#### **Menu Planning for August**

If you're planning your menu for August, there are a few holidays to consider and many fresh fruits and vegetables continuing their summer peak.

## <u>August</u>

Full moon: August 20th called the *Sturgeon Moon*, the *Green Corn Moon* or the *Grain Moon* 

- National Picnic Month
- National Peach month
- 73<sup>rd</sup> Sturgis Bike Rally Aug 5-11<sup>th</sup>

### Plan ahead for September:

Full Moon on September 19<sup>th</sup> is called the Full *Corn Moon* or *Harvest Moon*.

- National Apple Month
- National Mushroom Month
- Organic Harvest Month

- August 1<sup>st</sup> Sweet Corn Day
- o August 3<sup>rd</sup> National Watermelon Day
- O August 7<sup>th</sup> Ramadan ends
- August 8<sup>th</sup> Sneak Some Zucchini onto your Neighbor's Porch Day
  - Sept. 2nd Labor Day (National Holiday)
  - Sept.4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Rosh Hashanah
  - Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Sukkot
  - Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> International Day of Peace
  - Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> First day of Autumn

#### **Menu Suggestions:**

With August, the parade of summer vegetables continues: legumes, melons, tomatoes and stonefruit. Gone are the early bright flavors of summer, now begins an opportunity to season our plates and our diets with earthy, rich suntempered produce. We can celebrate the true bounty of summer harvest.

- Tomatoes!!! This is the time to serve caprese salad or just plain tomato salad, gazpacho, panzanella anything with delicious full-bodied tomato flavor...now is the season! (Don't forget to store the fruit at
  room temperature!)
- Eggplant Yummy grilled, roasted, sautéed, pureed ratatouille, baba ganoush this is the time for this delicious vegetable!
- MELONS!!! For breakfast as a delicious grilled side, for lunch in a chilled melon soup, for intermezzo as a granita. You can't go wrong with the sweet flavor of summer....
- Shelling beans they have had a late start this year but they are coming on STRONG ...This is one of the
  few times of the year to get Lima and Cranberry beans fresh sautéed with butter and herbs and a little
  fleur d'sel... yummy!
- Some wine grapes become available late in the month don't forget to ask about availability...

With this full summer bounty, start thinking about how to preserve these flavors for use in the winter months; canning, pickling, drying and smoke – all methods of preserving fruit and vegetables that are time proven ways to have produce in the winter months.

<u>Anyone</u> can individually quick freeze (IQF) products, given a flat surface and a good freezer. Working a little bit at a time, beautiful fresh berries can be washed, dried and then spread on a sheet pan in a single layer and frozen without any other preparation! Once frozen solid, they can be bagged in airtight containers and used throughout the cold berry-free months for a burst of sunshine! While they will not be as visually beautiful when they thaw, the flavor is retained and will be delicious in the middle of February when surrounded by snow and sleet!

# Planning for August: (BOLD below is the peak season and usually more economical.)

Apples, Early, CA

Arugula Avocados Bananas

Beans - Haricots Verts Beans - Yellow Wax Beans - Dragon Tongue Beans - Cranberry

Beans – Shelling varieties
Berry - Black
Berry - Blue

Berry - Blue Berry - Rasp Berry - Straw Broccoli Broccoli Rabe

Broccolini Cabbage Cabbage - Napa Cactus Leaves

Cactus Leaves
Cactus Pears
Carrots

Carrots, BBY w/ tops Cauliflower – all colors

Celery
Celery Root
Chayote Squash
Cherimoya
Chili Peppers

Chili Peppers
Citrus - Limes

Citrus - Tangerines - Australia

Corn

Cucumber, English Cucumber, Lemon Cucumber, Pickling

Cucumbers

Currants, White, Black, Red

Currants, Zante
Dill Weed
Dragonfruit
Eggplant

Eggplant - Japanese Eggplant- Chinese Endive, Belgian

Fennel

Figs - Black Mission Figs - Brown Turkey Figs - Calmyrna

Garlic

Garlic, Elephant Grape, Champagne Grapes - Red Flame

Green beans Herbs Horseradish Jicama

Kiwano (horned melon) Kiwi - Gold 'zespri'

Kiwifruit Lettuce Lettuce - Baby Lychee (Litchee)

Mango

Melon - Cantaloupe Melon - Honeydew Melon - Water

Melon - Water, Yellow-flesh

Mushrooms, Black Trumpet Mushrooms, Chanterelle Mushroom, Portabellos

Nectarines

Okra Onions

Oranges - Navel, Australia

Oranges - Valencia

Papaya

Papaya - Mexican **Peach, Donut** 

Peaches, white and yellow

Pears - Bartlett
Pears - Asian
Peas - English
Pears - Forelle
Peppers, Bell
Pineapple
Plums
Plums

Plums, Prune
Pluots
Potatoes
Prunes - Italian
Raddichio
Radish
Rambutan
Sapote, Mamey
Shallots
Snow Peas
Spinach

Squash, Summer Sugar Snap Pea Tamarillo Tomatoes

Spinach - Baby

**Tomatoes, Cherry Heirloom** 

Tomatoes, Heirloom

Start thinking about the delicious flavors coming in September – Persimmons start their fall harvest... petite little heirloom apples and pears... brassicas and early winter squashes...