



2019 CSA Season Review

2019: Season 10. Our 20-week season began the second full week of June, with the usual early mix of salad & cooking greens, turnips & radishes, and strawberries; the season went to the end of October, with carrots & winter squash, Brussels sprouts & cauliflower, apples & Asian pears, and more. We had early- & late-season broccoli this year, a good amount of raspberries (summer & "fall" seasons), and a good apple harvest.

CSA membership decreased a bit from 2018 for on-farm shares, but plenty of our long-time members returned and we added some new members. Half-shares were a popular option for first-timers; we also saw a good number of full-share memberships consisting of extended families or groups of friends who find that "sharing a share" works and is a good bargain. We definitely recommend this option to others considering joining CSA.

This year we had 4 "satellite" CSA drop-offs. The University of Hartford, where we deliver weekly shares for faculty & staff, completed its sixth 20-week season. We also had 3 "corporate" satellite drop-offs at area businesses; these groups opted for a shorter 15-week season as more manageable for their staff. In Enfield, LEGO Systems did its fifth year of CSA with us, and Brooks Brothers (plus several folks from Farm Credit East across the street) did their third year. We also had a new satellite drop-off at LIMRA Associates in Windsor. "Satellite" CSA makes it more convenient for busy people to have access to our CSA program; it also broadens our reach into the community. An enthusiastic & organized on-site coordinator at a satellite location is key to its success. We're always open to pursuing "collective" partnerships with workplaces or other organizations who can enroll a significant number of CSA members at one drop-off site. Ask us about this if you have a group that's interested, and a shared pick-up location to offer !

Each week's share included several varieties of seasonal vegetables, plus fruit, & occasionally herbs. We try to offer a "menu-convenient" mix of items that complement each other in meals. A weekly e-mail describes the share contents, to help with menu planning & grocery shopping; we add hints on cooking & storage, & recipes.

For many members, CSA opens up a whole new world of veggies they've seldom had, and perhaps never cooked with, before. It's also a chance to find new ways to prepare old standbys. We encourage folks to be open to expanding their culinary horizons.

When possible, we offer "*a la carte*" add-ons to augment the weekly share. When any of our veggies or fruit are plentiful, folks who want more than is included a given week can purchase extra amounts, and pay for / pick them up with their weekly share.

For a full list of each week's share offerings, click the link on our **CSA** page:

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