

GrowBoston Newsletter

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



Photos: Kale seedlings growing in The Food Project's greenhouse and row cover protecting baby seedlings at the Urban Farming Institute.

The growing season has arrived! We are thrilled to see the growing spaces in Boston come back to life through the care and attention of so many farmers and gardeners. Thank you for cultivating growing spaces which bring life, beauty, nutrition, connection, and joy.

Welcome to all the new gardeners who joined our list at the Gardeners' Gathering. This is a quarterly newsletter which provides updates, resources, and announcements from our office and local food producing organizations and groups. 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](#).

Receive Free Gardening Help!

What: Request a gardening consultation

The City of Boston is funding 4 part-time garden educators to provide gardeners with the support they need to grow their own food! Accessibility questions are welcome.

Who: Residents in East Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan are eligible for this program.

When: 2025 & 2026 - set up a garden consultation at your convenience

How: Reach out to the urban farm in your neighborhood to meet with your Urban Ag Ambassador:

Mattapan - Urban Farming Institute,
Melanie.Floyd@urbanfarminginstitute.org

East Boston - Eastie Farm, info@eastiefarm.com

Roxbury - Haley House, nsheck@haleyhouse.org

Dorchester - The Food Project, uaa@thefoodproject.org



City of Boston
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Urban Agriculture Ambassador Program

GrowBoston is providing funds for four part-time garden ambassadors. These educators will provide 1:1 support and technical assistance for gardeners in Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, and East Boston. The goal is to equip residents with the knowledge and skills they need in order to grow their own food sustainably, whether they're new or have some experience. If you live in one of these neighborhoods and would like to set up a consultation, find your neighborhood ambassador [here](#). Flyers with program details are available in different languages upon request.



Fruit Tree Interest Form Out Now!

Do you live in Boston and have fruit trees at your house, or know someone who does? GrowBoston, the City of Boston's Office of Urban Agriculture, is working on making resources available to support Boston residents who have fruit trees where they live, whether you are a renter or a homeowner.

If you are interested in being notified about future opportunities to learn about how to care for your trees, what to do with excess fruit, how to deal with pests, etc., please [fill out this form](#), and we will contact you if/when resources become available.



Beekeeping Website/Ordinance

The beekeeping ordinance, passed by City Council on February 28, 2024, makes Boston beekeeping more accessible than ever.

Boston residents can now keep bees for personal use anywhere in the city. Previously, beekeeping was regulated under the same requirements of keeping other livestock, which significantly limited the areas in which it was allowed. Residents must register their beehives on their property and pay a one-time registration fee. The City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department has established the registration process. [Please visit ISD's website](#) for more details on the registration process and parameters for beekeeping.



Photo: Julian, Judson, and Dean Community Garden

Urban Agriculture Highlight: Julian, Judson, and Dean Community Garden

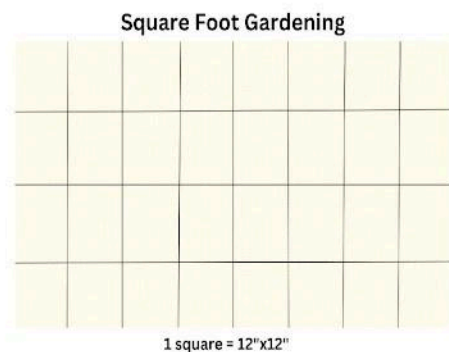
This spring, the Julian, Judson, and Dean Community Garden in Roxbury will be re-opening the upper garden after extensive renovations including soil remediation and reconstruction of the garden's terraces. The garden is owned and operated by the Trustees of Reservations, and the renovations were partially funded by GrowBoston through the Grassroots Program. Join the celebration with gardeners on May 24th! [Click here for event details and registration information.](#) We can't wait to see the garden full of food this summer!



Photo: Brighton Allston Congregational Church built 5 beds through GrowBoston's Raised Bed program to grow and distribute food through their food pantry.

Educational Tidbit: Square Foot Gardening

For gardeners growing in raised beds this season, we recommend trying out square foot gardening. This method maximizes your growing space and ensures that each of your plants have sufficient space to grow. It is tempting in an 8' by 4' bed to plant as much as you can. However, by crowding your plants, they will compete for nutrients, sunlight, and space, resulting in unhealthy or dying plants and plants that produce less food.



To start, measure out 12" squares to create a grid. You can sketch this out and create a map of what you plan to plant. Use [this guide](#) (page 10-16) to look up how many boxes of space each plant needs.

