



Pitchfork & Crow Summer CSA Handbook - 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Pitchfork & Crow Summer CSA!

We're set to begin the twelfth season of the Pitchfork & Crow Summer CSA! We're excited you've decided to join us for this summer and fall of eating local, seasonal, organic vegetables. Please know that we're doing everything we can to ensure a successful CSA season for everyone.

Please read through the information below for important CSA related details and keep it handy for future reference.

Your farmers - Carri & Jeff

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1 When does the CSA begin and end?

The 2021 Summer CSA season begins the first week or second week of June, depending on whether you've chosen a weekly or biweekly share.

Weekly Members: The first Salem pick-up day is Tuesday June 1st and the first on-farm pick-up day is Wednesday June 2nd. The weekly pick-up season will include 26 pick-ups and end on November 23rd/24th.

Biweekly Members: Your start date depends on your assigned group. Group A will begin the 1st week of June and Group B will begin the 2nd week of June. Both groups will continue picking up biweekly into November for a total of 13 shares.

2 Where and when do I pick up my share?

Salem: Tuesday 4-6pm in the parking lot of the Mission Mill Museum at the Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St SE Salem, OR.

Lebanon On-Farm: Wednesday 3:30-6pm at the farm, 34077 Santiam Hwy Lebanon, OR.

3 Picking up your share – How it works

Please bring your own bags, box, or basket for taking home your veggies. We'll have bags available if you forget, but you won't want to forget.

Both pick-up locations are set up in a 'market-style' and it will appear as though you're entering a farmers market booth. Instead of prices, each bin of vegetables has a quantity noted, this is the number of items you'll take from that bin. Shares are not pre-packed, but instead you get to choose your vegetables from each bin available based on the quantity listed.

When you arrive at your pick-up location:

1. **Check-in with Jeff or Carri.** We'll mark your name off the sign-in sheet so we know your share has been picked-up.
2. **Begin selecting vegetables from each bin available according to the quantity listed on the signage posted.** *We'll put the heavier items first and the lighter items at the end to help with bagging. Please try to choose your items visually when possible to avoid touching multiple items before selecting your choice.*
3. **Decide if you'd like to swap any items.** You can take extra or leave items behind in the Swap Box at the end of the line for other members.

4 I split a share. How does that work?

Members who split a single share can decide together how they want to divide the pick-up duties. Some splitting members switch off and on picking-up the whole share opposite weeks from their splitting partners. Other splitting members pick-up the whole share and divide it in half each, either dropping off the second half themselves or leaving the second half in rubbermaid bins we provide for the splitting partners to pick-up later during the pick-up window.

Either way, you'll want to discuss this ahead of time and have a plan in place. It's also helpful to know how your splitting partner expects vegetables to be divided and if there are vegetables they like a lot or not so much.

5 What vegetables are you growing this season?

You can find a 2021 Projected P&C Summer CSA Harvest Calendar on our website (<https://pitchforkcrow.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/csa-2021-harvest-calendar.pdf>). This calendar lists the number of times we expect to harvest each crop per month throughout the season.

We also include basic information on all the vegetables we grow under the CSA member section of our website.

6 Are you growing anything new this season?

After so many years of doing this, we've pretty well narrowed down the list of crops to what we know we'll have success with. If you've checked out the Projected Harvest Calendar mentioned above, you'll see some 60+ crops listed! Whoa! We do try out new varieties of vegetables each year though. Here are some of those varieties:

- The most exciting recent planting is the 200 **blueberry bushes** we put in over the winter. While they won't be at production levels for another year or two, we're excited to have blueberries in our future.
- After some marginal success with **sweet potatoes** two seasons back we had trouble sourcing sweet potato slips for planting last spring due to COVID-19 and a wet spring in Kansas. We're excited to get a chance to make some improvements for a big harvest this fall.
- Sometimes our favorite varieties get dropped from production by seed companies. This year one of our standby **corn** varieties, Delectable F1, was no longer available from the usual supplier. Luckily we found some elsewhere, but it we've decided to trial some new options just in case. We've chosen a couple of new-to-us varieties to test and hopefully they stand-up to our old favorites.

