

Kestrel Perch Berries 2011

A U-Pick CSA at EcoVillage

Katie Creeger, 220 Rachel Carson Way, Ithaca NY 14850

WHAT'S THE SAME THIS YEAR?

- ❖ **A June-July CSA season** (5-7 weeks) followed by pay-as-you-go U-pick: fall raspberries (from late August into October) and elderberries (September). Sorry, no blackberries – they had to be plowed under due to disease (to protect the black raspberries, which are susceptible to the same fungus).
- ❖ **Picking windows:** Your choice of TUES/WED or FRI/SAT, with a Sunday make-up day.
- ❖ **Subsidized shares available to low-income households** through the Healthy Foods for All program – please request an HFFA sign-up form from Kestrel Perch (no need to go through Co-op Extension!)
- ❖ **Working members:** All members are asked to contribute 3 hours of working time (per season) to help keep the berry farm running, or pay \$25 to cover extra labor costs. Options for getting in your 3 hours:
 - Several major work parties are planned for the 2011 season. At least one will be a weed-n-feed (work for a while, then enjoy a nice meal!) Stay tuned!
 - Work opportunities will be available on all picking days. In addition, a list of self-explanatory “anytime jobs” means you can come work any day – evening, early morning, whenever you want.
 - **WORK MORE, PAY LESS:** Interested in working more for a more substantial discount? Let's talk!

WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING?

- ❖ **2011 share option and price:**
 - JUNE-JULY (JJ): The full CSA season: strawberries, SUMMER RED RASPBERRIES, BLACK RASPBERRIES (BLACKCAPS), RED and BLACK CURRANTS, and (possibly) GOOSEBERRIES. **SHARE PRICE:** \$85 working, \$110 nonworking; with early sign-up discount if eligible. JJ is the only share option being offered this year.
 - Sorry, NO Strawberries-Only (SO) or Jam-Maker's Special (JMS) shares until 2012. I looked at the downward spiral of strawberry yields over the past few years and reluctantly concluded that an SO share isn't likely to be worth it this year. If you've been a Strawberries-Only member and can't upgrade to a full share, I'll welcome you back next year once the new strawberry planting (see below!) is in production. If you've been getting a JMS share, consider signing up for an extra JJ this year – the strawberry component shouldn't be overwhelming.
- ❖ **RECRUITMENT BONUS!** The berry CSA lost members last year. (Was it the economy finally catching up to Ithaca? Or – uh oh! – the new 3-hour work commitment?) In any case, to build the membership back up, I'm offering a \$10 rebate to any member who recruits a new member. Just e-mail me the names of folks you've told about the berry CSA, and for each one who signs up, I'll refund you \$10. (To help me keep track, ask them to note “referred by...” on their sign-up form.)
- ❖ **Lots of planting happening this year, which means lots of work parties!**
 - BLUEBERRIES will go in the ground in late April. Watch for an e-mail about a work party/crop mob/weed-n-feed!
 - BUSH PIE CHERRIES have also been ordered and should arrive in April. Maybe a second work party, maybe the same one?
 - STRAWBERRY PLANTING will happen at the annual Memorial Day weekend Weed-n-Feed (Um, Plant-n-Feed?)

SHARE SELECTION TIPS:

- ❖ **Share sharing:** Share size is geared to fresh eating for 3-4 people. You're welcome to share your share(s) with friends. Just enter your share-mate's information on the sign-up form.
- ❖ **If you want multiple shares and plan to work on picking days,** consider making at least one of your shares non-working unless you'll ALWAYS have more than one person available to pick and work. Picking multiple shares plus doing multiple work stints can take longer than you expect! Or, sign up for one TUES/WED and one FRI/SAT share.

For planning purposes only, mark your calendars with the tentative start dates of TUES/WED June 7-8 or FRI/SAT June 10-11. You'll be notified by e-mail when the start date is confirmed (it could change by as much as a week, depending on the weather). During the season, you'll get weekly e-mail updates about what's available to pick.

KESTREL PERCH BERRIES: A U-Pick CSA at EcoVillage

2011 SHARE AGREEMENT: *Return this form promptly to reserve your share!*

SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION:

Full name, please print: _____

Name as you want it to appear at check-in: _____

Check if applicable: I'm a returning member from 2010 and ALL my info is the same as last year.

Or provide any new or different info:

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Check if applicable: I plan to share my share with this person who is NOT a member of my household: Name _____ Phone: _____ E-mail _____

PREFERRED PICKING WINDOW (check one):

TUESDAY / WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY / SATURDAY

I'll let you know if your preferred time is oversubscribed.

SHARE COST:

We'd like:

___ REGULAR WORKING June-July (JJ) share/s @ \$85 \$ _____
+ 3 hours work commitment/share (+ ___ hrs)

___ REGULAR NON- WORKING June-July (JJ) share/s @ \$110 \$ _____

with \$10 early-bird discount (check one per share if applicable)

___ EcoVillager, signed up by APRIL 1 - \$ _____

___ Non-EV 2010 returning member, by MAY 1 - \$ _____

___ New or lapsed member, by JUNE 1 - \$ _____

___ SOLIDARITY (HFFA subsidized) share, NON-WORKING, @ \$50 fixed price \$ _____
(Early-bird discount does not apply to HFFA shares. You may secure your share with a \$10 deposit; followed by 2 payments of \$20 each, due in June and July. Please complete and return the HFFA eligibility insert along with this registration form.)

We'd also like to make a donation to support Healthy Foods For All: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make a note of your picking window, and return form with payment to:
Kestrel Perch Berries, c/o Katie Creeger, 220 Rachel Carson Way, Ithaca NY 14850

QUESTIONS? Contact Katie at: ithacaberries "at" gmail "dot" com