



News Springs Eternal

March 2010

From the Farm

February is not my favorite month of the year. I try to **focus on love for Valentine's Day , leadership for Presidents Day, new beginnings for Chinese New Year, and revelry for Mardi Gras**, but somehow all these occasions are tainted by the large rodent who makes the news each year in Punxsutawney , PA. He announced six more weeks of winter. Even if he predicts four more weeks of winter, rarely the case, it is still more winter than I care for. By now, the wood stove is less charming, my winter clothes feel itchy, my boots are too heavy, my fingers and lips are chapped, and my friends and family are tired of me apologizing for being grumpy. Laughing aloud, listening to good music, and moisturizing creams **help the weeks pass. If you love this weather, I envy you, but let's talk about it some June day** when I am happily working the soil.



Winter is a perfect time to make schedules and spreadsheets. We plan, and daydream, in February, perhaps momentarily believing we are in control of what will work, how things will grow, and how long it will take to complete projects for the coming year. Vineyard improvements and front courtyard garden renovation are high on the list for Yellow Springs Farm landscape work.

What are your garden goals? Get out a sketch pad, or tear out recipes and photos you love from magazines. Think about what you can do for the first time in 2010. Cooking and gardening go hand in hand if you plant edibles, but watching the butterfly garden become kinetic, or cutting wildflower s for the table are equally satisfying ways to enjoy fruits of your landscape labors.

Spreading compost, setting out seeds, and birthing goat kids, are among the first things we'll do as the snow melts, and maybe sooner. We are eager to start landscape installations at client sites, design new spaces for native species, and fill the cheese cave in anticipation of our new CSA season. I can't wait for Spring!

With warm wishes for sunny days ahead,

Catherine and Al Renzi

www.yellowspringsfarm.com



CSA Updates

Your response to our goat cheese CSA subscription has been exciting! We have about half the shares sold, so please enroll soon. Dora, Rina, Satin and the rest of the Goat girls look forward to this upcoming season and to meeting CSA members!

Whether you are just learning about goat cheese, or you are already a dedicated Yellow Springs Farm cheese enthusiast, we invite you to join us as a CSA member. A CSA is a relationship of mutual support and commitment between local farmers and community members who pay the farmer an annual membership fee to help cover production costs. In return, members receive a regular share of the production - for Yellow Springs Farm members, this is a share of local artisanal goat cheese. A cheese CSA operates much like a vegetable or fruit CSA.

As a CSA member you will be enjoying regular deliveries of ar-



artisanal cheese while helping support diversity, sustainability, and small scale innovation in farming. Your food choices

are helping shape the future of our food systems.

Yellow Springs Farm CSA members will receive a cheese share two times per month. Each assortment will include 3 varieties of Yellow Springs Farm cheeses totaling 12-14oz. per delivery.

Both fresh, pasteurized milk cheeses and aged raw milk cheeses are included. Members also have unique opportunities to try new products and place special orders for extra cheese. We will make an assortment of 20-25 unique cheeses over the course of the season. We hope that this variety will keep your tastebuds tingling as you anticipate the next **share pickups**. Members' email updates will include recipes and cheese descriptions.

Cheese shares will be delivered once in late May, twice each month June-Oct, and once in November. In addition to Yellow Springs Farm (Chester Springs), we anticipate other pick-up sites for your convenience including,

- Yellow Springs Farm (Chester Springs)
- CCEDC/Eagleview (Exton)
- Charlestown Farm (Charlestown)
- Jenkins Arboretum (Devon)



- Maysies Farm(Glenmoore)
- Pennypack Farm(Ambller)
- Henry Got Crops(Philadelphia)

You will receive cheese either the first and third weeks, or second and fourth weeks of each month, depending on your pick-up location.

If you are on the fence about whether or not to join, please call us and we will be happy to arrange a time for you or a small group to experience a YSF cheese tasting. You will also have an opportunity to see the cheese room and visit with our goats! We posted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the CSA on our website, too.

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Mark your Calendar

YSF Native Plant Sale and Open House



May 8th-9th 2010, May 22-23 2010, rain or shine

Our event features over 200 species of native plants, artisanal goat cheese tasting, and unveiling of a new Earth Art sculpture by artist Rhoda Kahler. Shop the native plant sale, view demonstration gardens around the Farm, and get free, expert advice on plant selection for your property. See the 2010 crop of newborn goat kids, and taste varieties of our farmstead, artisanal goat milk cheeses. Cheeses will also be for sale. Participate in the design on our very large tree sculpture with artist Rhoda Kahler. Learn about hypertufa and mosaics as the Tree is given finishing touches after over two years of creative work.

Click [here](#) to see full YSF Calendar of Events

www.yellowspringsfarm.com



March Care Alert for Lawns and Edible Gardens

In past newsletters, we described how to start composting, and its importance to soil fertility and water retention. In the event that you do not have the time for composting, there are a range of natural, organic solutions to fit your lawn and garden.

March is a good time to think about lawn care. As much as we would like to see more lawn converted to native species gardens, most people enjoy a little grass, too.