- We're switching up our **snap bean** game. After realizing just how much we love the purple striped, flat pod Dragon's Tongue beans we've added in more flat podded Roma-types to round out the snap bean fun.
- After success with a new green zucchini variety last year, we've added a **yellow zucchini** to a later summer squash planting. We're excited to see how it stands up next to our favorite yellow summer squash and the other zucchinis.
- If you've been with us before, you may also notice some new varieties of **lettuce** (an iceberg called Crispino, a green loose leaf, and some mini romaines), **onion** (a pink storage onion called Blush F1), and **winter squash** (an acorn called Starry Night F1 and another called Thelma Sander's Sweet Potato).

7 Do I get to pick out what I want each week for my share?

Yes, and no. Each share consists of the same basic contents but you will get to choose within each vegetable category. For instance one week everyone might get cabbage, but you get to choose the size that will best fit your needs from those available.

Note that there is also the Swap Box at the end of the vegetable line where you can swap out vegetables you're unlikely to use that week for more of something else.

8 How will I know what's in my share each week?

A sample share photo and list of that week's vegetables are posted at the beginning of each weekly CSA newsletter on our farm blog. A link to the weekly post will be included in the CSA member email sent out Tuesday afternoon.

**Note that although we'd love to get you a list sooner, we often don't know the exact share contents until this photo is taken on Tuesday afternoon just after the harvest is complete.*

9 Is everything in my share certified organic? Is everything grown by P&C?

All of the vegetables and fruit you receive that we've grown are USDA certified organic by Oregon Tilth. We very rarely supplement the share with an item from another farm and we'll be sure to let you know if it is grown somewhere else and if it is not also certified organic.

10 Could you send me a reminder when it's time to pick up my share?

As a matter of fact, yes! Sign-up for our text reminders and we'll text you at the beginning of your pick-up. You can find all the details for signing up on our website here: <https://pitchforkandcrow.com/csa-member-text-reminders/>.

11 What if I'm going to be out of town and need to skip a week?

If you know you're going to miss a week we suggest you send a friend in your place. This is an excellent opportunity to let your friends or family members find out what this CSA-thing is all about! *With some notice we've also occasionally kept a share for a member in our walk-in cooler until the next week's pick-up and most items were still fresh enough to take home.*

Please shoot us an email if you know you're going to miss a pick-up at farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com.

12 What if I forget to pick-up my share? Can I get it later?

If you contact us within 24 hours of the pick-up we will keep your share in our walk-in cooler and you can arrange a time to pick-up at the farm later in the week. *If you fail to contact us within 24 hours of a pick-up your share will be forfeited.*

Salem members can come to the farm during the on-farm pick-up Wednesday evening from 3:30-6pm if you miss the Salem pick-up Tuesday. Please give us a heads up so we know to expect you and have enough vegetables available.

Feel free to email farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com or text/call Carri at 503-999-7918 if you miss your pick-up.

13 Can I send someone else to pick up my share?

Yes! If there's any reason you're not going to make it to the pick-up, send a friend in your place to either store the produce for you or use it themselves. Just have them check-in with us when they arrive at the pick-up and we'll help them through the process.

14 I chose the 2-payment option. How do I pay for the 2nd half of my CSA share?

If you chose the 2-payment option at sign-up you can pay your second payment anytime before February 1st. The second payment will be \$200 if you paid for half of your share at sign-up.

You can bring a check or cash to a pick-up. You can also mail us a check or have your bank mail us a check to our mailbox in town: Pitchfork & Crow 20 E Airport Rd #289, Lebanon, OR 97355.

Finally, if you'd like to use a debit or credit card you can pay via our website at: <https://pitchforkandcrow.com/csa-payments/>. *Note that you can pay with cash or a check to avoid the card processing fees associated with the online payment option.*

15 Do you take credit cards?

Yes, we do take credit cards. You can pay using a card here:

<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/csa-payments/>.

