

Week # 10 Timken Farm Community Supported Agriculture

Madness at Monsanto– Mark

In the movie *Wall Street*, Michael Douglas, plays a ruthless, greedy corporate raider willing to do anything to make more and more money. In the end, Douglas's character, Gordon Gecco, gets caught and is subsequently thrown in jail where all bad guys go, right? Unfortunately, there are still some corporate bad guys out there and it seems as if most of them work for Monsanto. Last week we touched on how a few corporations are playing a huge role in the safety of our food. Monsanto seems to have lost a vision as to what is good for the world and instead seems only concerned with what is good for its shareholders (which if you are interested, is the topic of another film "*The Corporation*").

Monsanto is working on two types of technologies both of which seem straight out of a scary movie. The first is called the Terminator Seed. This seed is genetically altered to last only one season and the seed cannot be saved. As you might know, heirloom seeds are seeds passed down from hundreds of years of farming and seed saving. Traditionally seed saving has been an important ritual and necessity in cultures around the world. In India today 400 million people depend on seed saving to provide them food. Monsanto and several other extra large corporations have gone on a buying spree and purchased most of the largest seed corporations in the world and in addition they have introduced the Terminator Seed. One very likely scenario would be that a farmer's corn, that has been handed down for generations, is cross-pollinated with a terminator seed which in turn now makes it impossible to save seed and suddenly the farmer is dependent on having to buy seed from Monsanto.

Kind of sick, huh? Well it gets worse. The next Monsanto creation is seed patents. For example a farmer that lives next to a GM wheat field that cross-pollinates with his organic wheat can now be sued by Monsanto because of the patents that have been taken out on their Roundup ready Wheat. If he uses his seed the next year he must pay Monsanto and sign a license agreement or face financial distress or ruin in legal battles.

Because of a public outcry and actions from people around the world Monsanto has decided for the moment not to market the Terminator Seed. Please boycott all Monsanto (www.greenmatters.com/gm/subscribers/activism/monsantolist.html) products and if you own it, sell Monsanto stock and hopefully we can start to change the way corporations are affecting our world.

Summer tomato bruchetta-

Chop tomatoes, basil, purple onions, parsley, garlic. Add olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Let sit at room temperature for an hour or so to blend flavors.

Serve on bread-brush bread with olive oil, toast in oven, serve bruchetta on top or in a side bowl.

***pick up time will now be 5pm and after-**for the remaining weeks as we are now harvesting berries and beans and tomatoes are coming on and it has become an all day affair.

***Update-**we are still working on alternatives to plastic for food preservation. The response to the bio bag was mixed. This week you will find a cellophane bag in your box. This cellophane is made from vegetable cellulose for food storage and is 100% biodegradable. Please let us know how/if it preserves your food.

What's in your box:

Lettuce– salad mix

Basil– Sweet, mamouth

Carrots- Mookum or Nantes Fancy

Beets– Detroit, Red Ace, Chioggia

Tomatoes– Sun Gold, Stupice, Fantastic, Oregon Spring, Sweet Million, Yellow Brandywine, Early Girl.

Raspberries– Summit, Meeker

Parsley

Radish-diacon

Onions-purplette

Food System Factoid:

Monsanto, headquartered in St Louis, Missouri, employs 45,000 people and sells over 8 billion dollars a year in chemical products to the planet. Its Roundup is the world largest selling herbicide. Monsanto also sells Nutrasweet- a known carcinogen. At least 100 million Americans consume products containing Nutrasweet.

" If farmers are saving the seed, growing their crop, they are making reclamation of their economic space. They are giving up chemicals and the pesticides that have contaminated all sources of water in this country, including the soft drinks now. They are not just saving money. They are saving their lives and they are saving public health."

Vandana Shiva

Interview *In Motion Magazine*, March 28, 2004

