

GREETINGS FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS



Warmer weather is upon us and outdoor activities at Cross Island Farms are picking up! From the planting of our annual vegetables to the blooming of the edible forest, much is happening at the farm as temperatures rise.

PLANTING



Starting in April, I began planting my annual vegetables. First were sets of cold-hardy plants like kale, chard, onions and leeks. Then, when the dandelions began to bloom, in went the potatoes: slices the size of an egg with at least two buds buried about 2 inches deep. Around May 1, the soil was warm enough (60

Last week, we had two frosty nights and I had to protect the tomatoes with two layers of row cover lest they meet their demise. Still waiting for the soil to be warm enough for zucchini and winter squashes: 70 degrees. If the soil is too cold and damp, these seeds may rot in the ground before they germinate.

BLOOMING





In my edible forest garden, fruit trees and berry bushes have been blooming all month. Particularly striking this year have been the beach plums shrouded in white. In a couple of weeks, the pawpaw trees will flower with their large overturned bell-shaped maroon flowers pollinated by flies!

Very soon the Black Locust will begin blooming in local woods. You can view clusters of these trees sporting showy white blossoms shaped like bunches of white grapes at the edges of some local roads. The blossoms are extremely attractive to native pollinators, especially bumble bees, whose buzzing reaches decibels as they collect pollen from the blooms.

GRAZING



This month, the grass has grown enough to transition the cows and goats from their winter diet of organic hay to rotating around our pastures. Dave creates a paddock with portable electric nets and calls the cows (“come cows”) to enter. Dave’s plan is to move the cows to an adjacent plot each day. However, the cows don’t always comply with David’s plan and are sometimes found to have moved themselves to more tempting forage.

TOURING



May is a great time to take a tour of the whole farm, or the edible forest. We have two baby calves to see and baby goats to hold. In the edible forest there

WHERE TO FIND US

Visit our table at **The Antique Boat Museum's Family Fun Day** on **Saturday, June 3 from 10-3** and also at the **Thousand Islands Land Trust Community Picnic at Zenda Farms** on **Friday, June 9 from 5:30-7:30**. If you bring your copy of my book, I can sign it for you!!

MAY YOUR MONTH BLOOM WITH JOY!

Dani Baker

Owner [Cross Island Farms](#) | Creator [The Enchanted Edible Forest](#) | Author [The Home-Scale Forest Garden: How to Plan, Plant and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape](#)

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