

## GrowBoston Newsletter

Please note: If you would like to receive a translated version of this newsletter, please contact [emily.reckardmota@boston.gov](mailto:emily.reckardmota@boston.gov)



Photo: Theresa Strachila, Savannah McLean, and Shani Fletcher tabling at the Urban Farming Symposium.

**Happy spring!** We are so excited to see the beginning of the growing season and are eagerly anticipating the rest of the season to come. We appreciate all of you who cultivate growing spaces large or small, that bring so many benefits to our communities.

Welcome to all the new gardeners who signed up for this newsletter at the Gardeners' Gathering! This quarterly newsletter provides updates, resources, and announcements from our office and local food producing organizations and groups. For those of you who are new, GrowBoston aims to expand urban agriculture in Boston by supporting local food producers, providing educational and financial resources, and increasing the number of growing spaces in Boston. If you would like to learn more about GrowBoston, check out our

website [here](#). If you would like to find a community garden or urban farm near you, see our directory [here](#).

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Photo: Green City Growers Urban Farmer Educator guides participants at a corporate campus in Lexington, MA through harvesting and planting. Photo Credit: Green City Growers team.

**Educational Tidbit: Planting for High-Yields in Urban Growing Spaces**  
by Sara Rostampour (Director of Horticulture at Green City Growers)

At Green City Growers, our farmers go out to sites all over the Greater Boston area. While the context can vary a lot, one thing we have in common with all Boston gardeners is a need to maximize the limited space we have! Here are some tips for planting diversified crops in small garden beds or plots:

- **Planting according to height and sun placement is key to packing in plants!** Plant the tallest crops on the north side of the garden to maximize sunlight to the gardens and avoid shading out shorter plants. Vining crops like peas, tomatoes, and cucumbers can be trellised to maximize vertical space and maintain good airflow

(essential for avoiding disease). SCrops like lettuce, baby greens, and radishes stay on the shorter side, even at full size.

- **Give plants enough space for healthy roots and a healthy harvest.** Ensure there is enough space both above and below-ground to grow a full-sized plant. Weeds, reduced water, and reduced fertilizer will also affect the spacing your crops can handle - weeds can essentially be a second crop if not removed right away.
- **Plant flowers:** growing flowers in the corners of our gardens can foster beneficial insects that eat or parasitize pests. Favorites for this include: sweet alyssum (cool-season), calendula (cool-season), gem marigolds (warm-season), and flowering members of the carrot family like flowering dill and cilantro (though, these can be trickier to manage!).
- **Succession planting:** most annual crops, from lettuce to kale, have a limited lifespan in the garden. Though described as annuals, their time in the garden is much less than the full season. If you take advantage of that and plant a second crop after harvests, you'll get much more out of your garden than if you planted just once. Before putting in your warm season crops, plant head lettuce, red radishes, or quick greens like spinach. In September/October when your fruiting crops like tomatoes or eggplants are winding down, you can plant those same quick crops to get a harvest before your garden is done for the season!

**You can find more information about Green City Growers here: [greencitygrowers.com](http://greencitygrowers.com)**

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Photo: Eastie Farms' Jose Manuel cultivating their mushroom farm. Photo Credit: Eastie Farm Team

**Urban Agriculture Highlight**

In 2025, Eastie Farm received a \$50k Innovative Food Production Grant from GrowBoston, along with additional funding to transform a shipping container into a mushroom production farm. They are growing shiitake, pioppino, lion's mane, chestnut, and oyster mushrooms. They are growing mushrooms to provide a protein option for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) customers and to sell to local restaurants. Since August of 2025, they have grown 300lbs of mushrooms and plan to increase production to 500lbs every ten days.

