Crop Discussion Outline – For EACH Crop

Go by Family

A slide for each of these before we begin

1. Field Practices
   * When does it get planted? Do you want to plant it earlier or later than last year?
     + Can it be used for the early part of the summer or for the late part of the fall/winter?
   * Does it matter where in the field? (carrots should be somewhere with lower weed pressure; corn can be planted somewhere with lots of residue; etc)
   * Is it direct seeded or transplanted? How many rows in a bed and what spacing in the row?
   * How often? Is one big planting better or lots of little plantings?
   * How will you manage pest and weed pressure (and how often)?
   * What other practices are beneficial or necessary (ie, MULCHING, fertilizing, thinning, hilling, staking)?
   * Does management change over the course of the season? (ie, no row cover needed after July)
   * How often should one “check on” this crop? (ie, arugula vs. pumpkins)
   * Are there any tools that it is good to have for this crop?
   * How many different varieties does it make sense to grow? How will you keep track?
   * What will you do when it’s gone (cover crop, another vegetable)?
2. Harvest
   * How do you know it is ready to harvest?
   * What are some key indicators of quality?
   * What is a fast and efficient way to harvest it (tools, etc)?
3. Post Harvest Handling
   * Does it need to get washed? How clean does the water have to be? How fast does it need to get in the water to release field heat? Can it soak or should it be dunked?
   * How should it be packed?
   * How long can you keep it before it is no longer fresh?
   * Is it best to store it in a cooler or not?
   * Will you sell it bagged, bunched, or by the each?
   * What are some possible ways to display it at market or for CSA? Advantages or disadvantages of using plastic or paper bags?
   * What price will you charge? Does the price change much over the season?

Vegetable:

When? April May June July August

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