

What is the UT Student Organic Farm?

The UT Student Organic Farm is a 1-acre, student-operated farm located at the UT Organic Crops Unit. Each fall, students are recruited for the UT Organic Crops Internship Program, an 8-month long program that combines formal classroom and hands-on, experiential learning in small-scale organic vegetable production methods. Interns are responsible for planning and maintaining the Student Organic Farm and selling their produce through the UT Farmers Market and CSA from May-October in the UT Gardens. Although popular amongst Plant and Soil Science students, this program is inclusive and serves to stimulate interest in farming and increase agricultural education for students in any major. Experiential learning on the Student Organic Farm serves students by increasing their understanding of agriculture and ecological systems, promotes problem-solving, critical thinking skills and teamwork, and allows them to better identify challenges, constraints and benefits of organic agriculture. Originally started in 2010, this internship program has helped the UT Organic & Sustainable Crop Production Program to become one of the top land-grant organic agriculture programs in the nation.



FAQs

What is a CSA?

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. Members receive weekly boxes of fresh vegetables harvested from the UT Organic Crops Unit. Members pay a fee in advance to cover costs of production including seed, labor, and equipment. The produce is distributed at a designated time and location.

Why a CSA?

CSA is a mutual relationship between growers (UT interns) and consumers (UT community). The internship program benefits by receiving money up front to cover some production costs and allows for a direct relationship with the consumer.

Why certified organic?

Organic agriculture is a philosophy of production management that promotes an assortment of crops, enhanced soil fertility, and diverse insect populations. Organic agriculture does not rely on extensive use of off-farm inputs and pesticides, but instead focuses on the health of the soil and prevention of pests and diseases. The third-party certification process ensures that our growing practices are up to rigorous standards set by the USDA National Organic Program.

How do I become a member?

If you are interested in becoming a member, we require that you fill out the registration form and submit your payment appropriately. The 20 week share will begin the 2nd full week of May and lasts until the final full week of September, 2014 and costs \$560 (or 4 payments: \$145 due at sign up, \$145 April 1st, \$145 May 1st and \$145 June 1st). To account for the rising costs of seed, labor, equipment, we may raise the CSA price the following season(s).

Shares are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. Because this is our first year and we want to reduce risk, we are offering 50 memberships for the 2014 season.

Returning members automatically receive priority shares for the following season. We are expecting to add more memberships for the 2015 season.

If all of our memberships are sold and you would like to be added to our list, please email jmarti90@utk.edu with your name, address, and phone number and you will be added to our waiting list effective the date that you emailed.

How long is the CSA season?

For the 2014 season, the UT Student Organic Farm CSA will offer a 20 week share that begins the 2nd full week in May and ends the last full week in September. Pick up dates will be Monday from 4 - 6 PM and Wednesday 4 - 7 PM at the UT Gardens located on the UT Agriculture campus.

How much food will I get each week?

Our CSA shares will supplement an average family of four or two hearty vegetarians for their weekly supply of vegetables. Members receive between 6 and 12 items each week.

Members receive ½ bushel (by volume) of an array of vegetables including kale, beets, onions, swiss chard, sweet peas, salad mixes, collards, broccoli, herbs, garlic, and cabbage.

As the season progresses, the diversity of vegetables in the share increases including tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, okra, eggplant, melons, peppers, cut flowers and more.

Do you offer half shares?

We do not offer half shares. You are welcome to split a share with a friend, but we treat each share as one full share.

What if I can't pick up my box?

You may have a friend or neighbor 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 will make sure it gets to a local shelter.

What if I need to change my pick-up day?

If you need to change your pick-up day, we require one week advance notice. Email Jeff: jmarti90@utk.edu, to change your pick-up day.

What happens if there is a crop failure?

Weather conditions can be unpredictable and may cause some crops to “fail” or reduce yields. This is inevitable in farming but we grow a surplus of other crops and will compensate for a crop failure. You will always receive ½ bushel of produce every week.

How else can I get your produce?

We sell our produce at a booth at the UT Farmers Market from May – October. It is located in the UT Gardens on the Agriculture Campus Wednesday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. To read more about the UT Farmers Market, visit: <http://vegetables.tennessee.edu/UTFM.html>

Can I pay every week instead of all at once?

No. An integral part of the CSA model is that farmers are supported by their members at the beginning of their season when their costs are highest. In return, the farmers support CSA members with a weekly supply of vegetables.

Can I pay with a credit card?

Yes. We also accept cash or check. Check the registration form for payment details or email Jeff (jmarti90@utk.edu) for questions.

UT Student Organic Farm CSA Member Guidelines and Contract

Who you are: Faculty, staff or student of the University of Tennessee or a resident of Knoxville.

Who we are: Students of the University of Tennessee working as interns in the Organic and Sustainable Crop Production Program, within the Department of Plant Sciences. We participate in an agricultural training program that gives us the tools we need to successfully start a small farm business. Your food is grown approximately 7 miles off campus at the East TN Research & Education Center's Organic Crops Unit, located off John Sevier HWY in Knoxville.

What you get: A half bushel box containing a variety of fresh organic produce picked the same day you receive it by UT student interns and volunteers. Your box will be brought to a convenient location on the UT campus for you to pick up every week, for a 20 week duration (May-September).

What you give: Your involvement allows the UT Student Organic Farm to purchase seed, tools and other supplies necessary to grow high-quality vegetables, helps to pay our stipends and supports this valuable experiential learning program at UT.

Your responsibilities: In order for our program to be successful, we depend on you to make timely payments for your share and to pick up your box every week at the specified delivery time and place (or arrange for someone else to). Please understand that we cannot give refunds or exchanges. We can reschedule your pickup time and location if given one week's notice. Please return your produce box so that we may reuse it.

Our responsibilities: We pledge to be consistent in providing you with a variety of high quality, fresh produce every week. Our produce will be clean and certified organic. We will communicate new recipes and educational tidbits from the farm via our newsletter, which will be emailed and available on our online blog (<http://utmarketgarden.wordpress.com/>).

**UT Student Organic Farm CSA
Member Registration Form**

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

CSA SHARE-full box (1/2 bushel) of vegetables every week, \$560/20 weeks (May-September)

____ Full Payment of \$560

____ 4 payments: (\$145 due at sign up, \$145 April 1st, \$145 May 1st and \$145 June 1st)

PICK-UP LOCATIONS (choose one)

____ MONDAY, 4-6 pm in UT GARDENS

____ WEDNESDAY, 4-7 pm in UT GARDENS

If paying by check, payments should be mailed with either one check for the full amount, or four post-dated checks that equal the full amount. Make checks payable to the University of Tennessee, addressed to:

Jeff Martin
UT Dept of Plant Sciences
2431 Joe Johnson Dr.
252 Ellington PSB
Knoxville, TN 37996

If paying full amount by credit card, visit the UT eMarketplace:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=4

You will receive an emailed receipt and confirmation of payment upon registration.

For questions, contact Jeff Martin (jmarti90@utk.edu; 865-974-9204)