

# CSA Crop Planning, Harvesting/Handling & Distribution

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# General Tips for Crop Planning

- Must produce a wide range of crops
- Rule of thumb: 20 shares per acre
- Crop rotation
- Allows you to use varieties otherwise couldn't use in other markets
- Purchase some crops from other farmers

# General Tips for Crop Planning

- What to Plant
- How Much
- Timing
- Season extension



# Basic Considerations in Crop Planning

- Types of crops to be grown & life cycles
- Storable, single planting/single harvest crops
- Non-storable, single or few plantings/extended harvest crops
- Transplanted, succession plantings/succession harvest crops
- Direct sown succession plantings/succession harvest crops

# Create a Sowing Schedule

- Crop Planning Information
- Determine specific harvest goals for each crop to be grown
- Calculate the number of plants per sowing needed to meet harvest goals
- Determine the specific sowing dates through season to achieve harvest goals for each crop
- Calculate the number of sowings needed per season to meet specific harvest goals
- Calculate seed costs

# The role of the sowing schedule

- Keep accurate schedule for sowing/transplanting to meet harvest goals
- Helps track & confirm completion of sowings
- Accurate records help to determine days to maturity in your specific region
- Serves as a record of crop performance, harvest quality & quantity for later analysis

# Crop Planning Exercise

- Onions
- Basil
- Broccoli
- Carrots

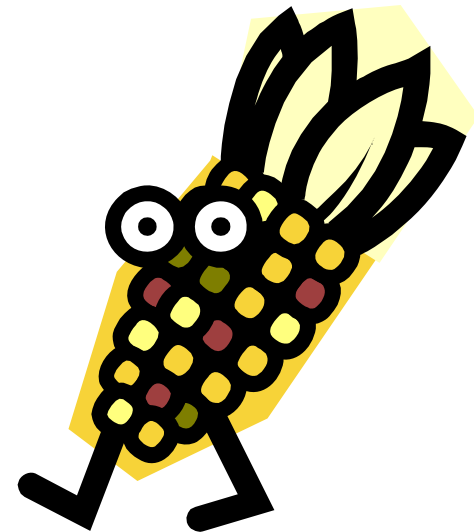


# Harvest & Handling

- Harvest & post-harvest handling influence aesthetics, flavor & texture of produce
- High quality
- Post-harvest handling influences nutritional profile of perishable crops

# When to Harvest

- Harvest at peak maturity & quality
- Time of day for harvest
- Crop turgor, soil moisture & irrigation



# Harvesting Techniques & Tips

- Always assess maturity of crop
- Various harvesting methods and vessels for every crop
- Harvest temperature
- Washing
- Removing field heat

# Packing

- Pre-pack
- Pack your own
- Pick your own
- Harvest in bulk



# Distribution

- Pick-up at farm
- Pick your own
- Mix & Match Greens
- Bike delivery



# Distribution

- Farm stand pick-up
- Farmers' market



# Distribution

- In-town pickup
- Member pack & distribution
- Farm crew pack
- Home deliveries



# Meat CSA Storage/Handling

- Freezer meat
- Freshly processed
- Delivered to drop points

