



FRIENDSHIP FARMS & FARE

Friendship Farms & Fare affirms and advances agrarian ideals to reestablish a sustainable culture

FARM REPORT & NEWSLETTER

APRIL 20, 2015 – 29TH 2014-2015 FARM & CSA REPORT

Friendship Farms & Fare is a division of Ecology Florida, a not-for-profit corporation.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida are tax deductible.

If you would like to support our work, please consider sharing a donation.

PO Box 596 • New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0596

<http://www.ffffsite.org/>

FARM REPORT

74 degrees at 4:00 AM, April 18, 2015

Historic Average (for 4/20): 82 HIGH, 64 LOW–Weather Underground:

<http://www.wunderground.com/>

See the complete weekly weather report later in the Farm Report

Sweet Potato Slips Arrive Planting Begins

Our first shipment of sweet potato slips from George's Plant Farm arrived on Friday. We've ordered 100 Georgia Jets and 100 Beauregards. These are the traditional varieties for Friendship Farms & Fare, and shareholders have been enjoying them for years. We found time to get 25 slips planted on Friday and we are aiming to get the rest planted by Sunday evening.

If you would like to acquire slips for your summer garden, let us know. We will share some of ours for a modest donation.

We acquire our slips from George's Plant Farm in Martin, Tennessee. George's is a family farm, with a wonderful story. To learn about the Dellinger Family and their farm, here is a link to their website: <http://www.tatorman.com/>

Last year we had 300 slips in our two gardens, and total production of 250 pounds. This year, we are looking to increase the planting to 400 slips, and we are aiming for 400 pounds. We usually place three orders from George's, one in April, one in May, and one in June. This allows to distribute the planting over three months, which means we are also distributing the harvest over three months. Those who were following the *Farm Report* last year remember that this method worked very well, and allowed us to have sweet potatoes through October.

Don't forget, Sweet Potato leaves and vines are a delicious warm weather green. We'll have those listed in the share report very soon.

Good Bye to Two Old Friends

Two of the three ancient Duncan grapefruit trees in the south grove have made transition. It is sad to see them go, and see the empty spaces in the grove where they stood for many years. They were

there longer than anyone in the community can remember. Ray, who has been living in these parts the longest, observed, "they've always been there." They have long been our companions, and they are missed. The third Duncan is still with us, although it appears weak – and old.

Perhaps the Duncan seedlings from Bartlett's Forgotten Grove will one-day stand where these generous providers of food and beauty stood for decades.

Okra Planting Picks Up

We picked up the pace on the okra planting, but are still a bit behind where we'd like to be. We have some of all varieties in the New South Garden, about 20, all told. We would have liked to have 60 in by now – but life is good.

Pecan Tree's Leafing Accelerates

As noted last week, our massive pecan tree has begun leafing. It always amazes how quickly the leafing occurs. Already, the leaves are so thick the tree's shadow has increased dramatically. Within two weeks, it goes from bare branches to a thick lush canopy. It leafed a bit early this year, but that is to be expected with the exceptionally high temperatures. We'll try to get some pecans again this year, but the squirrels are better than us at securing these nuts.

East Madison Growers and Friendship Farms & Fare Team Up: New Community Garden Planned in East Madison Neighborhood

3F has teamed up with friends and supporters to develop a new community garden in the East Madison neighborhood of New Port Richey.

The property owner has committed to having East Madison Growers and 3F use a vacant lot for a community garden. There is still some paper work that needs to be reviewed and signed, but the project looks to be solid. We'll have more about this exciting new development in the future Farm Reports.

Loquats in the 3F Grove Harvest Continues 110 lbs total

The loquat season is almost over – and what a season it has been! This past week, we harvested 1 more pound, and included small quantities in two shares.

Be sure to order if you'd like some this week. Quantities will be small, but we may have enough for shares. We may have fruit for two more weeks.

Total harvest this season: **110 lbs** (LY 75 lbs)

The season is passing, and some trees no longer have fruit. Others will have fruit for at least another month.

If you would like to order a tree for your own yard, garden, or food forest, just let us know. We have all sizes from small (1 gallon pots, 1-2 feet) to very large (5 gallon pots, 5 feet+), and other sizes in-between. Suggested donations, \$10 - \$50, depending on size.

