

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[View this email in your browser](#)



Sprouting Farms™

Talcott, WV

Raising Ramps

WVU and Sprouting Farms learn to cultivate a West Virginia delicacy



Ramp-ing Up Production

Allium Tricoccum, also know as 'wild leek' or 'wild garlic,' is a culinary staple of the Appalachian region. Around these parts, however, we just call them 'ramps.' Ramps are known for their ~ potent ~ onion/garlic flavor and are a welcome edition to stews, soups, salad dressings, savory jellies, and so much

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

product. Unfortunately, all of this demand and enthusiasm has led to over-harvesting and diminishing growth of ramps in the wild.

Sprouting Farms and the West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources are teaming up with financial support from the **USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program** to research commercial ramp production so that farms can access this growing market. WVU and Sprouting Farms will compare and document different methods of ramp production (such as seeding nursery stock or planting bulbs in trenched plots).

This week, Walter Veselka (pictured above) visited the farm to assist us in planting ramp bulbs along a maple tree line along the driveway into our farm. Mr. Veselka dug 6" trenches using a mechanized trencher. We then cut and laid down burlap (which will enable quick harvesting), shoveled in dirt, planted hundreds of ramp bulbs, and finally covered them in dirt and fallen maple leaves.

We will also be trying out a **Korean Natural Farming** technique in order to encourage growth and resistance to pesky fungus and pests. In this method, we dug up a bucket full of potatoes that we later blended into a starchy mush. In large pickling barrels, we then mixed the starch with non-iodized sea salt and some soil found at a ramp patch on an uninhabited mountain nearby. Since this soil was never touched by agricultural production, it is full of indigenous *biota* that carry a natural resistance to local pests. Once this mix is mature, we will spray or pour it over our ramp plots to effectively transfer this immunity/resistance to the bulbs.

The goal of this project is to uncover the best methods for farmers to access the very lucrative ramp market and mitigate. over-harvesting of wild ramps in the long term. We are just in the beginning phases, so be on the look out for more ramp news in the future!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Farm News

- Come to our virtual cooking class on **November 23 at 6pm!** The event will be hosted on Facebook Live and is free to attend. We will be going over a simple butternut squash soup recipe as well as an autumnal salad. Bon Appetite!
- **Tilmor**, a small grower centered manufacturing company, gave an equipment demo of their walk behind tractor and a cultivating row crop tractor at New Roots Community Farm in Fayetteville, WV. Thanks for having us!
- Are you interested in growing your own food? Sprouting Farms wants to know if you would like to participate in a **community garden** here at the farm in Talcott, West Virginia. If so, please fill out our [interest form!](#)
- We are still accepting applications to join our Board of Directors. If you are interested, please apply [here](#).



When hunting mice and other pests, Sprout finds it important to take the high ground to get the very best vantage points.



Donate

Copyright © 2021 Sprouting Farms Appalachian Craft, Resource and Training Center, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

