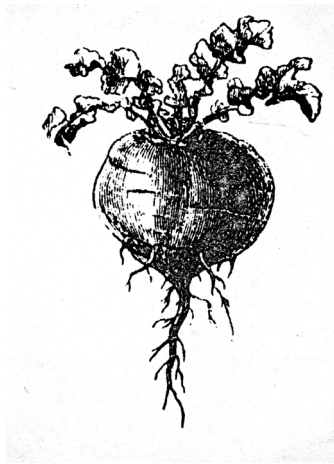


Growing For Winter Markets

Wishing Stone Farm

Little Compton

Rhode Island



Wishing Stone Farm



Know Your Farm

- We are Zone 7b, we can get away with much more than some of our Northern friends but even for Rhode Island the Ocean surrounding us in Little Compton keeps us warm in the fall and cold in the spring allowing us to play with our micro climate to push the boundaries of our seasons...



- Reading the Temperature and deciding when to cover things in the greenhouse at night can be a risky gamble but covering less is always better to allow plants to breathe and get fresh air... they are stronger than you think!



Trial & Error

Experiment!

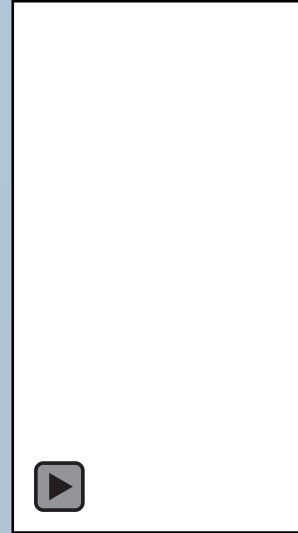
Keep Records!

What Worked / What Didn't Work...

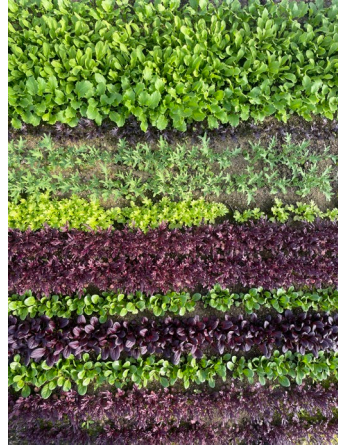
Ask yourself if it's Profitable or Just for
Bragging Rights



Greenhouse Preparation & Fertilizer

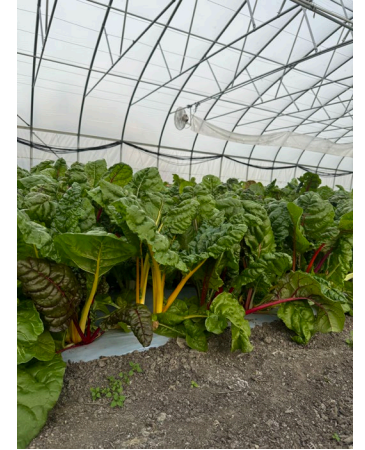
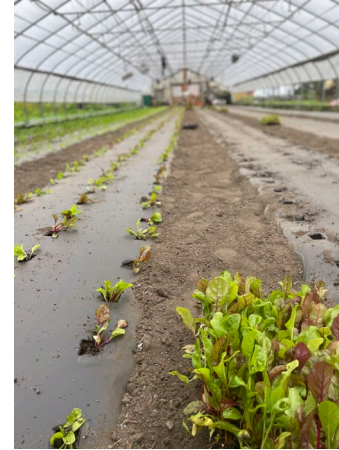


Steaming



Plastic Rows

(9 inch wheel for Kale, Chard and Celery)



Plugs



Direct Seeding



Long Term Crops VS Short Term Crops

Spinach, Kale, Chard, Spring Onions, Sprouting Broccoli, Celery, Parsley & Cilantro



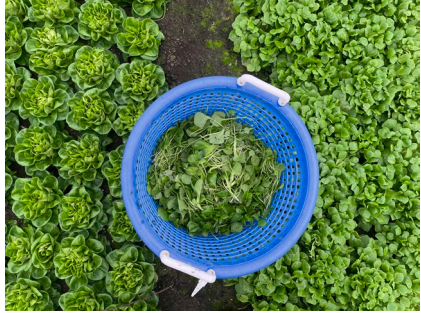
Mini Lettuce, Mustards, Baby Bok Choi, Arugula, Broccoli Rabe, Salad Mix, Asian Greens



Greenhouse Layout

- Deciding what plants to put where can be worth the extra time planning out the layout of the greenhouse
- Crops that can handle the cold we usually put on the two sides of the greenhouse (Spinach, Watercress, Parsley, Cilantro, Kale, Arugula)
- Keep Plants that would benefit from staying warmer in the middle area of the greenhouse (Lettuce + Salanova)
- When direct seeding greens we like to make a big fat row, thoughtfully positioning single cut varieties to create walking paths once harvested (Green 70 + Broccoli Rabe)





