



Raspberry Storage

Raspberries are one of the most perishable fruits. This is especially true in a hot, rainy year like we have had so far. We carefully pick them fresh each morning so that they arrive to you in the best possible condition. If you aren't going to eat them right away, put them in the refrigerator and eat within a day. They will not hold up well much longer and we would like you to be able to enjoy them!

CSA pick up info

Albion-on very warm days we will be putting the fruit shares in the cooler. They will be grouped together and labeled by share types.

Medina-Please come to the house for your fruit share. I will either be inside or chasing Dudley around outside, in which case, we will see you when you arrive!

Pickings from the Patch

Jam time!! There are lots of berries in the cooler and it is a dreary day outside. A perfect day to make jam!

The jars go in the dishwasher; I get out my trusty stockpot that has made hundreds of batches, and start rinsing those little gems. Do I have a favorite? Not really; I love them all and I love to mix them up. How about Currant Raspberry Jelly or a true "Kerry Berry" Jam, which has all the fruits that I grow?

The sugar is measured and the pectin opened. No cutting corners when it comes to jam; you don't want it to not set. I stand stirring the hot liquid, waiting for it to boil. It's a good time to be thankful for the bounteous harvest. It's boiling. Set the timer for one minute and don't stop stirring!

As I pour the hot jam into the jars, the smell is awesome and the bubbles I spoon off the top are so tasty. Pop, pop, pop go the tops after they have gone through the hot water bath. Sealed, set, and ready for someone to enjoy a taste of summer.

Kerry Panek, Panek's Pickin' Patch

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Life on the Ledge

We have had a lot of rain during sweet cherry season. Sour (or tart) cherries are not as sensitive to water as the sweet cherries, so they don't split with rain. This year, even they did! My dad says he has never seen it before...way too much rain!

We were able to get a couple varieties off before the rain, but the downside is that their flavor hadn't reached its peak yet. We often have to make this decision...pick a bit early and have some sweet cherries to offer or wait a few more days and have full flavored, sweet, RUINED cherries? So, yes, the cherries have been splitting, but these later ones, we have been able to sort as we pick and again after they are picked. They have gotten sweeter and I am grateful that we have some to include in the shares.

I never finished telling you about the birds either. Besides rain, birds are the other major challenge of growing cherries. As soon as the cherries begin to ripen, they are all over them. It wouldn't be so bad if they ate an entire cherry; instead they take a peck out of each one, destroying many quickly. The birds haven't been as much of a problem this year because of a study Cornell is conducting on our farm. There is a bird distress call that has many different variations and also a kite shaped like a hawk that is very lifelike. It seems to have worked and we have a lot less damage. Thank you for sticking with us through this challenging season!

Guinevere (Smith) Panek, Ledge Rock Farms

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