



Easy Pickin's Orchard

"Farm Fun for the Whole Family"

2018 CSA Season Review

2018: Season 9. 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, apples & Asian pears, and more; we were lucky to have both early- & late-season broccoli this year. CSA membership remained steady compared with 2017: a good mix of long-time faithful members & enthusiastic new folks. Half shares are popular with couples & first-timers; full-share memberships are families, often multi-generational, or groups of friends; we recommend this "sharing a share" option to others considering joining CSA.

This year we had 4 "satellite" CSA drop-offs. The University of Hartford, where we deliver several weekly shares for faculty & staff, completed its fifth full season. We also had 3 "corporate" satellite drop-offs at local business. LEGO Systems, in its fourth year, and A.W. Hastings, in its first year, each did a 15-week season concluding in late September. Brooks Brothers, in its second year, split the full season into 2 10-week segments, so their employees could either opt-in for just the first or second half, or start in June and re-up at mid-term to go the full 20 weeks. "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 are offering "satellite" CSA again in 2019, and we're always open to pursuing other "collective" partnerships with workplaces & organizations. 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.

Weather is a factor in the CSA experience every year. Our 2018 members will remember that we had plenty of rain this season, with the biggest downpours often during share pick-up times ! For us, the biggest impacts of the excess of rain were that it made for very fragile, hard-to-store tomatoes, and some weeks when it was almost impossible to find a dry interval when we could pick raspberries.

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

[2018 CSA Weekly Share Contents](#)