



Winter CSA

What is CSA?

- Community supported agriculture
- A commitment from the customer as well as the farmer
- A lot of time its an upfront cost for the customer and can give the farmer money to start the season

Winter CSA Pros/Cons

- **Pros of winter CSA**

- Less competition
- Less weed and bug pressure
- You can keep up with a winter farm with less manpower

- **Cons of winter CSA**

- Not much room for error
- Less daylight hours for work
- Lots of time spent protecting from cold

CSA Options

- Standard CSA
- Market Style CSA
- Customizable CSA

Crop Selection



Brassicas

- Kale - *Red/White Russian*
- Cabbage - *Farao, Caraflex*
- Cauliflower - *Denali*
- Broccoli - *Arcadia, Belstar*
- Kohlrabi - *Kolibri, Kossak*
- Brussel Sprouts



Root crops

- Carrots - *Bolero*
- Beets - *Red Ace, Touchstone Gold, Avalanche*
- Salad Radishes - *Pink Beauty, D'avignon*
- Storage Radish - *Red Meat, Nero Tondo, Miyashige*
- Turnips - *Hakurei, Purple Top*
- Rutabaga



Salad greens

- Salanova
- Head lettuce - *Skyphos, Sylvesta*
- Arugula - *Astro, Esmee*
- Spinach - *Space*
- Baby kale - *Red Russian*



Asian Greens



- Bok choy
- Yukon Savoy
- Chinese Cabbage
- Tokyo Bekana
- Tat Soi
- Mizuna

Exotic Greens

- Mustard - *Ruby Streaks*
- Claytonia
- Maché
- Minutina
- Garden Cress
- Sorrel



Row Cover

- 3-8 degrees
- Additional covers increase protection
- If sunny, uncover during the day



Quick Hoops



- Small wire hoops
- Plastic conduit hoops
- Metal Conduit hoops



Benefits of plastic



- It heats the soil when the sun is out
- If you live in an area with snow you can still get to your crops
- Gives a mostly controlled environment
- Rain or shine work space

Structure options

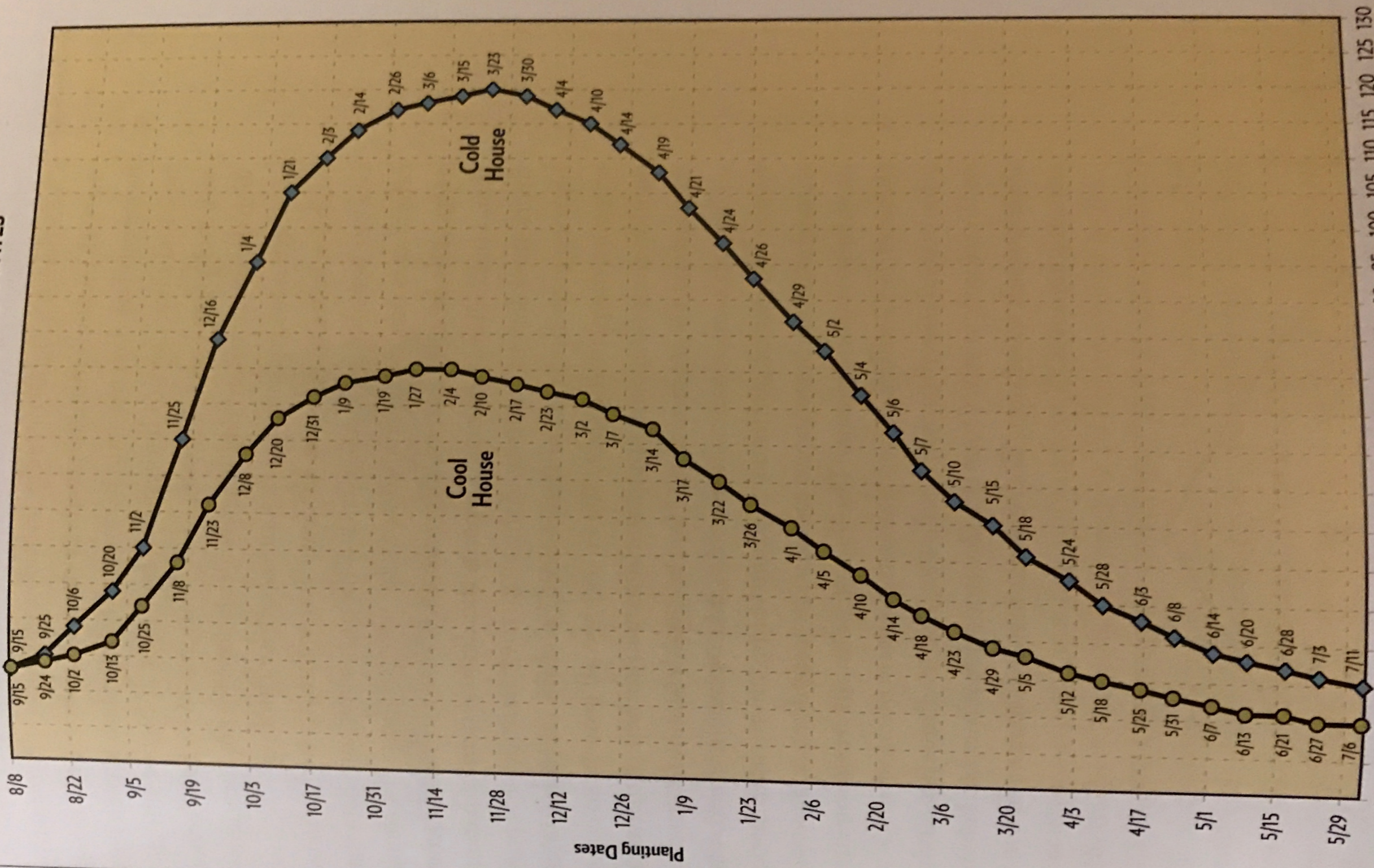
- Caterpillar Tunnels
 - Much more ground covered with less cost.
 - Easily moveable
- Hoop Houses
 - Sturdier, taller, wider
 - More of a permanent structure



Timing
is almost everything!



PLANTING AND HARVESTING DATES



Number of Days from Planting to Harvest

- Many winter crops need to be started in the heat of summer.
- Just a few days difference in seeding in the late summer / early fall can mean weeks difference in harvest in the winter.
- Some plants can be seeded through the winter (greens), but others will never mature if they don't reach maturity in the fall (specifically: heading brassicas)

The Persephone Months

- When day length dips below 10 hours.
- Very little plant growth takes place during this time — although adding heat can stimulate more growth.



Resources for Winter Growing:

- The Winter Harvest Handbook by Eliot Coleman
- The Winter Market Gardener JM Fortier
- www.johnnyseeds.com search for “Winter Growing Guides”
- Seedtime A great resource for scheduling out your winter season!