

THE ROOT CONNECTION PO Box 267 Woodinville Wa 98072

www.rootconnection.com

(425) 881 1006

root-coop@hotmail.com Aug 30 2017



Now it's too late
ba-a-by, it's too late...
though we really did
try to make it...

Basil has started to mildew. Resilient members were out there last week searching for good leaves though and finding a lot still. Mildew did hold off longer than usual this year no doubt due to the super dry weather. However the Watch Weed told me last week that it would start soon so I wasn't surprised. There is a weed species (one good clump is right by my trailer door) that is the first plant to get mildew so that's my signal every year.



Ah, but it's
never too late!



True, but I don't
think that's what
she's talking about



The Watch Weed
has spoken!

Despite warm weather, plants react to day length more than anything so when the days get shorter, fall-like things happen. We did hold off on watering the basil this past month so that may have helped hold off the mildew as well. We are doing the same thing with the flowers as I've no doubt that if we did water now they would mildew also, especially the zinnias.

Chard also tends to get some mildew, but it is easily washed off and usually the mildew goes away in a couple of weeks. Other fall-like happenings are that the winter squash vines are dying so we will be bringing in some of it to stay dry and cure in the greenhouse.

Corn is not quite ready yet but SHOULD be next week. Or, we may have corn for the Fri/Sat this week and then Wed/Thurs next week. We lost Crop 1 corn due to the "May effect" that brought on a disease that we normally don't see here in this part of the US. Some other farmers had the same problem. But we had planted a smaller Crop 2 and Crop 3. Crop 2 is almost ready to pick and Crop 3 will likely be in about 3 weeks. So not as much corn we are used to, but all the more precious.....

Tomatoes are slowing down some but we will still picking for a while. If you have tomato plants at home and have not done so yet, **it's past time to Kill Your Tomatoes!** (well, almost). To get the most ripening out of the tomatoes now on your plant, you need to cut off all the ends of the growing vines. (blossoms that are on there now will never have tomatoes even if the weather stays warm – remember, day length rules this time of year) Hold off on water, only enough to keep them alive. In fact, if they wilt a little in between watering, all the better. You want them to think they are dying and need to send energy into ripening (which in plant-speak means setting seed) NO fertilizer!

NOTE: if you have a "determinant" bush type tomato, the above does not apply. They will stop on their own if they haven't already.

Fall U-Pick greens: We will PROBABLY open some of them next week. When the plants are smaller, they can be more easily damaged by pulling on leaves or walking in the planting beds, so we need to wait till they get big enough to withstand that. Some of the types don't grow as fast, so we won't open them as soon. Read next week's newsletter for updated info.

I hope you are making plans to join us again next year. Pre-season signup forms will be out soon, signups for 2018 start in Sept so you can get a discount and make sure you get a spot for next season.

Claire