



FRIENDSHIP FARMS & FARE

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

3F FARM REPORT & NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 9, 2015 – 6TH 2015-2016 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

73 degrees at 3:30 AM, November 6, 2015

Historic Average (for 11/9): 79 HIGH, 62 Weather Underground: <http://www.wunderground.com/>

See the complete weekly weather report later in the Farm Report.

Global Warming Comes Home Highest November Temperatures in History Blast Region, Hammer Autumn Crops

We are moving weather news to the start of the Farm Report this week for obvious reasons. If there was ever a question about the reality of global warming it should be resolved now – at least for Floridians in this part of the state. The stunning highs (in the 90s) and equally stunning lows (upper 70s) broke records for specific dates and the entire month of November. Around the area, the highest November temperatures in recorded history were reached.

What needs to be noted and highlighted is that these highs from upper 80s to lower 90s have been persistent for the past week and, looking back at October, similar temperatures were the norm.

The issue here (which seems lost on the professional TV weather reporters) is that these extremely high temperatures are an unprecedented occurrence – they are not (as has been reported) "not that unusual." We beg to differ. The run of record-breaking highs are a signal in itself that something new is occurring, but this fact must be added to the reality that these highs have been persistent for the better part of a month – most of October was above normal (22 of 31 days) and 10 days had highs of 88 or more.

Last October (2014), was closer to normal (about half above and half below), and there were three days at 90 degrees. In 2013, we had 19 (of 31 days) above normal, and five days at or above 90. We can go on. What is apparent, is that the pattern is changing and it has been changing for some years.

The climate change evidence is not that there are occasional 90 degree days. The weather reporters are correct – that is not that unusual. What is unusual and gives credence to Climate Change is the number of days in a month above normal and the number of years when the month as a whole is above normal. It is not when a day or two is well above normal, it is when most days are. That defines change by any meaningful measure.

Pause In Fall Seeding and Garden Starts

Due to the heat, we paused our seeding and planting. We have installed beds of collards, swiss chard, kale, and broccoli. We may try some tomatoes and bell peppers, but those we have are not yet ready for the main gardens. We have many more beds to go. We will devote at least 6 beds to broccoli, and probably more.

The heat has slowed the growth of our cool-weather crops. By 10:00 AM, everyday, all the collards, kale, broccoli, and swiss chard is drooping. Irrigation restores them, but the brutal heat stresses and harms them.

Grand Gardens Friendship Farms & Fare Teams Up With Other Growers: Ribbon Cutting November 7th 2:00 to 4:00

The Grand Gardens in New Port Richey will have a Grand Opening on November 7th (2:00 to 4:00). Join us if you can.

3F is participating with Ecology Florida, Nature Coast Real Food Project, and other local organic agriculture organizations to establish a substantial (and sustainable) community garden just west of the East Madison neighborhood.

The Grand Gardens is one of two new community gardens in the East Madison neighborhood of New Port Richey. Joining in this 3F and Ecology Florida in the project are East Madison Growers and Nature Coast Real Food Project.

Two property owners have committed to having 3F use their vacant lots for community gardens. The New Port Richey Environmental Committee has approved both lots for gardens. We are currently receiving applications for garden plots.

Financial support will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to share contributions with Friendship Farms & Fare in support of the new Grand Garden or any our other projects, your gifts will be gratefully received. We'll share an acknowledgment of your gift and our warm thanks. We are also happy to report that contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare are tax deductible.

You can mail contributions to:

Friendship Farms & Fare
PO Box 596
New Port Richey, FL 34656-0596

Arugula Available

One of our fall favorites, Arugula, is doing well. We have leaves available in medium sizes this week. The plants starting to take off, but they are healthy and strong.

Red Malabar and Okinawa Spinach

Our summer spinaches are slowing, but we'll have small quantities for any who are interested.