Broccoli Season Ends 323 heads harvested

Composting continues Prized plants flagged for seed saving

We topped out at **228** broccoli planted this season.

We are not listing broccoli this week for the first time since the season began. There are still some florets, so if you have read this far and would like the very last broccoli of the season, just list it on your share request.

We harvested **6** heads last week, for a total of **323** heads for the season. Last year, our harvest totaled **164**.

We are continuing to compost the spent plants and flagged about a dozen for seed saving.

Seed Savers Seeds Available Through Friendship Farms & Fare

Please buy your seeds and seedlings from local growers or suppliers committed to organic, heirloom seeds.

3F is pleased to offer the highest quality organic, heirloom seeds to the community. You may order several locally-acclimated seeds from our own collection as well as Seed Savers seeds from us. Seed Savers seeds are the only ones we use at Friendship Farms, unless we use our own 3F seeds saved from previous years.

If you'd like to order Seed Savers seeds from us, find the seeds you desire online, let us know the type(s) and quantities, and we'll order them for you. <http://www.seedsavers.org/onlinestore/>

Cost: \$4.00 per packet (\$3.00 for shares). We'll include them in your share or mail them to you, if you give us your address.

Please buy your seeds and seedlings from local growers or suppliers committed to organic, heirloom seeds.

See this story on the damage caused by "big box stores":

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/smart-growth-working-families/harms-big-box-retail>

See also, 10 reasons to support local commerce:

<http://ilsr.org/why-support-locally-owned-businesses/>

Weekly Weather Report Sight Cooling Possible This Week Bringing Temperatures Close to Normal

74 degrees at 4:00 AM, April 18, 2015

Historic Average (for 4/20): 82 HIGH, 64 LOW—Weather Underground:

<http://www.wunderground.com/>

Historically, the average high temperature has now reached 82 degrees (twelve degrees higher than the lowest average low [70] of the year), and eight degrees lower than the highest average high [90]).

Our average low is now 64 degrees, which is thirteen degrees higher than lowest average low [51], and twelve degrees lower than the highest average low [76]).

The average low and high are increasing at about a degree a week. They will peak in early June for highs and late June for lows, and remain constant (at 90/76) until early September, when the annual decline begins. This means for three months the average high will be 90 degrees, and the average low will be 76. It will also be humid during those months.

Note: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that 2014 was the hottest year on record (since records have been kept, 1880). Ocean and land temperatures were at their all time highs. This has also been the warmest winter on record in the Arctic.

This is no great surprise to us. 2014 seemed hotter than usual here at the farms, and the past few years, our highs and lows have typically run a bit higher than historic averages. Last year the trend continued, and so far this year, it is still continuing. Although humans may enjoy unseasonably warm weather, above normal temperatures stress plants and animals.

According to NASA, 97% of climate scientists agree that global warming and resultant climate change is a reality and most likely due to human activity. <http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>.

Here is NOAA on the human causes of climate change and global warming.
<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/climate/factsheets/howhuman.pdf>

Last Week (4/11 – 4/17): Once again, we had seven days of above normal heat –well above normal.

Last week we were well above normal for highs and lows every day, with lows being further above normal than highs. Normal high for last week is 81 and the normal low is 63. Last week, no high was below 83, and six days were 85 or higher. Several local sources reported temperatures in the 90s. The highest low was 74.

This Week (4/18 – 4/24) There might be a little relief this week. Forecast suggests that a mild cool front may be this far south. If so, we'll have temperatures close to normal. There is also an increased chance for rain, with Monday and Wednesday having an 80% possibility of precipitation.

Looking Ahead: We are now in the midst of the dry season, and the above normal heat is really impacting our gardens. We should not expect much rain for at least another month. Average daily rainfall is creeping upward (like the temperatures). Historic norms indicate cool and dry conditions through April and into May, although we are not running true to form on this. Dry conditions will require more frequent irrigation. The rainy season is still about a month and a half away – mid-June.

Average temperatures are gradually rising. By the end of April averages will be in the mid-80s for highs and mid-60s for lows.

Averages are not good guides, and we are currently running above historical averages.

The first three months had above normal rainfall, but we've had no rain in April. There has been rain in the area, however, just very little near the coast.

