Clemson University Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

The Clemson Student Organic Farm (SOF) is devoted to intensive production of organically grown crops such as seasonal vegetables, herbs and cut flowers. Since its inception the SOF mission has been to explore more profitable and environmentally-friendly farming practices through research, education, and public service.

What is a CSA?

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. Participants of a CSA program receive weekly shares of the produce harvested from a farm or collective of farms. Shareholders pay an advance seasonal membership fee to cover the production costs of farming in exchange for the consistent supply of produce (or other products). The produce, herbs, and cut flowers are distributed to shareholders via a central location during a designated time period. Funds generated from the CSA go directly to the farmer(s).

Why a CSA?

CSA is a relationship of mutual support and commitment between local farmers and community members. Farmers benefit by receiving money up front to cover some of their production costs and also gives the farmer a direct relationship with the consumer. This allows them to refine their production to suit their market; saving time and money.

In turn, members receive a weekly share of the harvest during the local growing season. They receive a wide variety of local in-season foods harvested at their peak of ripeness, flavor and vitamin and mineral content. The combination of the opportunity to support their local food systems, address environmental and food resource concerns and become familiar with the farmer(s) growing their food usually finds CSA members feeling satisfied with their commitment.

Why Organic?

Organic agriculture is a production management system that promotes a polyculture of crops, a diverse insect ecology, and enhanced soil microbiology on a farm. It uses no synthetic materials - only those defined legally as "natural" in origin. Extraordinary emphasis is placed on plant nutrition and balanced soil health therefore organic agriculture can produce superior crops while using fewer off-farm inputs.

How long is the CSA season?

The Student Organic Farm offers (2) fourteen week sessions, Summer CSA Share and Fall CSA Share. Shareholders can sign up for one or both of the shares.

   Summer Shares: April - July
   Fall Shares: August – November

The first pickups of each session will take place on the given start dates barring any delays incurred by weather, and will continue for fourteen consecutive weeks.

For those participating in both session there will be a break of several weeks in August to accommodate anticipated production and labor shortages.

What will I receive in my share?

While it will vary week to week and season to season, here's what we typically grow and you can expect to see in your shares:

Arugula, Basil, Beets, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Butternut Squash, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cilantro, Collards, Corn, Cucumber, Cut Flower Assortment, Dill, Eggplant, Elephant Garlic, Garlic, Green Beans, Green Onions, Honey, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mint, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peppers, Radishes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Swiss Chard, Sugar Snap Peas, Summer Squash, Tomatoes, Turnips, Turnip Greens, Watermelon, Yellow Wax Beans, Zucchini
The amounts and varieties change during the season. As you read above, we grow many different vegetables and herbs, which you will get a share of during the season. You will pick up between 5 and 15 different vegetables each week. Early on there will be more leafy greens and as the season progresses, a larger diversity of vegetables will be available.

Here you can see examples of a share from early fall.

**[Example]**

**Summer Share**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s in it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kale – bunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce - head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic - plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato – 3lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basil - .25 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zucchini - 2lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers – 1.5lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato – 2 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans – 1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers – .5 lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What’s the actual market value of these items?**

$39.55 (Based on MOFGA Organic Price Report's June and October 2012 averages)

**What would be the CSA cost for these items?**

The cost per week for a Share is $25; you can do the math!!

All Summer shareholders can expect a watermelon and/or other melon in their share at some point as well. There is also an optional Fruit Share add-on available. See below for further details on the Fruit Share.

**What is a Fruit Share?**

The Summer Fruit Share may include combinations of the following: peaches, plums, blackberries, cantaloupe or watermelon, as well as additional fruit that comes available from the fruit research farm. Fruit shareholders can expect approximately 5 pints of berries, 30lbs of peaches, 10lbs plums, and melons as they become available throughout the season.

The melons are certified organic. Peaches, plums, blackberries and nectarines come from the fruit research farm and are minimally sprayed. **Fruit shares are *highly variable* as we depend on production from the fruit research farm.**

Fruit Shares will be available on a first come first served basis to vegetable share holders. The cost for a Fruit Shares is $120.00. Payment in full is required for fruit shares.

Members will be sent an email with information on pickup dates. First pickup for Fruit Shares usually happens in June.
What is the cost of a CSA share?

CSA shares will be provided on a first come first served basis. Membership fees are as follows:

- Summer Share: $355.00
- Fall Share: $355.00
- Fruit share: $120.00 **only available to vegetable share holders. Payment for the Fruit Share add-on is due in full at the time of purchase.

Each share breaks down to approximately $25 per week x 14 weeks.

Can I share a Share with someone?

Absolutely, yes. We understand that the shares contain a lot of produce and many people would like to participate in the program but simply can't use up all the food each week. Only full shares are available for sale, however, so cost-sharing and logistics will need to be handled among members.

When and How do I pick-up my produce?

Once a week shareholders will pick up produce from the Student Organic Farm. There are two options for pickup days, Tuesday or Friday. Pickup times are the same for either day; 2:30pm - 5:30pm. Members will pick up their produce once a week on their assigned pickup day throughout the season.

At pick-ups, signs will denote how much you can take of each item. You certainly can take less depending on your need that week; rest assured we will not let extra veggies go to waste.

We add a $5 bag surcharge to help cover our bag costs but encourage reuse. Please bring bags, baskets or boxes with you to transfer your share into. This will help to reduce waste.

Where is the farm?

The Student Organic Farm is located on the Clemson University campus at 190 Field Station Drive Clemson, SC 29634.

What if I am unable to pick up my share or need to change my pickup day?

You may have a friend or neighbor to pick up your share if you can't be there on your delivery day. You can also donate your share for the week and we'll be sure it does not go to waste!

We discourage changing of pickup days. Please plan ahead and have a friend or neighbor pickup for you if you are unable to make your pickup. If you need to permanently change pickup days, requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

What happens if there is a crop failure?

Variations in weather conditions may cause some crops to "fail" or to yield less than expected. In farming, this is inevitable. However, because we grow a large variety of crops and because we often have a surplus of other crops, we can usually compensate for a crop failure.

Can I become a member for part of the season?

Unfortunately no. We have two 14 week programs to accommodate those who would only like to join for a shorter period or just during the summer or school year. Members can choose between the two share options (Summer and Fall) or sign up for both.

What if I need to cancel my share for some reason?

Should you have to cancel your share PRIOR to the start of the program a refund minus a $15 processing fee will be issued. If it is necessary to cancel during pickup season, a refund will only be given if there is another member to replace you. If a new member can be identified as a replacement, a prorated refund
will be given minus a $15 processing fee. CSA program staff can assist in finding a replacement. Please contact the CSA coordinator in this circumstance.

How do I sign up?

Please visit the Student Organic Farm store online and follow instructions.

Go to: [Student Organic Farm Online Store](https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/classic/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=47&CATID=79) to sign up for the program.

What are my payment options?

Each 14 Week Session is $355 and must be paid in full at purchase.

The fruit share add on is due in full at purchase.

Please go to the Student Organic Farm Online Store and choose your options when you purchase: [https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/classic/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=47&CATID=79](https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/classic/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=47&CATID=79)

Further questions can be directed to drobb@g.clemson.edu