



# MOSSFLOWER COTTAGE VEGETABLE FARM

Newsletter: March 2015 (Ed. 5)  
5085 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury, Maryland 21804

## WELCOME

It seems odd to think of the coming onset of spring when looking out the window at the piles of snow that dot the yard. I suppose that's the way of the seasons. Whatever the case, March is upon us, and the sun is setting later with each passing day. Our first seeding is set for the ninth: kale, chard, cabbage, tomatoes, and peppers. In other words, we are truly on the cusp of the 2015 growing season.

Naturally, recent snowfall has hindered some of our farm projects. Perhaps that's nature's way of telling us to rest before the heavy work really sets in. Be that as it may, we have still found breaks in the weather to collect mounds of scrap metal from the past years when this land was a functioning chicken farm. We have also been clearing brush from our raised-bed site, which will soon be growing a wide spectrum of salad greens. The greenhouse has been reinforced in preparation

for the upcoming seeding, and massive packages arrive every day in the mail: weed-tarp, rolls of insect cloth, greenhouse trays, seed, and row-cover.

There is still a lot of work to be done at this point. The ground will need to be turned once it thaws. Hardwood raised beds are taking shape at this very moment. We are currently on schedule, which is reassuring.

If you happen to be in Delaware on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be speaking at Lavender Fields Herb Farm about our experience at CASA's Future Harvest conference. The other Historic Lewes Farmers' Market scholarship winners will also be sharing what they learned from the event, so it's bound to be informative.

Just so you don't think that Mossflower has gone completely dormant, here are some radishes from our high tunnel. We've had to repeatedly clear the tunnel of snow, but the results are delicious.



**WATERFOWL:**  
**ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS DOMESTICA**

Although our ducks and chickens are currently huddling beneath a heat lamp every night, the longer days of March typically mean the return of duck eggs. For those of you who have followed Mossflower Cottage from its beginning, our operation basically started on Pekin eggs. We began keeping ducks for our own table, but the birds were producing more eggs than we could eat. Since we each worked at Greenbranch Farm for four years, we approached the Wycalls about selling our eggs through their roadside store.

The results were a hit, and there has always been more demand than supply. We are still in the process of deciding exactly where to market them. Whatever the case, we will alert you as soon as they are available for purchase.

Duck eggs are large, delicious, and nutrient dense. Their yolk is twice the size of a chicken's, and they keep longer too! The chicken eggs in the grocery store – even organic, free-range cartons – pale in comparison with those from birds who have honestly been allowed to forage. Just compare the yolk! Birds raised on pasture will lay eggs with a deep, golden yolk that approaches orange. The real difference, of course, is in the taste.



**FROM ANDREW MARVELL'S "THE GARDEN"**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ENGLAND**

Fair quiet, have I found thee here,  
And Innocence thy Sister dear!  
Mistaken long, I sought you then  
In busie Companies of Men.  
Your sacred Plants, if here below,  
Only among the Plants will grow.  
Society is all but rude,  
To this delicious Solitude.

No white nor red was ever seen  
So am'rous as this lovely green.  
Fond Lovers, cruel as their Flame,  
Cut in these Trees their Mistress name.  
Little, Alas, they know, or heed,  
How far these Beauties Hers exceed!  
Fair Trees! where s'eer your barks I wound,  
No Name shall but your own be found...

How well the skilful Gardner drew  
Of flow'rs and herbes this Dial new;  
Where from above the milder Sun  
Does through a fragrant Zodiack run;  
And, as it works, th' industrious Bee  
Computes its time as well as we.  
How could such sweet and wholesome Hours  
Be reckon'd but with herbs and flow'rs!

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