Garden Overview
Spring Plantings Continue
(additional details and assessments follow)

We are composting winter plants quickly, and trying to accelerate our seeding project. Even the summer seedlings do not like the high 80s (and now, 90s) we are getting.

We've cleared and remulched four of the south beds – getting ready for sweet potatoes.

We've planted cucumbers and okra – both are doing well. We received our sweet potato slips this week (yesterday, April 17), and planted 25 right away.

Eggplant shrubs are budding profusely, and setting some fruit.

If anyone reading this, would like to help with the SP plantings, just let us know.

If you would like SP slips, let us know. We'll share for .50 per slip.

We still have large quantities of collards, and kale.

Swiss chard, arugula, and broccoli are spent.

See the Share Report for all items.

For all plantings, we use seeds from our collection or heirloom seeds from Seed Savers Exchange (<http://www.seedsavers.org/>).

Okra Seedlings

We've planted more okra seedlings in the south garden – several of each variety: Silver Queen, Hill Country Red, Star of David, Red Burgundy. All are doing well. Okra seeded last week germinated right on time – again, at just about 100%. For some reason some of the seedlings are struggling, it could be the heat or (more likely) a soil mix.

Cucumbers

Cucumbers are thriving. The most successful are the Japanese Climbing. We have planted Double Yields, Armenians, and Japanese Climbing. They are growing in the front garden, and the New South garden, next to the blackberries. We've harvested 5 so far, and observed many more fingerlings.

Tomatoes and Peppers

We had a significant failure with tomato and pepper seedlings– not sure why. The likely culprit is the soil mix, which seemed to hold more moisture than usual.

Several of the tomato plants in the garden have powdery mildew and some have signs of septoria.

Kale

Kale is past peak. We have enough for small shares this week. We may have kale for another few weeks.

Arugula

Arugula is past peak. We won't be listing it this week.

Collards

The collards continue thrive - as hardy now as in mid-winter. Please stop by for extra large shares of our three varieties, Georgia Southern, Georgia, and Vates, are large, lush, and ready for harvest.

Blackberries Ouachita Family

The blackberry vines flowering profusely, and the first immature berries are appearing. These are Ouachita Blackberries shared lovingly by Christine Grovenstein of Seeds of Love Organic Farm.

Habanero Peppers

Habaneros are coming back very nicely now, and bearing abundant blossoms – and the first fruits.

Eggplant

Eggplants are now flourishing, producing flowers, and a few fruit! These are exciting times for the eggplant colony.

Purslane

Purslane is a thriving, and there are many healthy plants throughout the garden.

Viticulture (Grape) News

Vines are putting out first leaves – and the first tiny bunches.

Jamming with the Cat: Black Cat Growers Offers Jams To 3F Family

As reported last week, we are delighted to announce that Black Cat Growers has joined the 3F family. Black Cat is a small local grower, cottage food producer, and designer of edible landscapes. Some of you may remember the wonderful assistance of Black Cat Growers shared during our Loquat Festival last year.

Our work with Black may well evolve over time, and for now we are happy to list their line of outstanding local organic jams. Shares can acquire these for \$5.00, for a 1/2 pint container, which includes their CSA discount.

If you would like a sample of any of the jams, let us know in your share request this week. If you would like to order some for holiday gifts and parties, now is the time to order.

Hart's Family Hot Sauce Ready for the Willing

Ray (of Hart's Family Gardens) has brewed this season's first batch of habanero pepper sauce. We sampled it, and found it quite tasty, but HOT. Use in moderation. The sauce is made with various peppers (chiefly habaneros) organic vodka, and apple cider vinegar. That's it! It is all organic, with only local peppers. It may be too hot for some palate. All peppers are from Hart's Family Gardens or Friendship Farms & Fare.

If you would like to try a bottle, just let us know. A donation of \$5.00 will be received for a 5oz. bottle.

Eggs If Desired

We can include organic, free-range eggs in your share this week. These are from a new local contact, Juan's farm. These are the eggs the staff at Market Off Main use in their organic egg recipes. Mandy's farm appears to be back in operation, so we may have eggs from there as well.

Last week's eggs were from Mandy's farm.

