



Garden Oasis Farm LLC

Owner/Farmer: T.D. Holub

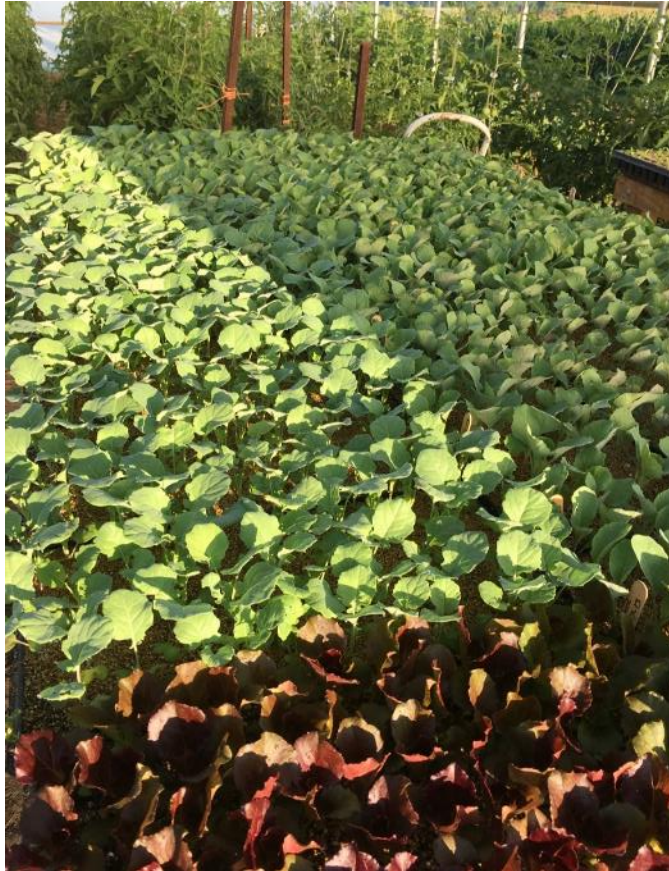
www.gofarmveggies.com

About the Farm: 2013-Present Day



- Est. in 2013 after graduating from University of Iowa.
- Farm's first garden was about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre
- To date: we produce pastured chickens and vegetables on approximately 10 acres and two high tunnels.
- Supplies a 100 member CSA, New Pioneer Food Coop, Local Restaurants, 2 Farmers Markets, & various small wholesale outlets.

1. Why do we grow



- CSA & Farmers Markets- Members enjoy a diverse mix of crops
- Cauliflower is trending
 - Substitute for potatoes
 - Meat replacement in vegetarian style dishes
 - Diets
- Restaurants expressing interest in Special varieties (Romanesco, colored types)

2. Seed Selection

- Variety Selection
 - Self-wrapping/self blanching
 - Color
 - Heat Tolerance
- We grow:
 - Snow Crown-Spring, early summer, and fall
 - Turns purplish when stressed
 - Veronica (Romanesco) fall only
 - Graffiti (Purple type) fall only
- Have tried others with mixed results
 - Bishop
 - Denali
 - Amazing
- New “sprouting” variety- Johnny’s



3. Seeding & Transplant

Production

- Soil blocks vs. cell flats
 - 72 ct. Flats
 - Beautiful Land Products #11 and vermiculite
 - Seeded with vacuum seeder
- Start under light in March and April
 - Vigor can be influenced by cold temperatures
- Start in high tunnel most of summer or shop in extremely hot weather
- Hand water as needed, usually daily
- Grown for 3.5-5 weeks and then set out in field



4. Field Preparation

- Step 1. Mow if living cover crop or vegetation
 - Rye-Mow 2-4 weeks before disking
 - Favorite- Winter killed oats, peas with clover and vetch
- Step 2. Spread fertilizer (chicken crumbles)
- Step 3. Disk 1 or 2x
- Step 4. Cultivate with Perfecta
- Step 5. Stale bed for 4-5 weeks, sometimes longer if possible
 - Use Perfecta to shallow cultivate about once every 10-14 days
- Step 6. Prepare bed with one last pass of Perfecta



