

# Garden Oasis Farm

Owners: T.D. & Sarah Holub

- Started in 2012 (½ Acre)
- Now 10 acres (Produce on 6 acres)
- 4 High Tunnels, 1 Greenhouse
- Crops sold through CSA, Wholesale, On-Farm Sales
  - 35+ Types of Vegetables
- High Tunnel & Greenhouse Construction and Repair
  - Added in 2021 to help producers scale up their operations



# How has our farm's production system changed?

- Crops have shifted into high tunnels
  - Early and Late Season
    - Lettuce, kale, chard, Choi
    - Cut greens (spinach, greens mixes)
    - Carrots, beets
    - Turnips, radishes
  - Full or Summer Season
    - Fennel, kales, chard
    - Tomatoes
    - Head Lettuce, Salanova Mix
- Nearly all field crops are transplants
- Almost all direct seeded crops done in tunnels
  - Better germination
  - Control over moisture, early season cond.





# How have tunnels helped?

- Season extension with some control
  - Mitigates the effects of weather events, extreme temperature shifts, pests.
  - Higher yields
  - SPRAY DRIFT!
- Produce is cleaner!
  - No dirt splash, easy to clean quick
  - No battling weeds (hopefully)
  - Higher quality
- Better work and cash flow
  - Can work in the winter and fringe times of the season
  - Crops are raised and sold during periods of inactivity outdoors



## Variety Specifics

- Kale- Winterbor, Redbor, Black Magic
- Spinach- Auroch
- Lettuce Mix- Salanova
- Head Lettuce
  - Red- Vulcan, Magenta, Ruby Sky
  - Green- Grazion, Starfighter, Muir
- Tomatoes- BHN-589, Geronimo
- Carrots- Mokum
- Beets- Red Ace, Boro
- New 2025 possibly: Sweet peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, broccolini (early)





# Field Production

- Shift away from rototiller for soil prep
  - System change to prep fields
    - Mow, chisel, disc, perfecta
    - Reduces crusting
    - Less weed pressure (Stale bedding)
    - Healthier soil, more organic matter
  - Perfecta allows to work in wetter soils (unpredictable rain, weather events). Fast to use, beat the rain!
- Mechanically maintained
  - Waterwheel transplanter
  - Tine weeder, Cultivator
    - Ensures speed, ability to work in less than ideal conditions



# Field Crops

- Broccoli vs. Broccolini
- Determinate vs. Indeterminate Tomatoes
- Direct seeded vs. transplants
- Baby vs. full size crops
- Mulching vs. Open field with cultivation
- Planting before May vs. after May 10
- Low fields in Fall vs. low fields in Spring
  - Flooding, frost
- Hand weeding vs. mechanical cultivation





# Crops we grow less of or none at all

- Less of:
  - Broccoli, cauliflower, early brassicas, onions, field tomatoes, winter squash, Brussels Sprouts
- None:
  - Green beans, tomatillos, storage cabbage, melons, field root crops, field lettuce, spinach and direct seed greens
- Succession Planting
  - More large plantings vs. smaller succession plantings
    - Fall Broccoli- planted twice, end of July
  - 5 years ago-15+ seedings/season
  - Now- 8-10 per season



# Other Changes

- Working with other producers more to cover crop gaps
- CSA size
  - Less restrictive markets for crops
- Smaller farm staff
- Shifting to working indoors
  - Can harvest in all weather conditions
  - Family can be involved!
  - Comfortable=work performed more efficiently
  - Higher morale, no working in rain
- Evolving planting schedules
  - Garlic in December!





# More Changes

- Smaller seed purchases throughout season
  - Allows more variability in what is planted
  - Reduces production waste
    - Planting is easier than maintaining! Especially when field conditions are bad
- High priority on weed management
  - One rain away from no control in the fields
  - Makes maintenance and harvest easier!
- Off-farm work?
  - Not drawing all income from volatile growing conditions





