

PrairieErth Farm Observations

May 28, 2014



(Left) Photographed for Identification



(Above) Photographed for yellowing leaves (same plant as listed left). Is yellowing due to nutrient deficiency (N) or lack of light?

Example species is located in N row, near tree ~8.



(Left & Below) Damage to Bok Choy by Flea Beetle.

Bradley et al. (2010) suggest delayed planting – adults overwinter in soil, fall plantings tend to experience lower infestation. Flea beetles prefer dry, sunny environments so providing shade by intercropping and watering during dry spells may minimize infestation (Bradley et al. 2010). Row covers, garlic spray, kaolin clay, and drenching roots with parasitic nematodes are also offered as methods to control adults and larvae.



Bok Choy was planted on 4/27 with nasturtiums – nasturtiums are suggested for deterring flea beetles and aphids. After attack, before identifying the pest as flea beetles, coriander was planted as a second deterrent of flea beetles (5/18); onions were planted if the pests were maggots (5/18); and celery was planted if the pests were cabbageworms (5/18). The larger holes seem characteristic of cabbageworm feeding. (Leaves should be inspected for dark green droppings, an indication of cabbageworms.)

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(Left) Hoverfly possibly laying eggs on apple tree leaf, an adjacent leaf was recently damaged by hatched larva. (Below) The leaf holds the abandoned egg shells.



(Left) When lettuce was grown among clover and other vegetation the infestation rates were lower than when grown alone (below).



(Below) First year rhubarb, planted 5/3, coming along nicely.

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(Left) Stratified seed in native strip planted 5/19 has successfully sprouted!



(Left) Apple tree ~36 has raspberry brambles taking over. The competition will be under continued observation.

(Below) Sunflower seeds are sprouting!
(Planted 5/18)



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(Left) Strawberry blossoms are being plucked off newly planted (5/4) strawberries to encourage root development.

(Below) Fruit is ripening on strawberry plants planted last year but the crop is likely to be unsuccessful. Insects claim strawberries before ripe.



(Left) A hole is prepared for planting a blackberry shrub and a swale is dug. The swale will collect runoff water where it slowly seeps into the ground hydrating the soil around the new shrub.



(Left) The blackberry shrub has been planted and watered.

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(Left) A peach tree was badly chewed over winter. (Right) After an application of tangle foot the tree seems to be recovering.



(Left) This is a view of the NW corner of the food forest after the addition of a grape vine. In the skyline stands a fruit tree and wild mustard – various stands were left to draw in pollinators.