

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Spread the Harvest

A Program of Grow Local



What is Spread the Harvest?

Spread the Harvest is a unique program of Sustainable Food Center (SFC) that helps Central Texas residents grow and share healthy food by providing individuals, families and communities with free gardening resources, including;

- Vegetable seeds - available year round at SFC
- Transplants and compost - available twice a year during Resource Give-Away Days
- Fish emulsion & liquefied seaweed - available by demand at SFC
- Access to SFC's book lending library
- Subscription to SFC's weekly newsletter, which contains information on upcoming gardening events, classes, volunteer opportunities, and more
- Gardening assistance from staff
- Assistance establishing neighborhood gardening clubs (as capacity allows)

How do I qualify for the program?

Spread the Harvest accepts applications from the following groups:

- Community gardens and gardeners
- School gardens and gardeners
- Low-income gardeners
- Participants of Grow Local or The Happy Kitchen classes

If you fall under one of these categories, and if 1-9 people are active in your garden, submit an Application for Small Gardens. If 10 or more people are active in your garden, such as in a school or communal garden, fill out an Application for Large Gardens. Both applications can be downloaded from SFC's website.

What if I have a small garden at home, and I run a garden at a school? Can I sign up for both a small and large garden?

Yes! You can send in two different applications, and we will make sure that you can access resources for both gardens.

Why does the program application ask for my demographic information?

Spread the Harvest is funded by external agencies that have asked us to track participants' demographic information. We do not discriminate against anyone based on gender, age, or ethnicity, but without this information we would not be able to fund the program.

What is a Resource Give-Away Day?

A Resource Give-Away Day is a biannual event during which Spread the Harvest participants receive free gardening resources.

When do Resource Give-Away Days take place?

Resource Give-Away Days occur twice a year in March and October to correspond with spring and fall planting seasons. Keep an eye out in February and September for an email with the exact date, times, and location.

What can I receive at Resource Give-Away Days?

Compost:

Up to ½ cubic yard (½ bed of a pick-up truck or 20 buckets)

Transplants:

Group of 1-9 gardeners = 6 transplants

Group of 10-30 gardeners = 10 transplants

Group of 30+ gardeners = 20 transplants

Seeds:

Small gardens = up to 10 packets

Large gardens = up to 20 packets

Organic Fertilizer:

1 cup of either molasses or fish or seaweed emulsion

Can I receive transplants/seeds/compost/fertilizer at any time during the year?

Spread the Harvest only gives out transplants and compost at Resource Give-Away Days. However, you can pick up free seed packets and organic fertilizer during regular business hours (M-F, 9-5) at our office building year round. See below for more information about our seed library and additional available resources.

How do I transport the compost to my garden?

The compost available at Resource Give-Away Days is delivered in bulk to the site and kept in a large, open pile. We do not supply bags to carry the compost home, so participants must bring large bags or tubs. Participants may also transport compost in a truck bed. We provide shovels, but in order to reduce waiting time, we recommend that you bring a shovel labeled with your name.

How do I transport organic fertilizer?

Please bring a container with you to Resource Give-Away Days, such as a water bottle or Tupperware, so that you can receive up to 1 cup of organic fertilizer.

What if I cannot attend the Resource Give-Away Day? Can someone else from my garden come in my place?

We understand that sometimes gardeners are unable to attend Resource Give-Away Days. Someone else can attend in your place. Simply ensure that they can tell us your full name and the zip code of your garden.

Where is your seed library located?

Our seed library is located in our office building:

2921 E 17th St, Building C

Austin, TX 78702

Our administrative assistant can show you where the seeds are as well the binder used to check out seeds.

How do I check out seeds?

You will need to write your name and the number of seeds you take in the red binder that is located above the seed library.

Is there a limit to how many seed packets I can take from the seed library?

We ask that home gardeners take no more than 10 seed packets per quarter and that school or large group gardens take no more than 20 packets.

Can I donate seeds?

Yes! We are always looking for seed donations, especially seeds saved from gardens in Austin! We only accept non-GMO, organic seed donations. Grow Local is piloting a seed bank program to collect and store locally-grown seed, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

What other resources are available to Spread the Harvest participants?

- Participants also have access to SFC's library of books about gardening and healthy eating. Then library is located at our office building. Please sign the books out in the red, seed library binder.
- Grow Local offers a variety of gardening classes, training, and workshops that help Central Texas residents start and maintain food gardens. Please visit our [classes and events page](#) to learn about these offerings.

What do I need to do to remain an active Spread the Harvest participant?

There are two requirements for all Spread the Harvest participants:

1. Gardeners must track the amount of food harvested from their garden, and they must share some of their harvest with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, food pantries, or school groups.

2. Every January, April, July, and October, gardeners must fill out quarterly surveys about the amount of food they harvested and with whom they shared their harvest. Surveys are required even if no food was harvested during the quarter. This information is required by program funders. It also helps us gauge the impact of our services in the community. **If you miss two quarterly surveys in a row, you will be removed from the program and asked to apply again if you wish to re-join.**

When are quarterly surveys due?

Surveys are always due at the beginning of January, April, July, and October.

What information do quarterly surveys you ask for?

Surveys ask about the amount of food harvested from your garden in a given quarter, even if this amount is zero. We are also interested in knowing with whom you shared your harvest and if you are satisfied with the knowledge and resources that Spread the Harvest offers.

How do I fill out quarterly surveys?

Surveys are hosted by *surveymonkey* website and are sent to the email address that you provide on your application. They should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. If you prefer to complete the survey over the phone, please indicate this on your application, and we will call you with each quarterly survey.

Can Grow Local staff help me build my home garden?

Because of our small bandwidth, Grow Local staff does not help build gardens. However, we are available to answer questions about plant selection, soil amendments, and garden placement. Email or call Katie Pace at katie@sustainablefoodcenter.org or 512-220-1083. If you would like to reach out to an edible landscape consultant or gardening company, visit our [Resources](#) page.

Can a Grow Local staff member or volunteer attend a garden activity or health fair at my community garden or school?

SFC staff and volunteers are happy to attend community garden events and school health fairs. If you are a school representative, contact Bianca Bidiuc, School Garden Manager, at Bianca@sustainablefoodcenter.org or 512-236-0074 x 121. If you are involved with a community garden, contact Ellen Orabone, Teaching Garden Coordinator, at Ellen@sustainablefoodcenter.org or 512-220-1139.