Honey: Local honey is available. We have a fresh harvest available now. Our bee husbander, Robert, has been very successful with recent harvests. We support Robert's work, which is as much about sustaining and regenerating bee populations as it is about honey distribution. Robert's bees

live in West Pasco County, near New Port Richey, they pollinate wild flowers, domestic fruit trees, and vegetables. Honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 a bottle, \$5.50 for CSA Shares.

Herbs: Herbs are a little weak this week. They do not like the cold, damp conditions. We have good quantities of thyme and dill. Basils will continue in recess. Consult the share list for other herbs, and other available items.

Tampa deliveries will be Thursday this week. West Pasco transmissions at the farm will be determined on the basis of share request and distance, with Wednesday being the best day.

Shareholders can call your farmer directly. If you are not a shareholder, and would like to schedule a visit to the gardens or to acquire seeds, seedlings, plants, or produce, please use the address on the website to contact us. <http://www.fff-site.org/#!contact/cl4l>

For this week, here is what we have (FCFS, as always):

THE SHARE

April 20, 2015 (29)

*** larger quantity available if desired**

FCFS = limited supplies, early submissions given preference

Tampa Transmissions TBA

Vegetables

Collards*

Cucumbers (FCFS)

Kale

Lettuce – Romaine (possible – from other local organic grower)

Pepper – Habanero (very very hot)

Fruit -

Loquat – 3F Specials (end of season still a few left)

Herbs (* larger quantity available if desired)

Basils

Italian (small quantity)

Dill

Chives (small quantity)

~~Cilantro (late and leggy)~~

Mint

Oregano

Parsley

Purslane

Rosemary*

Smilax

Tarragon

Thyme

Cottage Foods & Samples

Eggs: Juan's Garden or Mandy's Farm. These are eggs from small organic growers. Fowl are humanely treated and free roaming: \$6.50 (\$5.00 for shares)

Honey: Local West Pasco honey from Daddy's Bees is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Hot Sauce: Hart's Habanero Hot Sauce, made from our 3F Habanero peppers, 5oz. bottle \$6.50 (\$5.00 shares), - Very Hot

Jams, Jellies, Preserves: Black Cat Growers featured jams and fruit spread. All organic, with most fruits locally sourced. Half Pints for \$6.50 (\$5.00 shares). Available jams:
Peach

Cherry
Strawberry
Orange Marmalade (bitter orange)
Loquat

Seedlings (Start your spring garden with locally grown organic seedlings!)

\$1.50 per plant (\$1, for shares), \$5.00 (\$4) for four, \$8.00 (\$7.00) for nine.

Okra (Star of David, Hill Country Red, Red Burgundy, Silver Queen)

Cucumbers (Japanese climbing)

COMPANION FAUNA

Spring Report

Some of our animal companions are beginning to appear, ending their hibernating period and resuming their activities

Swifts: Swifts are back – very early this year. The lodge is alive with chittering, peeping, and squeaking.

Bat update: No bats.

Eastern Blue Bird: Pair observed in South Garden early in the week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WlYEmuUhKI>
http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/id
<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-bluebird>

Southern Toad: One small toad observed along east fence in south-east corner.

Sweet bees: None

Pileated Woodpecker: Not this week.

As large as this bird is, the Ivory-bill was about twice its size, and the Imperial even larger. Imagine!

Here is a good site for the Pileated :

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/pileated-woodpecker?gclid=CjoKEQiA4OqnBRDAj9aazvPji9ABEiQANq28oLTa9kUEg7khhIiQxXQSzXno1KGGEkjlUYhQcrnafj8aAnMP8P8HAQ>

And here is a video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpYsdZ8gUU8&index=3&list=PLFMP2eIAO8oQFZ3IyCJhIKXCi914uI8uu>

Tree Frogs: Frog songs are heard every night now. Mating pair in south cistern. No new egg clusters. Tadpoles from earlier broods are maturing quickly.

Florida Black Snake: None

Florida Ringneck Snake: None

Honey Bees: Fewer bees in the area as flowering crops perish, and go to seed or compost. They still find the broccoli flowers.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."
– attributed to Albert Einstein.

Please do not purchase or use insecticides with neonicotinoids. Here are three reliable sources on the neonicotinoids, and the commercial "home and garden" insecticides that contain them.