Timing



- Make sure to Keep Good Records! Tweaking the seed dates from year to year will make each year going forward a confidence booster.
- Long Term Crops like Kale need to be seeded in August and planted early in the greenhouse to get as big as possible going into the low light of December
 - Spinach and Lettuce types will act different in the winter and harvest window is extended dramatically ... Use it to your advantage!
- Remember that almost everything is a Brassica! Spring time is the end of what they are going to produce for you so you need to have things ready to replace it once it goes to seed.
 - Develop a market for brassica tips! They are delicious when picked at the right time and something to look forward to!
- Seedlings grow extremely slow in the deep winter months so overseeding trays of mini romaine or salanova to replace things that are spent are a good investment... Better to have too much than not have at all.



Keep it Clean!



Fall Crops

- Late Season Fall Crops can help carry over into the winter months so you don't dig into your greenhouse greens too early and clear yourself out leading into the low light of December... if you can hold off on picking your greenhouses for as long as possible you will have many more options once the outside things are fully harvest and put to rest
 - Spinach, Arugula and Asian Greens like Red Tatsoi are extremely tough and most of the time do not need row cover to make it all the way to harvest.
- Lettuce and Salanova should lean more to the red side of things as green lettuce can turn yellow when exposed to cold nights... Think Red Boston (skyphos) Planting into Black Plastic also helps.
- Cauliflower and Broccoli can handle the cold better than you think... making sure mature heads are picked on a regular basis and covering with row cover if you see and long week of nights in the 20's...self wrapping heads of cauliflower like "twister" will help protect themselves from frost.
- Savoy Cabbage can handle very cold temps and we usually leave them outside and harvest weekly until they are sold out... no need to take up cooler space for something that will do just fine outside (Deacon is our favorites!)
- Leeks are very resilient...after all the large ones have been picked (usually by Thanksgiving) we will wait for a warm day and harvest a bin of them to put in the cooler and sell for the next week or two. If they are a smaller size we will make bunches.
- Radicchio is the king of the Late Season and is gaining popularity with customers (not just restaurants anymore)... Big heads like Treviso are easy to grow and smaller fancy ones look beautiful broken up into a mixed bag for retail at markets or grocery stores



Roots & Storage Crops

- Don't Forget to Get Stocked up on all things storage and keep them as fresh as possible so people can one stop shop for everything they need for a good home cooked meal! Storage Conditions are key to keeping things fresh into the winter... Everything needs its own special conditions but there are some overlaps. Sweet Potatoes and Winter Squash want to be kept WARM and things like Carrots, Radishes, Potatoes, Turnips and Cabbage want to be kept COLD...if you can not store them correctly there is no sense in growing a lot of them.



Storage At Wishing Stone Farm

- Winter Squash & Sweet Potatoes (55 , dry)
- Storage Radish (washed, bagged, 34)
- Potatoes (39, Unwashed, Moist)
- Cabbage (36)
- Carrots (washed, bagged, 36)
- Turnips (unwashed, 36, bagged)
- Kohlrabi (unwashed, no bag, 36)
- Celeriac (unwashed, no bag, 36)



Don't Forget About Spring!

- Spring is a great time to intercrop stuff to make the most out of the space you have...
- Things like Greenhouse Peppers and Tomatoes take up a ton of space that you can easily get a quick crop of salad mix or mini lettuce out of them with plugs or a paper pot transplanter...
- Plan ahead in the fall and leave a certain amount of winter kill cover crops around like oats and peas in fields that you hope to get early plastic down in... think early chard, kale, lettuce, potatoes, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower ...
- Seed Carrots around the end of December in a greenhouse for a beautiful spring crop.
- Pole Beans and Sugar Snap Peas in the greenhouse are a fun way to get a jump on the season... Beans will need some heat but people will love you. (we like Northeaster and Seychelles for pole beans)





Value Added Products

- The best way to ensure that nothing goes to waste is having a way to make value added products for things that you have too much of or are starting to go to seed...

Greenhouse Varieties



Long Term Crops:

Winter Bor Green Curly

Kale

Bright Lights Chard

Spinach

(Auroch, Hammerhead,

Rangitoto)

Celery

(Chinese White & Pink)

Sprouting Broccoli

(Melody, Bonarda)

Spring Onions

(Forum Sets, Bridger Plugs)

Short Term Crops:

Salanova

Mini Romaine

(Breen, Truchas, Dragoon)

Little Gem

Newham, Cegolaine)

Baby Bok Choi

(Li Ren, Mei Qing, Asian

Delight)



Direct Seeded Crops:

Yokatina

Red Rosie

Ruby Streaks

Green 70

Arugula

Spring Rabe

Red Komatsuna

White Russian Kale

Mokum and Napoli

Carrots

Hakurei Turnips

Bunching Radishes

Questions?

