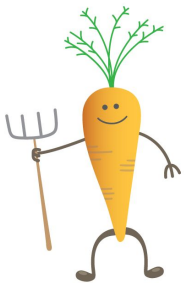




Ginger & Turmeric Production

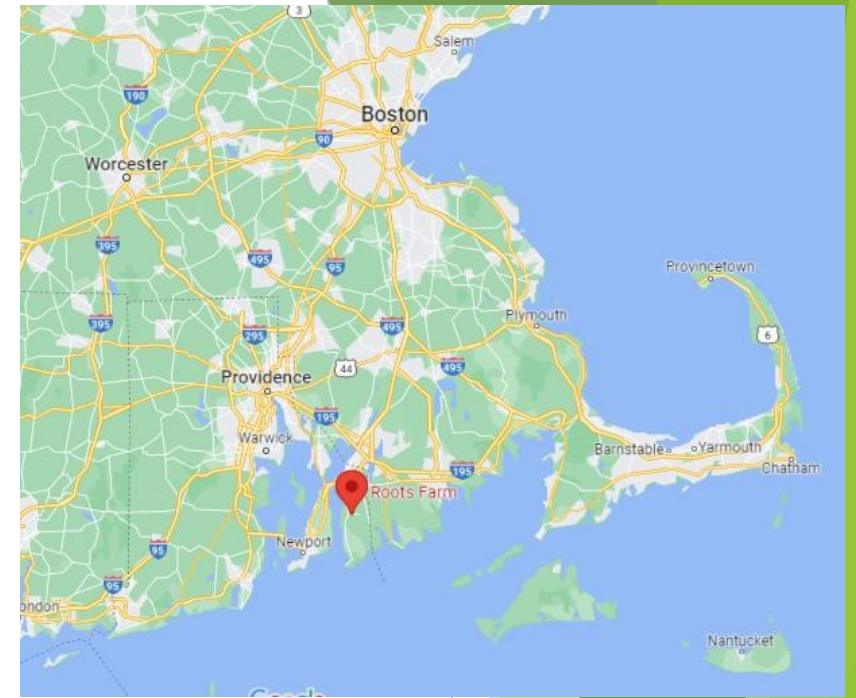
Kelli Roberts
Roots Farm
Tiverton, RI
NEVF 2024



About Roots Farm



- ▶ Mike & Kelli Roberts, full-time farmers
- ▶ Zone 7A
- ▶ Certified organic
- ▶ ~1.5 acres of vegetables
- ▶ Started farming here in 2010
- ▶ 6 moveable high tunnels + 1 seedling house
- ▶ Over 300 bed-ft planted to ginger & turmeric annually
- ▶ Yields of \$24-39/bed-ft, respectively



Strategies for a productive crop

- ▶ **Quality seed**
- ▶ **Presprouting**
- ▶ **Planting (spacing, timing)**
- ▶ **Hilling**
- ▶ **Harvest**
- ▶ **Marketing & Sales**



Quality seed

- ▶ Seed source
- ▶ Keep rhizomes warm
- ▶ Cutting seed & curing



Presprouting



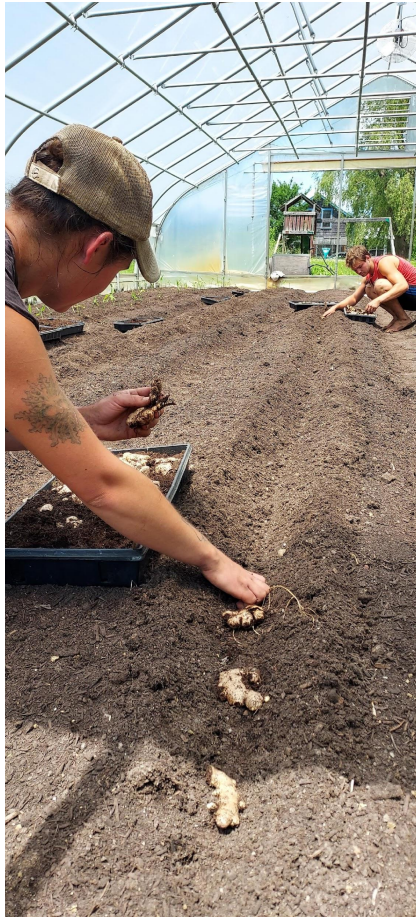
- Spacing
- Covering
- Watering



Presprouting Chamber

- Ginger ~ 72F; Turmeric ~ 77F
- Space heaters & fans
- Water every other day
- Takes 1-2 months
- Bring to light once up

Planting



Timing

- Late May / early June
- Soil temp => ~ 60F

Trenching

- Wheel hoe attachment

Spacing

- Single row, 30" bed
- Ginger - 4-5" (1 hand)
- Turmeric - 5-6" (1 hand + 1 finger)



Hilling

- ▶ As needed for cultivation
- ▶ Use collinear or onion hoe
- ▶ Aim for minimum of 3x per season
- ▶ Similar to potatoes but slightly less



Harvest - checking in



- ▶ **Ginger begins late August**
Aim for a minimum of 1.0 lb per bed-ft
- ▶ **Turmeric begins late September**
Aim for 1.5 lbs per bed-ft



Harvest



- ▶ Look at market demand & previous yields in #/bed-ft to calculate feet to dig so as not to overshoot
- ▶ Consider weeks left until frost

Harvest (cont.)



Trim, wash, make it pretty...



*** Efficiently, and so that it sells itself**



Trim, wash, make it pretty...



*** Turmeric needs an extra spray step before trimming, then final wash**

Retail

- ▶ Display
- ▶ Pre-sales in ¼# or greater increments
- ▶ Recipes & consumer education
- ▶ Turmeric is slower to sell, but interest has increased over the years as customers become more familiar with it
- ▶ Yields \$24-39/bed-ft for a relatively low labor crop



Questions?

Roots Farm

www.rootsfamilyfarm.org

Follow us on Instagram:

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ROOTS FARM 
growing a revolution