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NeonicsSummary_XercesSociety.pdf

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Are-Neonicotinoids-Killing-Bees_Xerces-Society1.pdf

Bald Eagle: Not this week.

Bumble Bees: One near the south pond.

Hawk: none observed

Raccoon: No raccoons, but signs of raccoon activity, in the south garden.

Greenhouse Frog: None.

Opossum: None

Leopard Frogs: None observed, but leopard song possibly heard amid cacophony of the tree frog chorus.

Earth Worms: None

Sphinx Moth: No sphinx this week. Here is Youtube video of a Sphinx Moth feeding at 4 o'clocks, very much like the moth at the 3F farm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaTfKLO96gE>

Pygmy Rattlesnake: No pygmy rattler this week. Here is a good site on the pygmy rattlesnake from the University of Florida: <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/Pygmy%20Rattlesnake%20Info%20Sheet.pdf>

Grapeleaf Skeletonizer: No GS caterpillars observed. Ray and I are alert to these predators. Here is a link to a site with information on the Skeletonizers: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/fruit/grapeleaf_skeletonizer.htm

Nocturnal Garden Spider – Evident but not numerous.

"Asian Tramp Snail." Abundant on greens.

Mediterranean Gecko: None this week. Here is a good site for the Mediterranean Gecko, and Florida fauna in general: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/reptiles/mediterranean-gecko/>

Marine Toad (aka: Brazilian Cane Toad, *Rhinella marina*, Giant Toad): None this week.

Marine Toads are destructive of ecosystems and poisonous to mammals. They are omnivorous, aggressive, and drive out native and assimilated frogs and toads. A survey of several professional

sites found none that recommended killing the frogs, although this has been advocated by several folks in the area.

Here is the Extension Office's website on the Marine Toad (which includes an audio of its call): http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/rhinella_marina.php

Here is a very detailed, professional study of the Marine Toad, also from the Extension Office. This site has instructions for humane euthanizing of the creatures:

http://www.egovlink.com/public_documents300/winterhaven/published_documents/Winter%20Haven/Lakes/Backyard%20Wildlife/Animal%20Information/Frogs%20and%20Toads/Marine%20Toads%20UW04600.pdf

Woodlouse – These warm weather creatures are proliferating. Several were observed this week.

Tomato Pinworm: None observed. The season for these eggplant-loving moth larvae may have passed.

For information on pinworms, see this University of Florida site: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/tomato/tomato_pinworm.htm

Cats: Neighborhood cat, Frankie, appears regularly. Lady Gray occasionally joins her. Our beloved cat of 20 years,

3F Stories, Events, and Policy Updates

Programs and Plans

2015

We often receive questions about the Friendship Farms & Fare project. We are happy to send an information brochure with details on our mission and our various programs. Here is a brief sketch of our programs:

We offer heirloom organic **seeds**, including seeds from plants acclimated to local climate and soils. We have a good stock of several types of okra (including the much desired Red Burgundy), robust arugula, and our famous Calabrese Broccoli. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed seed dealer in the State of Florida, and a member of Seed Savers Exchange (with several listings in the SSE Yearbook).

Seed Kiosk Friendship Farms & Fare also sponsors a sales kiosk featuring organic seeds from Seed Savers Exchange at the Market Off Main, in New Port Richey. We never offer seeds from for-profit commercial seed sellers, and we discourage others from doing so as well. Acquiring your seeds from local seed dealers supports local ecologies and economies, and will usually result in stronger, healthier plants – and seeds for next season!

Organic **seedlings** are available throughout each growing season. We use our own seeds from previous years whenever possible, and otherwise, we use only organic seeds and heirloom varieties when available. We never use seeds from for-profit seed sellers, and we do not offer seedlings grown from such seeds. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed nursery in the State of Florida.

A developing area of our mission is our **fruit tree project**. At present, we offer loquat and avocado trees, with a few native flowering shrubs. We are a state-registered nursery, and among a small number of nurseries in the region offering loquat trees. We also are pleased to host (along with Ecology Florida) the **Florida Loquat Festival**, held each spring in New Port Richey.

Our original project, and still our central focus is a **Community Supported Agriculture** program. This is a small (“boutique”) CSA, featuring organic produce from our gardens and local cottage industry foods. We are 100% organic and have a no-kill policy. Our program is recommended for single persons, couples, or (at most) three-person families.