Fresh Honey Harvest From Daddy's Bees

For those interested in local honey, Robert has just completed a summer harvest, and we have plenty of bottles on hand. 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Please do not purchase or use insecticides with neonicotinoids. Here are 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

<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/2013/12/feature-make-meadows-not-lawns-for-honey-bee-colony-health/>

Weekly Weather Report What Happened to Fall, Part IV? Abnormal Heat Continues Next Week Some Cooling Expected

73 degrees at 3:30 AM, November 6, 2015

Historic Average (for 11/9): 79 HIGH, 62 Weather Underground: <http://www.wunderground.com/>

Historically, the average high temperature is now 79 degrees (nine degrees higher than the lowest average high of the year [70]), and eleven degrees lower than our highest average [90]). Our average low is now 62 degrees, fourteen degrees lower than our highest average low of the year (76), and eleven degrees higher than lowest average low [51].

Average highs and lows continue their annual decline, which continues until January, when we reach our lowest average temperatures – 70 and 51.

This past summer Hottest Ever Recorded: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA, and Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) data indicate this past summer (June-August, 2015) was the hottest in recorded history. NOAA also reports that July was the hottest month in recorded history. We at the *3-F Newsletter* are not surprised.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2015/09/15/the-summer-of-2015-was-earths-hottest-on-record-nasa-data-show/>

2014 was the hottest year on record (since records have been kept, 1880). Ocean and land temperatures were at their all time highs. This was also the warmest winter on record in the Arctic, and May 2015 was the hottest May on record.

Looks like November will join this list.

Know the Science:

This is no great surprise to us. Temperatures have been running well above normal most of the year here at the farms; and for 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 (10/30-11/5) : WU's forecasts were on the mark, and if anything a little conservative. We had an exceptionally hot week – setting records of the hottest day of the month – in history. Every day was above normal, with upper 80s and low 90s being the norm.

This Week (11/6-11/12) WU's forecasts cooler temperatures next week. Ironically, even with a cool front coming by, everyday will be above normal, and every overnight low will be well above normal.

Climate Amnesia? Most folks do not remark on the long run of days with above normal heat. Then again, most folks do not spend much time outside of climatized indoor spaces. We may be witnessing climate amnesia, which is akin to landscape amnesia – the process through which individuals become used to something detrimental, dangerous, or destructive because it occurs slowly and they forget what normal is. Climate amnesia may work the same way – so that upper 80s and low 90s in October seem normal enough, because we have forgotten that the historical norm is in the low 80s.

Looking Ahead: Daylight will continue to get shorter, just as it has since the summer solstice -- June 21, the day with the longest period of time between sunup and sunset during the year. The equinox (which occurred on October 22) is when the shortening of daylight has brought day and night into balance. The days will continue to get shorter until the winter solstice -- "the shortest day of the year," December 21.

Garden Overview

Harvests were light.

Fall seeding and garden starts are in hiatus. The heat is stressing the young winter greens. We planted no seedling but started many many more seeds.

Now is the time to begin planting the fall garden, and we are doing that. Try seeding, if you like. It is still very hot – probably too hot for fall crops. Amazing, we know! We are hitting upper 80s and low 90s, when the historical high is in the lower 80s and upper 70s.

Still, the cool weather crops need to get into the ground. We'll try to plant more this week. We'll continue to work with tomatoes and bell peppers.

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/>).

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Sweet Potato Update **141 pounds harvested**

We have various sizes (medium to fingerling). We'd like to move the fingerlings, so let us know of those are okay. Most are good quality (A), but not excellent/fancy (AA). There is a little scaring on some.

In 2013 we harvested 150 lbs. Last year (2014) our harvest was 250 lbs. This year we will be lucky to get 150 lbs.

Okinawa Spinach

Okinawa Spinach is slowing, but we still have some. Try preparing it like aregular spinach, you might be surprised with its wonderful flavor.

Habanero Peppers

Habaneros are fairly abundant now – numerous blossoms, and plenty of fruit. Order if you like this week. Remember: These are among the hottest peppers around.

Viticulture (Grape) News

Vines have been attacked by skeletonizers. Most vines are damaged. A true loss.

Eggs If Desired

Eggs from free-range, humanely treated chickens are available for \$6.50 (\$5.00 for shares) for a dozen.

