Weed Management and Small Scale Intensive Food Production Systems

With Common Root Farm

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Who We Are

We are Ryan and Erica, your local farmers! We started Common Root Farm in 2018 to continue our passion for growing the highest quality and most nutritious produce. The name "Common Root" represents our deepest interest in starting the farm--to provide a place for the community as a whole to take part in and benefit from. We have had the fortune of developing our vision in Derwood, Maryland.
Our Farming Practices

We use regenerative, ecologically sound farming techniques free from synthetic chemicals and pesticides. Our practices include minimal-till, crop-rotation, and preventative pest and disease measures. This allows the earth to rejuvenate the soil life and provide a healthy habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects—all of which contribute to your tasty veggies!
Started farm in 2018 after several years working in other systems. Most of our learning came from content produced by Curtis Stone, JM, Erich Schultz, Connor Crickmore. We had the opportunity to try our system on someone else’s payroll before starting our own farm.

We farm an area of about 2.5 acres on about 200 50’x30” beds.

We sell through a CSA, Online, and two farmers markets. Gross Revenue: 2018 - 43k, 2019 - 130k, 2020 YTD 70k. We broke even in 2019 after a 25k loss in 2018.

We have 2 full time employees and 3 part time employees. Would like to keep 1-2 full time throughout the year.

We are Certified Organic.
Today’s Topics:

Farm Systems:
- Overall layout
  - Plot numbering, bed numbering, drainage, access ways, tools, flow.
- Bed Prep
  - Methodology and vision, tools, practices. Process from bare ground to developed soil. Brief touch on fertility.
- Fertility
  - Soil, foliar, practical approach
  - Sap Analysis
- Seeding and Planting
  - Tools, methods, practices. Brief touch on fertility.
  - Interplanting
- Irrigation
  - System design and system use. Limitations.
- Weed management
- Infrastructure.
- Other system:
  - Tomatoes
  - Cukes
  - Herbs
  - Pest Management
- Covid adaptations
  - Online sales, sanitization, masks.
Tools and Process

1. Flail Mow
2. Spray “Soil Juice”
3. Power Harrow
4. Tarp
5. Wait 1 week
6. Broadfork
7. Amend
8. Harrow
9. Plant
Fertility

Multi faceted approach with focus on a balanced system.

We treat the soil with granular amendments and biology
- Penn Valley Humus Compost
- Mushroom Compost
- Liquid and dry biologicals
- Custom Blend Fertilizer
- Feathermeal, Shrimp Meal, Alfalfa Meal, Kelp Meal, Humates

We provide for the plants directly through foliar sprays and soil drench
- Holocal
- Key Factor
- Micropak
- Pepzyme Clear
- Accelerate
Questions?

How to Connect: Follow us @ commonrootfarm on Facebook and Instagram

Check out www.commonrootfarm.com

Email US!! farmer@commonrootfarm.com
Resources

Curtis Stone
Brian - Bear Creek Organic Farm
Erich Schultz - Steadfast Farm
JM Fortier
Ben Hartman
Elliot Coleman
Connor Crickmore - Neversink Farm

Penn Valley Compost
Fertrell
Keystone BioAg
John Kempf - AEA
Nolts Produce Supply
Nolts Greenhouse Supply
Good Start Packaging
Rain Flo Irrigation