Community Resources & Announcements

SPRING 2025 BOSTON SEEDLING SALES LIST

APRIL PRE-ORDERS

Business/Event Name	Dates	Location for Pickup
The Urban Farming Institute of Boston: UFI Annual Seedling Sale	Pre-order by May 4th for pick up on May 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	ReVision Urban Farm, 38 Fabian St, Dorchester, MA 02124
Trustees - Boston Community Gardens: City Natives Spring Plant Sale	Pre-order by May 1, pick up on May 8, 10, 15 & 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City Natives Nursery in Mattapan, 30 Edgewater Dr, Boston, MA 02126

MAY IN-PERSON SEEDLING SHOPPING

Business/Event Name	In-Person Only Shopping Dates	Location for Pickup
The Urban Farming Institute of Boston: UFI Annual Seedling Sale	Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	The Urban Farming Institute, 487 Norfolk St, Mattapan, MA 02126
Trustees - Boston Community Gardens: City Natives Spring Plant Sale	Thursday, May 22 and Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	City Natives Nursery in Mattapan, 30 Edgewater Dr, Boston, MA 02126

MAY IN-PERSON SEEDLING SHOPPING

Business/Event Name	In-Person Only Shopping Dates	Location for Pickup
The Food Project	May 10th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11 Brook Ave, Roxbury, MA 02119
Eastie Farm	Seedlings available at the greenhouse from May 4 to June 4, hours vary and are available on their website	6 Chelsea Terrace, East Boston, MA 02128
We Grow Microgreens: Farm Stand	Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. all year. Can be pre-ordered based on availability.	We Grow Microgreens 21 Norton Street Hyde Park, MA 02136

***Seedling Sales:** This growing season there are many organizations and businesses throughout Boston conducting seedling sales. We went ahead and put together a graphic with information about them. Support your local farm by purchasing seedlings from them!

*[Library Seed Giveaway](#): Select branches of the Boston Public Library are offering easy to grow herb, flower, and vegetable seeds as part of the Seed Library Initiative. They also encourage you to collect seeds to donate back to their seed libraries. Participating locations are listed at the link above. Check out [this fun video](#) they made about it.

*[Volunteer with GrowBoston!](#) We are partnering with The Urban Farming Institute and Epiphany School to connect low-income gardeners with seedlings. We are looking for volunteers to help transport seedlings on May 19th and facilitate the giveaway on May 28th and 30th. Sign up [here](#).



**HAVE SNAP? GET
50% OFF
FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
WITH DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS**

Customers paying with SNAP receive a **50% discount** on all fresh produce purchased at the stores listed below.

PARTICIPATING STORES:

EL VALLE DE LA SULTANA 121 Bennington Street East Boston MA, 02128 \$20 DAILY LIMIT	NUBIAN MARKETS 2565 Washington Street Roxbury MA, 02119 \$20 DAILY LIMIT
DAVEY'S SUPERMARKET 438 Dudley Street Roxbury MA, 02119 \$20 DAILY LIMIT	DAILY TABLE DORCHESTER 450 Washington Street Dorchester MA, 02124 \$5 DAILY LIMIT
DAILY TABLE ROXBURY 2201 Washington Street Roxbury MA, 02119 \$5 DAILY LIMIT	DORCHESTER FOOD CO-OP 195 Bowdoin Street Dorchester MA, 02124 \$20 DAILY LIMIT
BELLA'S MARKET 75 Maverick Square East Boston MA, 02128 \$20 DAILY LIMIT	LA UNION MARKET AND BUTCHERY 105 Chelsea Street East Boston MA, 02128 \$20 DAILY LIMIT

HOW IT WORKS

1. Visit a store listed above and choose your fresh fruits and vegetables.
2. Communicate to the cashier you'll be paying with SNAP for your fresh fruits and vegetables.
3. Instantly receive a 50% discount, up to the store's daily limit.



Visit boston.gov/double-up for more information.



Food Justice

www.boston.gov/food



@bosfoodjustice

CITY of BOSTON

*Nubian Markets has joined the [Boston Double Up Food Bucks Program](#)! Now, all SNAP shoppers can receive 50% off fresh fruits and vegetables purchased with SNAP EBT, saving up to \$20 per day. To use the Double Up discount, simply let the cashier know you'll be paying with SNAP for your groceries, and the discount will be applied to eligible items at the time of purchase.

*Get Your Hands Dirty and Learn Sustainable Farming: Join the [Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture](#) this summer at New Entry Sustainable Farming Project in Beverly, MA! This

hands-on course is perfect for anyone who wants to dig in, grow food, and explore farming as a career or lifestyle. Participants will work directly on the farm in Beverly, planting, seeding, harvesting, managing pests, building soil health, and more. You'll also have access to an online course, receive educational resources, bring home fresh veggies, and visit nearby farms throughout the season! The course runs June 2 to August 9, with weekly Monday evening classes and flexible field sessions. Scholarships are available.

*Check out [The Trustees May Events](#):

Boston Community Gardens
APRIL - MAY PROGRAMS

April 26 | 11 AM - 2PM
Earth Day Perennial Divide | Boston Building Resources

Fridays May 2 - 23 | 10AM - 11AM
Nature Play for Early Learners | Minton Stable

May 3 | 10AM - 2PM
Wake Up The Earth! Native Plant Sale | SW Corridor

Saturdays May 3 - 17 | 1PM - 2:30PM
Gardening 101 | Lenox Kendal Garden

May 10 | 10AM - 11AM
Mothers Day Foraging Walk | Leland Garden

May 13 | 5:30PM - 7PM
Tool Cleaning Workshop | Jardin de la Amistad Garden

May 22 and 24 | 9AM - 3PM
City Natives Plant Sale | City Natives

May 24 | 10AM - 2PM
Land Reopening | Julian Judson Dean Garden

trustees **t** **TheTrustees.org/SeedSow**

Happy Growing!

Emily & the GrowBoston team