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Photo: Danielle Andrews at The Food Project facilitated a Growing Communities: Gardens as Learning Tools workshop for staff at libraries, community centers, and non-profits who manage communal gardens. Photo credit: GrowBoston Team

### **Community Resources & Announcements**



Business/Event Name	Dates	Location for Pickup	Business/Event Name	Dates	Location for Pickup
The Urban Farming Institute (UFI) Annual Seedling Sale	<p><b>Pre-order pick up and in-person shopping at:</b></p> <p><b>ReVision Urban Farm:</b> May 9th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>UFI:</b> May 16th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ReVision Urban Farm:</b> 38 Fabyan St, Dorchester, MA 02124</p> <p><b>UFI:</b> 487 Norfolk St, Mattapan, MA 02126</p>	The Food Project Spring Seedling Sale	<p><b>City Farm Fest:</b> May 9th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>After May 9th (As supplies last):</b>            Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.,            Thursdays: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.,            Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. as supplies last.</p>	<b>Dudley Greenhouse:</b> 11 Brook Ave, Roxbury, MA 02119
City Natives Seedling Sale	<p><b>Online pre-order pickup dates:</b> 5/12, 5/14, and 5/16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>In-person shopping:</b> 5/22, 5/23, 5/29, and 5/30, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	<b>City Natives:</b> 30 Edgewater Dr, Boston, MA 02126	We Grow Microgreens	<b>Seedling pickup:</b> Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>We Grow Microgreens:</b> 21 Norton Street Hyde Park, MA 02136
			Eastie Farm	<p><b>Pre-order pickup (May 2nd - May 8th):</b>            Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.            Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.</p>	<b>Eastie Farm:</b> 6 Chelsea Terrace, Boston, MA 02128

**\*Seedling Sales:** Click the following links to be directed to more information for each seedling sale:

[The Urban Farming Institute:](#) pre-order pick up and in-person sale 5/9 and 5/16

[City Natives:](#) pre-order pick up 5/12, 5/14, 5/16; in-person sale 5/22, 5/23, 5/29, 5/30

[The Food Project:](#) in-person sale 5/9, then Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

[We Grow Microgreens:](#) pre-order pick up Wednesdays or Fridays

[Eastie Farm:](#) pre-order pickup 5/2 through 5/8

**\*Companion Planting in the Garden - with Mushrooms!** This winter we hosted Yolanda Gonzalez at Cornell to facilitate a workshop on mushroom production. In case you missed it, find her slides [here](#).

**CITY of BOSTON**  **GrowBoston**

# RECEIVE FREE GARDEN HELP!

**IF YOU LIVE IN: ROXBURY, DORCHESTER, EAST BOSTON, OR MATTAPAN**

**CONTACT:**

- \* Mattapan: Melanie  
Melanie.Floyd@urbanfarminginstitute.org
- \* Dorchester: Memia  
lmcallister@thefoodproject.org
- \* Roxbury: Sabrina  
farm@haleyhouse.org
- \* East Boston: Joel  
joel@eastiefarm.com

**SCAN FOR INFO:** 



This program is brought to you in part by the Urban Agriculture Ambassadors program, an initiative by GrowBoston. Learn more about GrowBoston and urban agriculture in the City of Boston at [boston.gov/GrowBoston](http://boston.gov/GrowBoston)

**\*Urban Agriculture Ambassador Program:** If you live in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, or East Boston and would like to set up a garden consultation, your UAA contact information can be found here:

- The Food Project, Lasheima (Memia) McAllister (Dorchester)
  - [lmcallister@thefoodproject.org](mailto:lmcallister@thefoodproject.org), (617) 442-1322
- Eastie Farm, Dan Schenk (East Boston)
  - [daniel@eastiefarm.com](mailto:daniel@eastiefarm.com), (617) 419-0787
- Urban Farming Institute, Melanie (Mel) Floyd (Mattapan)
  - [Melanie.Floyd@urbanfarminginstitute.org](mailto:Melanie.Floyd@urbanfarminginstitute.org), 617- 942- 0184.
- Haley House, Sabrina Pilet-Jones (Roxbury)
  - [farm@haleyhouse.org](http://farm@haleyhouse.org),

# COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPOST REQUEST PROGRAM



Request free compost for your  
community garden! Visit  
[boston.gov/community-compost](https://boston.gov/community-compost)



ZERO  
WASTE



**\*FREE Compost!** Public Works is providing free compost deliveries to communal gardens, including gardens at libraries, community centers, nonprofits, and community gardens. Please find more information and request a delivery [here](#). If you are an individual gardener interested in compost, stay tuned for information about compost pick-up dates this summer.