When quantities are sufficient, we offer produce to the general public through **local markets**, such as Tasty Tuesdays and Market Off Main in New Port Richey. Folks can also make requests through our website. Non-members can request any and all items on the share list for \$20.

Our newest project is a **community garden**, dedicating a portion of the 3F farm for use by others in the community. The community garden is located in New Port Richey, and operates through the City's urban agriculture ordinance. The 3F community garden follows the standard policies of Friendship Farms & Fare. We are 100% organic, non-GMO, and have a no-kill policy. With the exception of the predatory Marine Toad, no animals are harmed on our farm. We follow permaculture principles, and working with and within our natural systems.

If you would like to know more about any of these programs or would like to volunteer to share in our mission, just let us know. Folks interested in the Friendship Farms & Fare project can contact us through our website. <http://www.fff-site.org/> See the "Let's Talk" section for an email connection.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare are now tax-deductable. If you would like to offer financial support, your contributions will be a wonderful enhancement to our project – and they will be tax deductible.

Planting & Harvest Notes **Winter Seeding and Garden Starts This Week**

Seedings: Cucumber (Nippon SK, 35), Marigold, 18; Cilantro, 18;

Garden Starts: okra, sweet potatoes

Harvest Notes: herbs, arugula, collards, kale, loquats,

Vermipost: 15 lbs.

Bat Guano: no harvest

3F, Ecology Florida, and Market Off Main Offer Seed Savers Exchange Seeds in New Port Richey

Good gardens require good seeds, and Tampa Bay now has access to the highest quality seeds. These are Seed Savers Exchange heirloom, organic seeds. Your CSA has joined other groups committed to sustainability in sponsoring a Seed Savers Exchange seed kiosk in New Port Richey.

Through a cooperative arrangement with Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida, the Market Off Main, in New Port Richey, now offers a wide range of organic, heirloom, non-GMO seeds exclusively from Seed Savers Exchange.

This is a trend-setting achievement for the Market Off Main, and another verification of New Port Richey's leadership in ecological stewardship, sustainability, and resiliency. Market Off Main in

New Port Richey will be the only location on the West Coast of Florida offering these high quality packaged seeds.

Ecology Florida News carried a feature article on the kiosk by your 3F Farmer, which you can read at this link:

<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/2014/12/on-the-lighter-side-the-story-of-the-seed-kiosk-in-new-port-richey/>

Ecology Florida advances the harmonious integration of healthy natural, cultural, and economic ecologies to regenerate a sustainable world
<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/>

The Market Off Main is a meeting place, a community hub, and an entertainment center. It features local produce, a delicatessen, and a cafe.
<http://www.marketoffmain.com/>

Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds. Since 1975, our members have been passing on our garden heritage by collecting and distributing thousands of samples of rare garden seeds to other gardeners.
<http://www.seedsavers.org/>

Next Workday: TBA

If you would like to join us for a spring workday, we'll have a lot to do. Please send your best Saturday(s) in April, after April 4.

Nursery Certification and Registration Renewed 2015-2016 Nursery Certification and Registration Friendship Farms & Fare 48015239

Our nursery registration has been renewed for 2015-2016.

Friendship Farms & Fare is a registered nursery in the state of Florida. Our registration number is 48015239.

Our successful re-certification and registration renewal is another step in the development of the Friendship Farms and Fare sustainable urban agriculture project. As most of you know, we are also a registered seed seller. The nursery certification is an important expression of our farm's mission and our commitment to responsible community development.

If you would like to support the work of Friendship Farms and Fare and help us cover expenses related to the project, please feel free to share a contribution. Friendship Farms and Fare operates under the umbrella of Ecology Florida, a not for profit corporation, so your contributions are tax deductible.

**2014-2015 Renewal
Seed Dealer License & Registration
Friendship Farms & Fare
S009451**

3 F is a licensed Seed Dealer, through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which issues these licenses that are required to sell seeds to the public. **We renew in June.** Through our friendship with Ecology Florida, we applied for the license as a subsidiary of Ecology Florida – a federally sanctioned Not For Profit organization. Want to buy some seeds? To explore the Ecology Florida project, see: <http://www.ecologyflorida.org/>

Community Garden Projects

Have received two new applications for our community garden on Illinois Ave., and we've been contacted by another interested gardener. Folks interested in acquiring a plot can contact us through the 3F site.

