



Our very successful growing season was abruptly cut short by Mean Irene and the following tropical storms. Too much wind and rain so the plants just shut down for the year. Before the weather hit however, our carrots, cucumbers, chamomile, tomatoes, lettuce, zucchini, basil, and one pumpkin were happy producing items for the children to choose for snack. They love to wander the garden and see what's ripe and they especially love the picking part! This year we think that the deer and rabbits enjoyed the fruits of our labor as much as we did. Actually they were the only ones who got any of the early peas!! We'll have to think about that issue and see what we can come up with next year to keep some of the produce for the gardeners!! We will soon be pulling up the plants and putting them into the compost piles to create the compost to mix in the beds next spring. The children refer to this process as the sending back to mother nature the plants she gave to us to take care of, so they can sleep through the winter and put vitamins back in the ground so they can grow strong again when we plant the seeds. Not far from the truth. We will even try harvesting some of the seeds to replant in the spring, a real hands on lesson in organic recycling. Over the winter we will be performing some experiments with soil to gain an understanding of how to care for the soil, and observe firsthand what happens when we take care of the soil and when we don't. Hopefully from these observations and experiences we will better understand the recycling process and develop an awareness and connection to the earth. Goodnight Mother Earth and all her children we will see you again in SPRING!

