

Cully Neighborhood Farm

CSA Member Agreement for 2023/24

This document is intended to create a common understanding between you, the CSA member, and us, the farmers, about what it is that you're signing up for, and what it is that we're providing. Please read this entire document and if you have any questions about it Josh's contact information is at the end.

Section 1: Farm Description

A. Overview

The farm grows vegetables, herbs and cut flowers on an otherwise empty lot in the Cully Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. The farm has been in operation since 2010 and has sold through a variety of outlets, but the vast majority of the produce is distributed to CSA members, with a small portion going to other markets, and the farm crew.

B. Growing methods

Cully Neighborhood Farm (CNF) grows using organic practices, though we are not certified organic. We use compost, cover crops, and natural soil amendments to improve the soil; we buy seeds from organic farmers and seed companies that sell organic seeds; we use physical barriers, careful crop selection, and crop rotations to avoid pests and diseases. We do not use synthetic pesticides, insecticides, fungicides or fertilizers; we do not use any genetically engineered seed or plants.

We test our soil annually and add any additional nutrient requirements through organically approved soil amendments to increase soil health and produce nutritional density. We use amendments such as mined limestone, sterilized blood meal, and kelp meal. We source much of our seed and other inputs locally when possible and practical. We focus on growing cover crops (green manures) to add fertility to the soil when a bed is not in a food crop. We are happy to discuss our growing practices with you! Please ask if you have questions.

C. Crops we grow

We grow a wide variety of vegetables, culinary herbs and cut flowers. We primarily harvest the vegetables for our CSA and leave the majority of the culinary herbs and cut flowers for members to pick for themselves as needed.

Section 2: CSA Share Description

A. What is in a share

The CSA shares contain a mix of vegetables. The number of items harvested each week varies with the season. In the spring we start out with a relatively small share size, featuring just a handful of the first crops of the year. During summer the number of items increases, and then in the fall and winter it drops off slightly. The volume, frequency, and varieties of those vegetables vary from week to week. The best way to get a sense of what the shares look like from week to week during the season is to go back through our blog, Instagram or Facebook pages where there are photos and descriptions of the shares from each week of the previous years.

We can't guarantee that the season will be successful for all of the crops and there are a few others that we might throw in at the last minute. We grow all of the crops for the CSA share on our farm. Occasionally we may decide that due to our significant urban space limitations and small-scale equipment it makes sense to buy in one or two crops from another local farm. For example potatoes and winter squash are crops that take a lot of space and benefit greatly from the mechanization available on larger farms. It may not be economically viable to grow these crops each year on our small, urban scale. Any crops provided to CSA members not grown at CNF will be sourced from a local farm that is either certified organic or meets our farm's standard of ecological growing practices. We will always identify any crops not grown by CNF at the pickup and on our blog. Note – we have not done this in the past five years, but we did do this in 2018 and several prior seasons.

B. Share types

We offer four different shares: spring, summer, fall and winter. Many people sign up for all seasons but we're happy to offer the seasonal variations for folks who have a strong preference for one season over another, prefer to not commit to multiple seasons, or travel during certain times of the years.

C. Picking up your share

For spring, fall and winter we harvest and distribute shares on Thursdays. In the summer we harvest on Mondays and Thursdays.

When you sign up for spring or fall you can pick either the A schedule or B schedule. Both are every other week on Thursdays, with A being the first Thursday and B being the following Thursday. If you would like a share every week sign up for both schedules. When you sign up for summer you pick either Monday or Thursday as your pick-up day and shares are automatically every week. For winter there is just one schedule and it's every other Thursday. During COVID we started pre-bagging shares and we plan to continue that in 2023/24 but we may return to a self bagging system, or a hybrid at some point.

Regular, staffed pick-up hours are from 4:30 to 5:45pm. If you don't pick up during the regular hours we leave a labeled bag for you that you can pick up any time that evening or the next

day. The quality of the vegetables does deteriorate somewhat when we leave the bags so try to pick up your shares as early as possible. That said, we have had bags sit for three days that are still very much useable. Bags that aren't collected by the next harvest day will be donated.

During staffed pick up hours we will once again have a small farm stand with extras that you can add to your share. Your share will come with \$1 per week of farm stand credit which can be used at any time during the season. If you exceed your farm stand credit we will put any additional purchases on your account and you can wait to pay until the end of the season, or you can pay online during the season. All farm stand prices are suggested so really you just pay what you like for those.

Note that we cannot guarantee the freshness of produce picked up after the regular pickup time. Hot weather can cause produce to deteriorate rapidly. In the winter freezing weather may be a problem, but we will attempt to avoid harvesting on days where this is likely and to shift harvests to weeks with warmer weather as needed.

Please be respectful of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, the site and property owner of the farm. If you are driving to the farm site, please enter the parking lot of Trinity Lutheran Church & School from Killingsworth (5520 NE Killingsworth) and park near the back of the lot. Walk across the athletic field past the line of tall pine trees to enter the farm.