We get them from Mandy's Monster Farm/Suncoast Acres Poultry and Juan's Chicken Farm.

We cannot guarantee that our suppliers use organic scratch.

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 in pretty good shape, but still no cilantro. We have good quantities of basil, tarragon, and oregano. Consult the share list for other herbs, and other available items.

The Share

The Share

November 9, 2015 (6)

*** larger quantity available if desired**

FCFS = limited supplies, early submissions given preference
Tampa Transmissions TBA

Vegetables

Arugula –small shares/quart –gallon bags

Collards – small shares/quart-gallon bags

Eggplant - none this week

Lettuce – Romaine (possible)

Peppers – Sweet (Bell) – possible

Peppers – Habanero (burning hot)

Spinach – Okinawa (not a true spinach) – small quantities

Spinach – Red Malabar (not a true spinach) – small quantities

http://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/red-stemmed_malabar_spinach

Sweet Potatoes

Let us know if you object to (a) small/fingerlings, or (b) blemished exteriors.

Fruit -

Herbs (* larger quantity available if desired)

Basil – Italian

Basil – globe (in recess)

Basil – Red Basil (coming soon)

Chives (small quantity)

Cranberry Hibiscus *

Cilantro (coming soon)

Culantro (tastes like a strong cilantro)

Mint

Oregano

Parsley-

Peppermint

Purslane (in recess)

Rosemary*

Smilax (in recess)

Tarragon

Thyme (coming soon)

Medicinal

Aloe

Cottage Foods & Samples

Eggs: Mandy's Farm and Juan's Farm. These are eggs from small local growers. We cannot guarantee feed is organic. Fowl are humanely treated and free roaming: \$6.50 (\$5.00 for shares). Here is a link to Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm (which is the egg and fowl division of Mandy's Monster Farm) <http://www.mandysmonsterfarm.com/Poultry.html>

Honey: Local West Pasco honey from Daddy's Bees is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares). Daddy's Bees just harvested their summer honey. Ready for shares, if desired.

Red Panax Ginseng (liquid, tonic) 3.5 oz bottles (10 bottle box) \$6.50 (\$5.00, shares)

COMPANION FAUNA

Fall Report

Animal companions are fewer and less active

Leopard Frog: The leopard still on the prowl. The leopard frog, who joined the community four weeks ago, is still with us. He sings all night long (a deep, hollow croaking song), looking for a mate. He has been calling regularly for three weeks, but to no avail. We check daily for a companion. Still a mystery how he found this pond, which is in an otherwise dry area. Occasionally we see him perched on the little rock landing at the edge of the south pond.

We found an egg cluster in the pond but have not seen a female. The egg cluster could be from another species of frog. We've removed the egg cluster to a safer location and will monitor them closely.

Here is good site for information on this native frog:

http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/rana_utricularia.php

Swifts: No swifts.

Tree Frogs: Fewer tree frogs now, as overnight temps begin to drop.

Raccoon: One raccoons. Encouraged to leave.

Opossum: None this week.

Citrus Rat (also called Roof Rat): These visitors have been with us for years. They seem to be a bit more noticeable this year. Here is the IFAS report on these rats ("the worst rodent pest in the state of Florida and most abundant"): <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/uw/uw12000.pdf>

Florida Ringneck Snake: None

Florida Green Grasshopper: None.

Mediterranean Gecko: None this week

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/reptiles/mediterranean-gecko/>

Owl: No owls or calls this week.

Greenhouse Frog: None this week. The greenhouse frog is the only North American frog that lays its eggs on land.

Eastern Blue Bird: No blue birds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WYEmuUhKI>

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/id

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-bluebird>

Southern Toad: One, located by neighborhood children: Alexa and Jackson .

Sweet bees: None observed.

Pileated Woodpecker: None this week.

