

Pinehold Gardens

Community Supported Agriculture

Pinehold Gardens is a small diversified farm with a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. A CSA is a social-business model that establishes a relationship with a community and its food needs to the land and to those who grow the food. Everyone benefits in this relationship. The people who participate have access to high quality food at less financial and environmental cost. The farmer has a personal connection with the people who are eating the farm's products and a more secure income, allowing the farm and the farmer to continue producing food sustainably. By making a financial commitment to the farm, people become members and have a personal stake in where and how their food is grown. As partners in this art and science of cultivating food, they recognize that they share the risk and the benefits of the partnership with the farmer. Each week CSA farms pick the produce fresh and ripe, carefully pack it into boxes and deliver it to members via convenient drop-sites throughout a community.



Members make this partnership happen by paying before the season starts or by working on the farm once the season is underway. Without CSA member support many small local farms would enter each growing season without a means of financing the tens of thousands of dollars of expenses they accrue. But in

the true spirit of community support, members help keep small farms places where real food is grown and families are raised. That commitment to the farmer's efforts to produce healthy food on healthy land is what motivates farmers, who chose to farm because of the fulfilling life it can offer them and the respect it should garner.

Our mission

We will focus every effort towards a more sustainable food system and shrinking our environmental footprint. We will attend to the importance of community in our food system. We will take every opportunity possible to make the world just a little better.

Who we are

Pinehold Gardens grows produce in a bio-sustaining way. Snuggled into the southeast corner of Milwaukee County, we use only organic methods; we preserve natural areas to promote and enhance the biodiversity of the farm; and we minimize the use of tractors. We also better utilize a common resource, the sun. The sun not only helps grow our crops, it also produces our electricity. We feel all these efforts are better for the food we produce and the community within which we produce it. In addition to our CSA, we sell our produce at the South Shore Farmers Market in Bay View and at our on-farm market stand and to area restaurants.

What we offer

Our farm offers two great ways to purchase local food: our 15 week CSA Share and our Market CSA share. Our CSA Share begins during the height of summer — July 28 and ends on Nov. 3, for a total of 15 weeks. The Market CSA share is an opportunity to supplement the CSA box with fresh produce of your choice any week during the market season. Our produce features heirlooms and time-tested hybrids, but the good taste and high quality is what you will notice. We also offer a weekly newsletter that will keep you up to date on the farm as well as recipes and food preservation ideas. And finally, because we feel the farm should be part of the community as the community is part of the farm, we offer opportunities for members to come to the farm, including our open house celebration held on Sunday, Aug. 29.

How big are the shares?

Our share is a medium size that is slightly smaller than the size of most CSAs shares in the Milwaukee area. We are hoping we found the recipe for just the right amount of food for single people, couples and busy families. For those who would like a little less, we say please share what you have. For those that would like a little more or would enjoy also choosing some of their own produce, we might suggest signing up for the Market CSA share program.

How does the Market CSA work?

For those who would like to supplement their 15-week CSA share with additional produce, there is the Market CSA share option. Members can purchase increments of \$50 of credit at a 10 percent discount towards purchases at our Saturday morning market stand at the South Shore Farmers' Market in Bay View or at our new on-farm stand also on Saturday mornings. The Market CSA share season is June 26 through Oct. 16. There's no need to bring money, coupons or any other paperwork. Just tell us who you are and we will keep track of your purchases and deduct them from your account. Items at our stands will include the early summer crops such as peas, lettuce, kohlrabi, radishes, carrots, and Swiss chard. Once the CSA season begins, more of what is included in your boxes will be available as well as items that we grow specifically for the market such as the labor-intensive crops of salad mix and filet beans, and crops that have only a limited appreciation among CSA members such as fennel, as well as crops that we are trialing. The Market share is only available with the purchase of the weekly CSA share.

Member Bonus U-pick Options

Because our season starts later in the summer, we know that some members might miss fresh strawberries and peas in their box. Don't despair. All members will have the opportunity to pick for themselves 2 free pounds of sugar snap, and 2 free quarts of strawberries. If the harvest allows, members also will have the option to pick and buy more at a reduced price. We will let members know when each crop is ready for picking and then establish u-pick days and times, giving plenty of notice to plan to spend an afternoon at Pinehold. It is also a great opportunity for us to meet members and members to meet other members. Families are definitely welcome. We only have one rule for children, however: They must eat twice as much as they pick.

Worker Shares

Small scale, sustainable vegetable production is labor intensive, creating a need for dedicated workers. To address this need, we offer a limited number of worker shares. A worker share is the exchange of labor for a membership. Worker shares receive a box of fruits and vegetables and make a significant contribution to the success of Pinehold Gardens. A worker share is a serious commitment of 4 hours per week. A worker share commits to a shift and works that shift for the entire season.

Worker share positions are open for both early season shifts and late season shifts. All shifts are 15 weeks long. The early season begins May 18 and the late season begins July 20.

Assistance fund

For those unable to meet the financial obligations of being a member and are unable to be a worker share, we have an Assistance Fund. Dependent upon the generosity of other members in our community, the fund will be used to partially offset the difference in what a member is able to pay and the cost of a membership. This year we can offer up to \$75 off a membership. We are doing this because we think everyone in the community should have access to fresh, local produce. Call it redistribution of wealth if you like, we call it community spirit.

Farm calendar

- Beginning of the Season — Wednesday, July 28.
- South Shore Farmers' Market — Catch us on Saturday mornings at the farmers' market in Bay View, 8 a.m. to noon, June 19 to Oct. 16.
- Open Invitation — Drop by and see us at the farm any Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m., June to October.
- Member Summer U-Pick — We offer members-only u-pick opportunities for peas, strawberries and tomatoes when they are at the height of their season.
- Tomato Tasting — Aug. 28. Noon to 2 p.m.
- Harvest Festival and Open House Potluck — Aug. 29. It's a celebration of farming, food and community. There are farm tours, music, lots of great food and conversation. Public invited.
- End of the Season — Wednesday, Nov. 3.

For more information

Contact us by phone at 414-762-1301 or by email at info@pineholdgardens.com. Better yet, stop by sometime and get to know your farmers.

