

## Attendees

1. Shital
2. Maureen Goldman
3. Wendy Pyhonen
4. Rashmi
5. Shane Macedo
6. Mara Bickett
7. Jo Clare
8. Rachna
9. Terri
10. Chelsea
11. Elizabeth
12. Diane
13. Carla

## Farmer Roy Discussions

He brought a show and tell of Green, Orange, and White Cauliflower. Leafy greens of bright lights swiss chard and Kale.

Prompted us to review the planting calendar again he shared with us in the last discussion. The months February & March has a lot of information for us. Shital will share again. March is when we should start planting warm season crops like Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplants, and Squashes.

Right now in your garden you should have cool crops.

### **Question:**

I have aphids on my rainbow chard. In the summer I had them all over my Kale. What can I do to prevent this from happening again?

“Aphids are our number one problem here in San Diego. Best preventative is to use a strong stream from your hose to blow them off. If you see ants that means you have a real bad aphid problem because they love to come and eat when aphids are matured. Pairing the strong water stream when fertilizing. Then let them dry out and follow up if you need with insecticidal soap. You can use Safer brand. You might have to follow up a few days later. Remember to always do your watering in the early hours of the day so that the plant has the day light to dry out.”

“To keep your plants happy, keep eating, pruning, and allowing good air circulation. Plants will do great.”

**Question:**

How often do we fertilize our plants?

“Your plants will tell you when it’s hungry. The best is to start with great soil preparation. Compost, chicken manure, worm casting, and organic fertilizer. Choose quick growing crops when you have a choice because the quicker you get your product you have less chance of an getting infected.”

“When you see a crown for example in the middle of your cauliflower plant coming give it a shot of nitrogen. Nitrogen will help boost its growth. Hit them every 2 weeks with high nitrogen. A good one is Alaska Fish emulsion 5.1.1”

“Fertilizer Numbers #.#.#. They mean Nitrogen.Phosphate.PotassiumK”

1. Nitrogen gives more green and growth
2. Phosphate think Up and down Roots
3. Potassium think all around quality (fruit)

“Plants in the wintertime need extra Nitrogen.”

**Question:**

What do you recommend for fruit trees? Do we do something this month?

“Deciduous trees go dormant and lose leaves like apple trees. You do not need to feed them if there are no leaves. I use 3.12.12 on my deciduous trees 4 – 5 times a year.”

“Citrus & Avocados I fertilize every 2 months. Use Grow Power.”

He will share with us a fertilizer chart.

Here is what Farmer Roy grows:

- Tomatoes
- Peppers – Red & Green
- Cucumbers
- Lettuce
- Green Beans – grow bush beans so you don’t have to tie them up.
- Squashes
- Melons

**Tomatoes:**

Seeds take approximately 6 weeks to be ready to plant. Get planning now so you are ready for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Start with a few in the spring and then do succession planting. Each month plant a new plant. I start with ½ my crop in the beginning and then May, June, July I add more.

**Cucumbers:**

Plant 1 or 2 every month. Then you will always have them and not a huge spike of cucumbers and then none. Succession planting allows you to always have them. Cucumbers take about 3 weeks from seed to be ready to plant in the garden. My favorite cucumber is Summer Dance from Territorial Seed Company.

When doing succession planting and adding in the new plants, remove the old looking plants to make room for the new.

**Question:**

I have Powdery Mildew on my leaves. I live near the coast. What can I do?

“Mildew loves humidity & heat. It is hard to prevent. I suggest using Resistant crops. A good resistant zucchini is Dunja. To control it when you have it you can use Serenade. The active ingredient in **Serenade** is a bacterium, Bacillus subtilis, that helps prevent the **powdery mildew** from infecting the plant. You will need to do this every other day and give a good coating.”

**Question:**

Where do we get Powdery Mildew Resistant plants?

“Jonny Selective Seeds & Territorial Seed Company”

**Tomatoes In depth:**

2 Types of plants :

**Determinate** – Bushy plants, grow about 3-4 feet. Quick growing and give a lot of fruit.

**Indeterminate** – Grow tall, long growing duration. Best suited for families. Provide a small amount of fruit over a longer duration.

**Types of Tomatoes that grow well:**

Sun gold is the standard, tend to crack

Black cherry is balanced

Golden gem – similar to sun gold, more crack resistant

Favorita from johnnys

Sukura – larger Red

5 Star – Great Red (Johnnys out of stock)

Tomatofest has a large selection of tomatoes.

Their 10 favorites:

1. Black Cherry
2. Brandywine, Sudduth's Strain
3. Chocolate Stripes
4. Blondkopfchen
5. Black Krim
6. Azoychka
7. Amana Orange
8. Brandywine, OTV
9. Cherokee Chocolate
10. Sunset's Red Horizon

Farmer Roy plants BHN – 1021 a red tomato from Johnny Seed.

I harvest when my tomatoes are light pink stage. Not green. Never put them in the refrigerator. Keep your tomatoes on the counter.

Other great tomatoes are:

- Celebrity
- Mountain fresh – compact plant with large tomatoes
- Roma types are compact too

Seed starting duration prior to planting in the garden:

Tomatoes take 6 weeks

Peppers 6 – 8 weeks

Cucumbers 3 weeks