Here is a good site for the Pileated :

http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/pileated_woodpecker?gclid=CjoKEQiA4OqnBRDAj9aazvPji9ABEiQANq28oLTagkUEg7khhliQxXQSzXno1KGGekjlUYhQcrnafj8aAnMP8P8HAQ

And here is a video:

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

Florida Black Snake: None

Honey Bees: A few observed in the natural sector of south garden and at flowers on the Loquat trees– enjoying flowers on the beggar ticks.

“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 observed this week.

Bumble Bees: Several at loquat blossoms.

Hawk: None.

Earth Worms: Several observed during harvesting sweet potatoes.

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>

"Nocturnal Garden Spider" – Still plenty – like stars in the ground.

"Asian Tramp Snail." None. These are summer creatures.

Woodlouse – None. These warm weather creatures are decline with the cooler evenings.

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

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%20UWO4600.pdf

Cats: Neighborhood cat, Frankie, appears regularly. Lady Gray visits occasionally.

3F Stories, Events, and Policy Updates

Programs and Plans

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.ffffsite.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 Underway

Seedings: 54 Swiss Chard (5 Color).

Garden Starts: None.

Harvest Notes: herbs, Red Malabar spinach, Okinawa spinach, sweet potatoes, sweet potato leaves, all herbs that were mature

Vermipost: None

3F, Ecology Florida, Rose's Bistro, and USF Offer Seed Savers Exchange Seeds

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 Seed Savers Exchange seed kiosks in New Port Richey, and Tampa (at the University of South Florida's Botanical Gardens).

Through a cooperative arrangement with Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida, Rose's Bistro, in New Port Richey, and the Botanical Gardens of at the University of South Florida offer a wide range of organic, heirloom, non-GMO seeds exclusively from Seed Savers Exchange.

This is a trend-setting achievement for the Bistro and the Botanical Gardens, and another verification of Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida's leadership in ecological stewardship, sustainability, and resiliency. These two locations are the only location on the West Coast of Florida offering these high quality packaged seeds.

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

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

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/>

USF Botanical Gardens
<http://gardens.usf.edu/>

Rose's Bistro
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketOffMain>

Next Workday: TBA

If you would like to join us for a workday, we'll have a lot to do. Please send your best Saturday(s) in November. See also designated work days on the calendar for the Grand Gardens: <http://eastmadison.org/community-garden-calendar/>

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

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.

2015-2016 Renewal
Seed Dealer License & Registration
Friendship Farms & Fare
S009451

We are also a licensed Seed Dealer License for 2015-2016.

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 July every year. Through our friendship with Ecology Florida, we apply 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

Folks interested in acquiring a plot can contact us through the 3F site.

Together with East Madison Growers and other organic agriculture organizations we are developing a new community garden plot on Grand Blvd. in New Port Richey. If you would like to participate, contact Travis Morehead, or stop by Grand Gardens on one of the designated work days: <http://eastmadison.org/community-garden-calendar/>

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

Farm Tours (Local Urban Gardens)

If you would like to schedule a tour of 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 will spend an hour or so in two or more gardens, learn about organic farming in an urban environment using permaculture philosophies and practices, observe and learn about urban wildlife and helpful plants, and enjoy samples of live produce. 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, Permaculture and Soil development
- * Urban wildlife and helpful plants
- * Seasonal produce, from seed to harvest
- * 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 – typically, \$100.

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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COMMERCIAL 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 items for \$10.00 each, 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 \$10 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 suppliers are local, follow 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 \$2.00 per plant (\$1, for shares), \$3.00 for 2, \$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 vermipost 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 vermipost 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 Broccoli seeds are offered by 3F: \$3.00 for 30.

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

Rose's Bistro Off Main: We encourage folks to patronize Rose's Bistro in New Port Richey, and other local produce markets. The Bistro often has organics, usually has local produce, is locally owned, and is a distributor of Seed Savers Exchange Heirloom Organic Seeds. Here is the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketOffMain>

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](#)

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.ffsite.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

Good Chance Farm

Hart's Family Farm

Seeds of Love Organic Farm

Tarry Lane Tasting Station

November 9, 2015 – 6th report for the 2015-2016 Garden Year

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

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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

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