**LEARN ABOUT COMPOSTING!**

**BOSTON COMPOST CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

This **FREE** three-module program introduces you to all things composting! Learn about the impact of food waste on the environment and its connection to climate change with hands-on trainings, field trips, and workshops.

Dates: April 18, April 25, and May 2

Register at [massaudubon.org/programs](https://massaudubon.org/programs)



City of Boston  
Public Works



Mass Audubon



ZERO  
WASTE

**\*Compost Certificate Program:** The City of Boston and Mass Audubon are holding a free training course on composting. The sessions include a soil science workshop at the Boston Nature Center and a visit to Brick End Farm and the Urban Farming Institute to practice composting and gardening techniques firsthand. You can learn more and register [here](#).

**\*Rain Barrel Giveaway (Last Chance to Sign up)**

Now's your last chance to sign up for our Rain Barrel Giveaway before sign-ups close! Funded by MassEEA's Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency grant, the Office of Green Infrastructure will be distributing 300 rain barrels to Boston residents. To sign up for a chance to win a free rain barrel, visit [boston.gov/rain-barrel](https://boston.gov/rain-barrel) and complete the sign-up form. Translation is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Reach out to [green.infrastructure@boston.gov](mailto:green.infrastructure@boston.gov) if you have any questions.

**\*Arbor Day event at Rockies Urban Wild!** Activities include spending time caring for trees, learning about the role they play in supporting urban ecosystems, and observing and exploring Rockies Urban Wild and nearby Piers Park to notice plants, wildlife, and seasonal changes. This event is free and will take place on Friday, April 24th from 11am-1pm. More information [here](#).

# Eastie Farm's CSA



**EASTIE FARM**  
**JOIN OUR**  
**CSA 2026**

WEEKLY SHARES OF  
FRESH LOCAL FOOD

MAY 27 - NOV. 13, 2026

DISCOUNTED PRICES AVAILABLE

 **BUY  
YOURS  
TODAY**

[www.eastiefarm.com/csa](http://www.eastiefarm.com/csa)  
  @eastiefarm

- 25 weeks of farm-fresh fruits, vegetables, and local goods
- Flexible payment options: upfront or monthly
- Weekly or bi-weekly subscription choices
- Tiered pricing system designed to support food equity
- SNAP & HIP eligible: tiered HIP benefits of \$40, \$60, or \$80 per month, based on household size
- Multiple pick-up locations across Eastie, Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea, Cambridge, Charlestown, and maybe more!

**\*Sign-ups for Eastie Farm's CSA program are now available!** The Community Supported Agriculture is a subscription to fresh, local produce and other goods that supports farmers' wealth, your health, and the Massachusetts commonwealth during the growing season of late May to mid-November. Sign up [here](#) by May 1st.

## citysprouts Green Team SUMMER 2026

*Calling all gardeners, chefs,  
and lovers of the outdoors!*



**Spend your summer  
gardening, cooking,  
exploring the city - and  
making money too!**

**July 6 - August 7**

- **WHEN:** 9 AM - 2 PM, Mon - Fri
- **WHERE:** Putnam Ave Upper School & Cambridge St Upper School
- **FREE** for youth grades 5 - 8
- Weekly Field Trips!
- Breakfast & lunch included!
- Earn a stipend for gardening!



**Scan the QR  
code for more  
details and to  
apply today!**



**\*City Sprouts is accepting applications for their Green Team Summer Program.** This program is for students in grades 5-8 to participate in hands-on activities and get outside to explore nature, participate in STEM activities, and build a sense of community. Information about the Boston and Cambridge programs can be found [here](#). This program runs between July 6 - August 7th, 2026.