We are taking 2010 pre-orders for our specially formulated lawn care fertilizer. We recommend [Fertrell Granulated Turfmaster Lawn Fertilizer](#). This organic, lawn blend promotes turf growth and brings out the deep

green in your lawn. For best results, apply in March and early April, weather permitting. For established lawns, the application rate is 6lbs/1000 sq. ft.

For blueberries, March is a good time to use the organic [Berry Mix 4-2-4](#). For Raspberries, Blackberries and other brambles, apply Aragonite sea calcium (assists with nutrient availability) in March and the [Berry Mix](#) in April to insure good fruit set and berry production. Berry Mix should be repeated in August, insuring a heavy fruit set in the following Spring.

For other fruit trees, including Apple, Pear and Peach Trees, we recommend a Spring application of Super N 4-2-4. For general gardening needs, the Super N is also a good all-around fertilizer to add, absent of a quality composting program.

Please contact us if you would like your soil tested, or if you



have specific plant nutrition or disease issues.

Click [here](#) to order Fertrell Granulated Turfmaster Lawn Fertilizer

Click [here](#) to order Berry Mix 4-2-4

Click [here](#) to order Super N 4-2-4



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More Ways to Show Appreciation for YSF Customers and Friends

We are very grateful for our loyal customers' support for Yellow Springs Farm over the past 8 years. We could not farm here without you. Many of you were here from the very beginning when in 2002 we embarked on this great adventure to educate the community about the importance of biodiversity and environmental conservation. We remain eager to share our enthusiasm for native plants in the landscape. In 2010, eight years later, the "green" drum for conservation and native landscapes beats longer and louder. At YSF, we also hear the sound of Nubian does and their kids nickering in the meadow. Anyone for goat cheese?

Pre-paid Orders of Plants

\$15 gift cert

www.yellowspringsfarm.com

On minimum order of \$25

Tel: 610-827-2014

Expiration Date: 03/15/2010

Refer-a-Friend

\$15 gift cert

www.yellowspringsfarm.com

Click [here](#) to fill out form online

Tel: 610-827-2014

Expiration Date: 03/15/2010

www.yellowspringsfarm.com



What's New in the Greenhouse? 2010 Highlights

After receiving 4 feet of snow, let's think about something other than how bad the roads are, when your plow service is going to show up, or when electric service might return. There is a dream of a garden under all of that snow. Hold that thought and see what surprises we have in the greenhouse.



Paw Paws

The second most popular native fruit, after blueberries. Here's an opportunity to reserve several trees. We have small tubling containers that are less than 1 foot tall for those that are looking for less expensive plants, but also have a 10 year time horizon before first fruit matures. We have some medium and larger sizes, too, that will fruit in less than five years. Reserve now—we have less than 100 Paw Paws.



Dutchman's Pipe

Pipevines are an important larval food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly. If that is not enough, the heart shape foliage is beautiful and the flowers, although not spectacular, are ochre, brown and burgundy. This vine will grow up to 30 feet, so if you are trying to create a screen, it is a relatively fast growing vine that offers both habitat and aesthetic value.

Reserve now



Yellow Wild Indigo

This plant is in the Baptisia genus. It is a deep-rooted legume that will grow in relatively tough situations. It tolerates poor soils, even if you have a lot of clay or rock. Help it get started, but then you can expect yellow blooms in the summer and growth to 3 feet over 2-3 years. They are particularly attractive when combined with ground covers or in the mixed perennial border.

Reserve now

Be sure to check out our "New for 2010" plant link in our online store for more new additions. Remember to order plants by March 15th to receive a \$15 gift certificate. (minimum order \$25)

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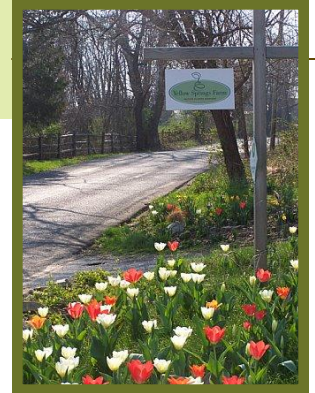


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Earth Aid

Yellow Springs Farm is proud to announce that we have joined the Earth Aid to reward individuals who "go green" at home and sponsor sustainability in the neighborhood by conserving energy and water resources. Did you see the January 17, 2010 photo and article about YSF and Earth Aid in the **Philadelphia Inquirer** ?



Earth Aid (www.earthaid.net), provides a free service that enables you to track your actual electric, gas, and water usage all in one place online. If you enroll, you will receive customized tips to save money, energy and the planet. Earth Aid compares your consumption levels this month with your usage during the same month in past years - if you've reduced, you earn Earth Aid Rewards Points at the following rates:

-  **1** Earth Aid Rewards Point for every **1 kWh** saved
-  **1** Earth Aid Rewards Point for every **10 cubic feet** saved
-  **1** Earth Aid Rewards Point for every **20 gallons** saved

You can use these Rewards points to redeem discounts at local businesses, including Yellow Springs Farm.

As one of Earth Aid's premier partners, we're pleased to offer you \$10 off a purchase of \$50 or more if you achieve energy saving of 75 points, equivalent to saving 75 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Please consider signing up for this innovative service.

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