that it has kept the tomatoes in good shape! The cooler nights and decreased sunshine has slowed them down, but they have lots of new, good looking growth, and there are still quite a few green tomatoes out there! Other summer veggies like okra, squash, peppers, and eggplant are also still going strong and should be available for at least a few more weeks.

- ♣ Our fall plants are having a hard time making it into the ground...or rather Anna is having a hard time getting them there! As you can see, Lance is pretty worried about it. But the plants are looking strong and will hopefully get their roots in the ground within the next couple weeks.



- ♣ Thanks to all who let us know about your favorite fall veggies! If you haven't had a chance yet, it'd still be



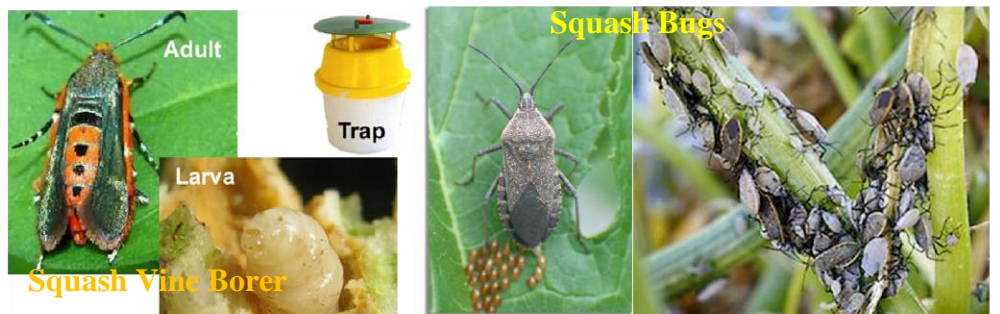
helpful to know what sort of veggies people are interested in so we know what and how much to plant. Things like lettuce, spinach, kale, swiss chard, beets, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, bok choy, snow peas, carrots, radishes, turnips, and rutabegas are on our list of things we'd like to have available eventually if people are interested! It's a little late for some of them this fall, but leafy greens and root veggies should still have time plenty of time to grow this year.

- ♣ Out in the orchard, the trees are getting confused by the weather—we even found peach and plum trees blossoming!

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!

summer review: SQUASH!

For our review of squash (or squarsh, as Jim would say), we'll focus more on growing methods rather than varieties. Our first year in the Jimmy Acres garden, we had more squash than we knew what to do with! But once the squash bugs and squash vine borers found their way over, it's been a struggle to keep plants alive. For those of you familiar with these nasty pests, you know how devastating they can be to your garden. That's why most conventionally grown squash and zucchini is heavily sprayed with pesticides—even most organically grown squash gets sprayed with organic certified pesticides, which may be “natural” but are still not something that we want to eat! Plus, they kill off the good bugs. That's why here at Jimmy Acres, we look for methods that support the health of our plants and the garden ecosystem as a whole.



Squash Vine Borer: We've had great success this year with SVB control by using traps! The pheromone bait attracts the flying adults to their death trap and prevents them from laying eggs in our plants. Interrupting this cycle keeps the larvae grub worms from eating their way through the stem and killing the plants. These reusable traps are relatively inexpensive and definitely beat having to perform surgery on the plants to remove larvae!

Squash Bugs: Our best method of insect control in the past with these guys was hand picking...which is even less fun than it sounds, especially given that they are closely related to stink bugs! We have found some varieties of squash that are resistant to their piercing proboscis, but those are mostly winter squashes (*C. moschata* members, to be specific). But we also like a good yellow squash, and we know y'all do, too! That's why we've been really excited about the success we've seen this summer with simply giving our plants a little boost with some probiotics. Using a product created by [Earthfort](#), our plants have been receiving a dose of beneficial bacteria and fungi that are naturally found in healthy soil, but not always in high enough doses to give the plants the boost they need in their war on pests. These bacteria and fungi work symbiotically with the plants to increase nutrient availability and uptake by the plants, thereby making them more resistant and resilient and to stressors like sugar-sucking bugs, as well as heat, drought, and disease. Furthermore, increased beneficial bacteria and fungi populations help to out-compete the deleterious microorganisms that can further weaken plants and keep them from reaching their full genetic potential. In this way, not only are we able to keep harmful chemicals off of your food, but we are also able to boost the nutritional value of your veggies and increase the health of our soil ecosystem!

Have any tips or tricks of your own for dealing with garden pests? We'd love to hear them!

*“There are no gardening mistakes. Only experiments.”
~Janet Kilburn Phillips~*