You can also walk or bike to the farm and access the property from the other side by coming down NE 56th from NE Alberta. **There is no car parking on NE 56th or NE Sumner.** Feel free to roll your bike through the farm and park it by the pick up area while you're picking up your share. The gate is only unlocked on this side of the farm before 6:30pm.

Sometimes we need to change the pick-up times, but we'll always give plenty of advance notice. An example is in the case of a holiday falling on a Monday we might choose to delay the pick-up until Tuesday.

D. Share Prices

For 2023/24 share prices are listed in our store on the GrownBy.app. Total prices are the same whether paying all up front or in monthly payments although there is a small fee per transaction. A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a share. Monthly payments are set to finish the first of the month before the end of the season.

Every CSA membership comes with \$1 per week of credit at the farm stand which can be used at any time during the season.

Section 3: CSA Member Benefits and Responsibilities

A. Blog Posts and the Cook With What You Have Recipe Collection

In 2023/24 we plan to maintain a weekly blog to help you make the best use of the vegetables in your share. This will also be cross posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We try to

write a blog post each week with the list of what is in the share for the week and little tips and tricks for how to use them.

In addition, all CSA members have access to the CookWithWhatYouHave.com recipe collection which is written specifically for CSA members in the Portland area and is used by CSA members at farms around the country.

B. Pick your own

We plant some pick-your-own herbs and flowers near the pick-up tables. In addition, there are sometimes crops in the field, like greens and beans that we don't have time to pick but are available for you to pick. We'll give details each week about what is ready, what appropriate quantities are to pick, and how to best pick them to keep the productive, and for best quality.

C. Crop Surpluses and Failures

We plan for harvest quantities based on previous experience, but every season is a little different. Part of the original concept of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) was that there was shared reward and risk between the members and the farmer. We do our best to keep the shares full, but it's impossible for us to predict what will be in the share exactly. When we have a bumper crop we will pass that along, within reason. When we have a crop failure or when a crop does poorly, which does happen sometimes, we'll fill in as best we can with the surpluses of other crops. If the crops produce wildly well, which does happen sometimes, we will sell the surplus through our farm stand.

D. Payment

- i. To reserve your share you need to make a non-refundable deposit of \$20.
- ii. If for some reason you start your share after the beginning of the season we will look at our crop plans and give you a pro-rated price for the season.
- iii. Monthly payment plans are available.
- iv. We accept many forms of payment: check, cash, credit cards and SNAP benefits.
- v. Payments using SNAP are processed by the PNW CSA Coalition and Double Up Food Bucks may be available to reduce the cost of a CSA share while still compensating the farmers for their work.
- vi. **All payments and outstanding balances are non-refundable.** If you are unsatisfied with the CSA please let us know and we will do our best to work with you to address your concerns. If you decide that the CSA is not a good fit for you can find someone else to take over your share or if we have someone on our waiting list we'll connect you so that you can transfer your share. There is a \$35 administrative fee for transferring a share.

E. Picking up shares

Besides paying a share of the cost for producing the vegetables your main responsibility as a CSA member is picking up your share. We do ask that when signing up for CSA, you commit to coming, or sending someone to your scheduled pickup time to the best of your ability each week. See details on picking up your share in the share description above (Section 2C). Tips for

how to keep your produce fresh as long as possible are included on our blog and on cookwithwhatyouhave.com, as well as in person at the pick-up site.

F. Communicating problems and reading our emails

If you have a problem with the CSA, or see something you think could be better please let us know. Email (see contact info below) is generally the easiest, but if it's urgent a phone call or text might be more appropriate. We also like getting love letters in the mail from CSA members who love our vegetables.

Please make sure to read all emails from us. We don't send many, but the ones we do send have critical information about the CSA that CSA members need to know about.

G. Being a good community member

This is super easy but we put it here to let you know about some possible ways to go above and beyond. Beyond just growing great vegetables we're also trying to create a little community around food. We'd love to work with CSA members who want to volunteer a bit of time to help out in the pick-your-own area, who want to help other CSA members at pick-up times, and who would like to help us organize events for the CSA. If you're interested in any of these things please let us know.

Section 4: Farm contact information:

Note: For the 2023/24 growing season Cully Neighborhood Farm (CNF) is being run by Slow Hand Farm (SHF) and SHF is handling all farm memberships. More details on this relationship are at the end of this section.

For all questions relating to the CSA contact

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CNF and SHF relationship

Matt, the founder of CNF, and Josh, the founder and owner of SHF have been working together on farms, on and off since before CNF started in 2010. In 2016 Josh started contracting with CNF to help with the production work on the farm and he also worked with the farm in 2017. In 2018, to allow Matt to step back from more of the daily responsibilities and spend more time with his growing family Josh took over more of the management of the farm in order to keep it going. Josh also provides consulting services for other small farms, writes about and teaches farming techniques, and designs tools for farms. He is also the author of the book *Compact Farms*, which features Cully Neighborhood Farm as one of 15 examples of successful farms under 5 acres around the country and in Canada, and *Build Your Own Farm Tools* which gives directions and background for building many of the tools and systems we use at Cully Neighborhood Farm.