Please note that this option is more expensive due to the card processing fee. You can avoid this fee by paying with a check or cash.

16 What are the risks of joining your CSA?

As a CSA member, you share in the bounty of good harvests and the many risks associated with farming for this season. The diversity of the crops we grow generally results in full shares throughout the season. However, some variables, such as weather and pest pressure, may lead to some crop failure resulting in less of that crop showing up in shares. This is an important part of the CSA model! Know that we are doing everything we can to ensure a bountiful and diverse season of organic vegetables are headed your way!

17 How will you communicate with me during the season?

We'll email you each week as a reminder with a link to that week's farm newsletter and other important member information. We'll also include details on farm events, bulk purchase options, and other member-only information in these short emails.

Please make sure you're receiving our emails correctly so we don't end up in your SPAM folder. (For Gmail, drag one of our emails into your primary tab. For other email providers, add our email to your address list.)

Of course the weekly newsletters on the farm blog are also a form of communication so you can keep up with what's going on on the farm. And we'll be at every pick-up so you can ask questions and check-in there too.

18 How do I know what to do with the veggies you give me?

- We'll include tips within the list of vegetables available at the top of each week's newsletter post.
- We'll also include relevant recipes at the bottom of each week's newsletter post.
- If you're stumped regarding a specific vegetable we suggest looking it up on the Vegetable Encyclopedia in the CSA member section of our website (<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/secret-csa-member-resources/produce/>). You'll find storage information, recipes, and more there.
- Also, don't forget to browse the recipes on our website that are sorted by vegetable (<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/recipes/>).

- Check in with the [P&C CSA member Facebook page](#) to see what other members are doing and ask them questions on their favorite ways to prepare that week's vegetables.
- Finally, review the tips on how to get the most from your share on the 'How to LOVE My CSA Share' page on our website (<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/secret-csa-member-resources/how-to-love-my-csa-share/>).

19 How do I store the veggies?

First, you'll want to get your produce home as cool and as fast as possible. Leaving your produce in your hot car will lead to faster spoiling.

Second, different types of vegetables require different storage locations. Winter Squash does best on the counter, potatoes and garlic do well in the dark pantry, and leafy greens and roots should go into the crisper in your refrigerator. Also, you'll want to remove the greens from things like beets and carrots to avoid the roots going limp.

You can find storage tips for each of the vegetables we grow in the CSA member section of our website (<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/secret-csa-member-resources/storage-tips/>).

20 Are there farm events?

Yes, we hope to schedule a couple of farm visits this season. We think it's important for members to see where their produce is being grown. It also offers you a chance to meet other CSA members and there are usually tasty things to eat too! *That said, we will be complying with the limitations on gatherings as required by the State of Oregon and we may need to choose to forgo large farm events this season.*

Once we feel it's safe to host farm events we'll promote them in the newsletters and member emails in the weeks leading up to them. If you'd like a tour of the farm we'd love to show you around the place. Shoot us an email to set-up a time at farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com.

21 Is the farm on social media?

Facebook: Sometimes we remember to post happenings from the farm!
<https://www.facebook.com/pitchforkandcrow/>.

P&C CSA Member Facebook Group: This group is for CSA members to share what they're up to with their P&C produce each week. We're always hoping to check-in more often this season with our own creations, questions, and suggestions too!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pitchforkandcrowcsamembers>

Instagram: This is your best bet for following the farm adventures. We post photos of the farm at: <https://www.instagram.com/pitchforkandcrow/> (@pitchforkandcrow)

22 How do I contact my farmers?

Email is generally the best way to communicate as we're often out in the field with our hands full: farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com

Need to give us a call or a text at the pick-up? You can reach Carri at 503-999-7918.

Need to mail us a payment?

Our mailing address for our mailbox in town is 20 E Airport Rd #289 Lebanon, OR 97355.

Headed to the farm and need the physical address?

The farm is located at 34077 Santiam Hwy Lebanon, OR 97355.

Thanks very much for your membership! We hope you will love the farm's produce as much as we love growing it for you!

Your Farmers ~ Carri and Jeff