**\*Maximum Bounty, Less Waste:** For nearly 300 years, Boston's historic Haymarket has been a cultural cornerstone for affordable fresh produce year-round. Through a dynamic partnership between the Haymarket Pushcart Association, the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM), the Office of Food Justice, and the Public Works Department/Zero Waste Team - with technical support from RecyclingWorks MA- the market has transformed into a healthy surplus produce pipeline. By improving waste management and food recovery practices, this initiative does more than push Boston toward its zero waste and carbon neutrality goals (by lowering carbon emissions associated with wasted food); it ensures that perfectly good food reaches the tables of families in Boston. Much of the food that is recovered at Haymarket is picked up by volunteers and brought to the [Greater Boston Collaborative Food Access Hub](#). Read more about the MONUM-led project [here](#).

**\*The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has some exciting grant programs that growers and food businesses can utilize:**

- Urban Agriculture Grant Program (due May 18th): funding for projects to support commercial urban food production and community-based food production to promote strategies addressing food insecurity, to expand and create new economic opportunities and to increase access to fresh, local produce in urban neighborhoods."
- Food Security Infrastructure Grants (FSIG) (due May 4th): funding for projects that build resilience within the Massachusetts food supply chain and provide greater, more equitable access to nutritious, healthy, and locally grown food
- Food Ventures Program (due May 28th): funding for projects that will help to implement the objectives of the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan and provide economic opportunities that promote job creation enterprises or new businesses, specifically for low to moderate income communities

### **Job Opportunities**

- **The Urban Farming Institute** is hiring for 3 positions:
  - Development Associate - a key member of UFI's external relations team. Key responsibilities include data management, donor relations, and administrative support.
  - Education Coordinator - educator that will work with our teen summer internship program, raised bed recipients in our community, and school-year programming.
  - Farm Stand Coordinator- farm team member that will coordinate all aspects of our vibrant, weekly Farm Stand.
- **Bowdoin St. Health Center** - Community Garden Wellness Instructor Interested candidates can learn more and apply here.
- **Eastie Farm** is hiring a Living Lands Program Manager who will be responsible for managing Eastie Farm's multiple sites, including their container farms, outdoor locations, and pioneering Geo-thermal Greenhouse. View the full job description and apply here. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, beginning **March 16**. Please reach out to us at Jobs@eastiefarm.com with any questions.
- CitySprouts is **hiring for their Summer Site Educator position** to lead the Green Team summer gardening programs in Cambridge and Boston. More details can be found in the job listing here.
- **The Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition (MFFC)** is seeking an Associate Director to strengthen their programs, operations, and overall sustainability. This role is

perfect for a mission-driven professional who thrives at the intersection of community impact and strategic operations.

- **The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative** is hiring a policy specialist! The Policy Specialist will research and prepare information that will help inform MAFSC's policy strategy and expand our capacity to advocate for a sustainable, equitable, and resilient local food system. In this role, the policy specialist will help set the organization's state legislative priorities and develop municipal policy positions and resources. You can learn more at the job listing [here](#).
- **The Food Project is hiring for multiple positions:**
  - [Youth Crews](#): during The Food Project's six-week summer program, teens (ages 14-17) work with staff to grow and distribute vegetables to the community and learn about the complexities of the food system, social justice, and key leadership skills.
  - [Greater Boston Site Supervisor](#) | 20 hours per week until May 29 then 40 hours per week June 1 - August 21 | Facilitate sessions with youth crews
  - [Crew Leaders](#) (3) | June 15 - August 14 | 40 hours per week | Monday - Friday: Lead a crew of 12 teens in Seed Crew
  - [Operations Coordinator](#) | June 1 - August 14 | 40 hours per week | Monday - Friday: Primarily responsible for setting up and preparing materials and food for workshops, meetings, events, and the operations of youth crews during the summer.
  - [Director of Engagement & Stewardship](#): The Food Project is looking for an individual who is excited about their mission and who is motivated to help engage others more deeply to support their fundraising and development goals.