Together with East Madison Growers, we are developing another community garden plot on Montana Ave. in New Port Richey.

Shareholders interested in acquiring a plot may participate for reduced rates.

We have installed sample community garden beds. Each is about 100 square feet.

Farm Tours (Local Urban Gardens)

If you would like to schedule a tour local urban gardens in New Port Richey, please let us know, and we can make arrangements. Our tours are experiential, informational, educational, and fun. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Typically, and depending on the season, participants visit several urban farms, learn about organic farming in an urban environment using permaculture philosophies and practices, observe and learn about urban wildlife and helpful plants, enjoy samples of live produce, and share in the preparation of the vegan cuisine. Tours are structured on the basis of participants' interests and background.

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled.

There are four categories of tours:

- * Urban Farming, Gardening and Soil development
- * Urban wildlife and helpful plants
- * General (including two or more categories)

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled.

3F: A Florida Friendly Farm

The 3 F gardens are certified as a "Florida Friendly" environment – a certification we have held for over a decade.

Florida Friendly recognition is given to environments (typically residential yards) that support and enhance natural ecosystems. Certification is given in three categories (bronze, silver, and gold) based on a point system rating various features of the property and practices followed by the property owner. We received a high score but only a silver rating because of some changes in the program of which we were unaware.

Attention is given to features such as water-retention, native and drought tolerant plants, diversity in plant species, responsible irrigation systems, and amenities for native pollinators. Positive

practices include minimal use of fertilizers (with organic preferred) and little or no use of poisons, groundcovers rather than turf, composting, and rainwater collection systems.

We encourage all our members and friends to pursue Florida Friendly designation for their properties. It is a wonderful way to learn more about Florida's natural ecology and what you can do to create a healthy environment right where you live. It is also a great way to go green.

Folks who wonder what they can do be more environmentally responsible are encouraged to review the Florida Friendly checklist. If you can change even one thing about your yard or your landscape practices to bring it into agreement with the guidelines, you will have made a difference. Even if you do not apply for the designation, reviewing the criteria will be an enriching educational experience. Putting the guidelines into practice will make a definite difference. Here is the website for the program:

Other News and Reports

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COMMERICAL PRODUCE REPORT

Our Commercial Produce News Report is currently in repose.
We will resume when time and talent allow.
If anyone would like to volunteer to collect market prices, please let us know.

OTHER PRODUCTS FOR THE CSA FAMILY

3F Produce for non-shareholders: Non-Members may order shares for \$20 per week, or \$50 per month. For this amount, contributors may request any and all items they desire from the weekly Share. Although we will assist with transmissions, it is the responsibility of the contributor to make arrangements for pick up of the share.

As always, non-CSA Members may request single items from the share list for \$5 per item. A full share for one week (any/all items) is \$20, and \$50 for one month. Annual shares are recommended, at \$300 per year. Five-month shares are \$200.

Just reply using the website contact link if you desire anything on the list. We suggest non-shareholders start an account to cover costs of items.

EGGS. Prices are \$6.50 a dozen (\$5.00 for shares), and \$4.00 a half-dozen (\$3.00 for shares). These prices are a bit higher than prices for organic eggs at commercial grocers. Acquiring eggs from local farms keeps resources in our community, supports local farming, and directly benefits a local farm family.

As required by our policies, our supplier is local, follows organic principles, practices compassionate husbandry, and allows chickens free range. If you would like to be included on the egg list, please start an account (\$20 suggested), and make requests accordingly. Eggs are from humanely treated chickens, and fed non-GMO feed.

Honey: Local West Pasco honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Seeds: If you would like organic vegetable seeds for your garden, we will order them for you. Seed packs are \$4.00 each, 2 for \$7.00, and 5 for \$14.00. Just tell us what you'd like. Be sure to send your mailing address. No charge for shipping.

Seedlings: We are also happy to start plants for you. Just give us the word on the plants you want us to start, and we'll do the rest. Starter plants in cells are \$1.50 per plant (\$1, for shares), \$5.00 (\$4) for four, \$8.00 (\$7.00) for nine. When available, small plants are \$3.00 (\$2.40) each, and medium plants are \$5.00 (\$4).