5. Setting Out

- Hardening off
- Planting too early
 - Poor growth
 - Cabbage Root Maggots
- Planted in field with Waterwheel Transplanter
- 30" between rows, 19" in row
- More space could help reduce disease
- Experimenting with breaking up field blocks to reduce disease and pest pressure
 - Leaving sections of cover crop
 - Planting other non-brassica crops



6. Maintenance

Pests

- Cabbage worms/loopers
 - Dipel
- Flea beetles

Disease

- Black Rot: 2016 season
- Crop Rotation: 3 year brassica rotation
- Plant for harvest during cooler months

Black Rot can destroy all brassica crops

- Thrives in high heat & moisture
- Easily spread from field to field
 - Be careful of the order you cultivate, harvest, etc. when working in these fields and other non-diseased areas
- Clean up after harvest!
- Wash equipment
 - Caution farm team
- Foliar applications may help



7. Maintenance Continued

- Cultivation
 - Stale bedding is best line of defense
 - Tine weed 1-2x if possible
 - Cultivate with S-tine cultivator 2-3x
 - Hand weed when needed
 - Collinear or stir-up hoes between plants
- Stale bedding is most difficult in early spring
 - To combat this, plant into a winter killed cover crop
 - Usually plant fall plantings into areas that were rye in the spring after several passes to destroy residue and weed flushes
- May experiment with using sweeps on Williams Tool System Cultivator in



Field

Pictures



8. Harvest

- 4" Mini Heads
 - When extreme hot or cold expected
 - 2018- Cauliflower was fine down to 25 degrees
- 5"-7" Full size
 - Achieved in fall
- Don't allow heads to stay in field through extremely hot periods
 - Yellow or purple heads
 - Decreases taste quality
 - Can lead to "ricey" heads
- Harvest with knives
 - Leave wrapper leaves for protection during field harvest
- Wash as needed in large stock tanks
 - Peel off excess leaves
- Store in cooler for up to 3 weeks



9. After Harvest

- Destroy all harvested crops ASAP
 - Reduces disease and pest pressure
- Our process
 - 1. Mow old crops to reduce surface area
 - 2. Disk and let sit for about 2 weeks
 - 3. Plant a cover crop mix on the area
 - No brassicas here for 3 years
- Again, pay attention to the order you are destroying old crops vs. prepping new beds!
 - Will spread disease if done incorrectly
 - May need to wash equipment if destroying an infected crop

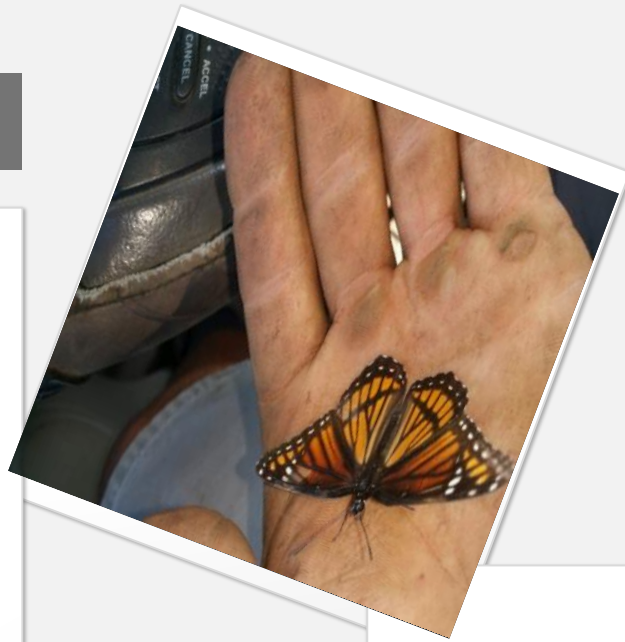


10. Things to Consider

- Keep good records on all crops
 - Planting dates
 - Spray intervals
 - Things out of the ordinary
- We use a large desk calendar and notebook for this!
- Weekly crop walks are critical!
- Sometimes it may be best to just terminate a crop
 - Can help to stop disease, pests
 - Too many weeds-promotes disease, pests
 - If most of crop is unmarketable
- Think about whole farm health, not just one crop
- Consider if your customers will even notice if this crop is missing from CSA or market



Questions?



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