



Rare Earth News

Trellising and cultivating the tomatoes. Tomatoes are forming on the vine but still are a ways off from our first harvest.

Even though it's the busiest time of the year, there's still a great feeling of joy at the end of each day. All the daily care and attention given to our crops really draws our attention to their state of health. Seeing everything in

prime condition provides us with a strong sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Something definitely to be happy about. Of course there's always a few little setbacks along the way but that's the nature of farming. Very seldom do we achieve ultimate perfection, but getting close to perfect as possible is a goal we constantly aim for.

With no guarantees from nature, each year the selection varies a bit from a number of different circumstances. We just harvested our garlic crop and with what we were able to harvest I'm reluc-



tant to say we'll have to save all of it for replanting later this fall. Last fall was too wet when we normally plant so it didn't get planted until this spring. The garlic we were planning to plant last fall didn't hold up so well in storage. What we had left in good shape by the spring was less than the normal amount we usually plant. What was still in good condition was planted in April, but unfortunately there just wasn't enough to pass to our CSA members on top of what's needed for replanting. I can only hope this fall will provide us with better weather conditions for fall garlic planting.

I had to feature some pictures in this issue from our tomato field. At this point they're looking fabulous! The slicing tomatoes and romas are still in a green state but some of the cherry tomatoes are starting to ripen. Because they got put in late from the cold spring we hope to start packing slicing tomatoes towards the end of August. Cherry tomatoes are starting to ripen but we're not able to

harvest enough for everyone yet. Should have enough cherry tomatoes for all in a week or two. In the meantime we'll have a few quart clamshell containers on our webstore if anyone wants to add them to their share this week. Hurry while they're available. We'll be updating the inventory as we pick.

Well time to get back to the field. Enjoy the rest these beautiful summer days because as you well know they're numbered! Take care!



There's a great population of monarchs on the farm at this time of the year. Monarchs love organic farms because no herbicides are used that kill their primary food source. Being they only eat milkweed they're of no bother to our vegetables. Beautiful creatures in both caterpillar and butterfly stages!