Let us know if you want to acquire seeds or starts for spring and summer.

Trees: Young Loquat trees are available in small (half-gallon) and medium (gallon) pots - \$10.00 (\$8.00 for shareholders). \$20 (\$18) for two-gallon pots. Larger trees in five-gallon pots are \$50 to \$70, depending on the size of the tree.

Vermipost and Worms: For folks interested in organic gardening, we have the best all-natural soil amenities you can find: Vermipost and Worms! Vermipost is compost that has been broken down and enriched by Red Worms. We also have the worms themselves. **Vermipost** is available in 32 oz containers for \$2.50 each (\$2.00 for shareholders), with discounts for orders of five or more. Vermipost containers will most likely have some worms in the mix. We recommend mixing the vermicompost 1 to 1 with regular soil, and 1 to 3 or 4 with organic soil. Remember, if you use synthetic chemicals (such as fertilizers or pesticides), the vermicompost will be compromised. Pesticides will kill the worms and synthetic fertilizers will kill the worms or drive them away.

Worms are available in 32 oz containers for \$7.50 (\$6 for shareholders). We cannot specify the exact number of worms in a container, but there should be 30-50. By the way, if you are developing an organic garden, always look for the OMRI seal of approval on fertilizers, soils, and insect deterrents.

Seeds: Shareholders are entitled to samples of seeds from our seed bank – three types of okra, arugula, and our famous Calabrese broccoli. Our seeds are organic and derived from heirloom stock. They are listed with Seed Savers Exchange, and also available at the New Port Richey Library Seed Exchange. Let us know if you are interested – additional packages of seeds for \$4.00 (\$3.00) a packet (of 30). We cannot guarantee germination, but in our tests germination rates are close to 100%.

Heirloom, organic seeds from Seed Savers Exchange are \$4.00 each (\$3.00 for shares). You may order Seed Savers seeds from us. Find the seeds you desire on line, and let us know, and we'll order them for you. <http://www.seedsavers.org/onlinestore/>

Florida Central West Coast acclimated Okra Seeds offered by 3F are: Silver Queen, Star of David, Red Burgundy, and Hill Country Red.

Local Markets and Growers' Sites Open to the Public Endorsed by Friendship Farms & Fare

Market Off Main: We encourage members of the TBN G&G CSA to patronize the Market Off Main in New Port Richey, and other local produce markets. They often have organics, usually have local produce, are locally owned, and are now a distributor of Cow Pots. Here is their website: <http://www.marketoffmain.com/>

Tasty Tuesdays: Visit the New Port Richey Library Tuesday (10:00 AM – 12:00 noon) for a good selection of locally grown organic vegetables. [New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main St, New Port Richey, FL](http://www.newportricheylibrary.org)

Freedom House Farms: Open to visitors on Saturday afternoons. Featuring freshly harvested produce available for purchase. 5642 Virginia Ave., New Port Richey

First Farm: Receptive to visitors on weekend afternoons. Featuring seeds, seedlings, Loquat trees, and select produce in season. Call for appointment afternoons or evenings: (727) 849-1626. New Port Richey.

To Return to our website, go to: < <http://www.ffffsite.org> >

Friendship Farms & Fare

An Urban Farm Community, CSA, Seed Saver, Community Garden, and purveyor of seeds, seedlings, fruit trees, and organic cottage-industry foods.

Friendship Farms & Fare Community

Cadle's Cove Farm

Black Cat Growers

Freedom House Farm

Friendship Farms & Fare: First Farm

Hart's Family Farm

Seeds of Love Organic Farm

Tarry Lane Tasting Station

April 20, 2015 – 29th report for the 2014-2015 Garden Year

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Friendship Farms & Fare is a branch of Ecology Florida, a not-for-profit corporation.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida are tax deductible.

If you would like to support our work, please consider sharing a donation.

PO Box 596 • New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0596

Friendship Farms & Fare affirms and advances agrarian ideals to reestablish a sustainable culture



Ecology Florida advances the harmonious integration of healthy natural, cultural, and economic ecologies to regenerate a sustainable world

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www.EcologyFlorida.org