

WELLSPRING CSA MEMBER ORIENTATION INFORMATION

What are the CSA pick up hours?

Each member has chosen either to pick up their share at the farm or in Montpelier. Please come on your chosen day, as we only harvest for the number of expected sharers (see “Missed Pick-ups” below). Shares may be picked-up from 4-6 PM. Expect approximately 10 minutes to pick up your share, and more time for pick-your-own options at the farm. Please note that pick-up sites close promptly at 6 PM.

What share size is best for me?

We have two share sizes: small and full. *Generally* a small share meets the needs of 1-2 adults and a full share meets the needs of 2 adults plus children. However, we do have families with children that are happy with a small share and single folks who opt for a full share and freeze or can for the winter. Each household eats differently. We are happy to help you determine the right share size for you.

Can I split a share?

Yes. We require that split shareholders pick up the entire share at one time. You may come to the pick up together, or have one household pick up the share and split it offsite, or you can alternate pick-up weeks with your share partner. Please designate one person as the primary contact responsible for payment. Both members will receive farm emails and newsletters. Please note that splitting share contents will sometimes be challenging, i.e. it is hard to split a head of lettuce, the first tomato, and a head of broccoli. Please be aware that a large share *does not* equal 2 small shares (it is actually 1-1/2 times the size of a small share, and priced as such).

Can I choose what items I do and don't want in my share?

Each week we harvest produce at its peak to offer a seasonal smorgasbord to our members. While we list each crop and quantity by share size, we also offer choice as often as we can. You will be able to choose between multiple varieties of head lettuce, cooking greens options, melon choices and mix-n-match fall roots such as carrots, potatoes, onions, beets, etc. When we offer vegetables that are known to not be universally appreciated (like eggplant or cilantro), we always offer a choice of another crop.

What about pick-your-own (PYO) crops?

The farm is open for PYO on Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm. PYO crops include peas, beans, cherry tomatoes, hot peppers, herbs and flowers. Please read our weekly newsletter for up-to-date PYO crop listings. At the farm's pick-up shed you will find a list of pick-your-own crops and the amount that you may harvest. Please ask if you are unsure of the appropriate harvesting method. Note the following requests:

- Pick only those items on the list. While other crops may appear ready they may be recovering or ripening.
- Please only harvest the amount noted so that everyone gets a share.

- We appreciate your walking carefully between the beds. Supervised children are welcome. You may want to bring a container to fill with water to transport your flowers.

Due to the fact that Montpelier members do not have easy access to the PYO crops, we increase the volume of picked crops accordingly. We also pick PYO crops for Montpelier members when we have additional labor available.

What if I miss a pick-up?

Each pick-up day we harvest for the number of shareholders expected that day. If you know in advance that you will miss a pick-up, please inform us **48 hours in advance** so that you can choose from the following options to get your share:

- Switch your pick-up site from the farm to Montpelier, or vice versa, for the week.
- Have someone pick up your share for you.
- Offer your share to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker if you will be out of town.
- Receive a double share prior to or after your absence.

Please note that your share is already discounted at least 10-20% off organic retail prices. If you miss a share or two you are still receiving a good value for your money.

What if I won't make it to the pick-up by 6PM?

Simply call or email by 5:30pm and we will bag your share for you. Messages left after 5:30 PM unfortunately will not be received in time to bag shares.

Bagged shares with your name will be left in our cooler at the farm for up to 5 days, or at the Montpelier pick up site for the evening. To access the cooler at the farm, enter the white door on the right side of the large red barn.

What vegetables are in the winter CSA share?

Winter shares consist of a range of seasonal, easily-stored vegetables such as carrots, onions, garlic, beets, potatoes, winter squash and pumpkin. There are many mix-n-match options so that you may customize your share at distribution. The winter share is a one-time share pick-up, distributed in October on the last CSA pick-up day. You will receive detailed tips on how to store your produce; all crops are selected for their easy of storage.

What are the payment options?

Wellspring Farm accepts checks and cash. Payment options are as follows:

- In full. This helps us cover our early season expenses.
- Payment Plan. \$150 deposit by April 1. Remainder due June 1.
- Please see information on our website about our Supported Share program. You may be eligible for a partially subsidized share. We ask that each participant contribute 50% of the cost of the share. If this is not possible, we can look into other arrangements.

- Working Memberships. Please see more information on our website. A limited number of working memberships are offered each year. All require an interview.

Can I bring my dog?

For everyone's safety and comfort, we request that dogs be left at home or in the car.

Are you closed on holidays?

We reschedule pick-ups that correspond with the July 4 and Labor Day holidays. You will receive prior notification.

Should I bring my own bags?

In the effort to reuse and recycle, we ask that you make every effort to bring your own bags for the week's share. Please bring us clean, full-sized, handled plastic and paper bags you may be collecting. Make sure the bags are empty of all trash, including little paper receipts. We will keep them at our pick-up sites for your and other's use each week.

How about a carpool list?

At the start of each season we will have a carpool sign-up sheet. If you are interested in connecting with other members for carpooling, please add your contact information. We will distribute the sign up sheet to interested members, and then the contacting is up to you. Thank you for helping to save fossil fuels.