

# Three Maples Market Garden

## 2023 CSA Member Agreement

Welcome! We, the farm, wish to provide you with fresh, local, seasonal food and you, the member, wish to receive a portion of our harvest. This agreement outlines our shared commitments to that relationship.

### **Section 1: An Introduction to Three Maples CSA**

A. What it Means to be a Member. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you as our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, members pay in advance to receive a portion of the farm's harvest. Our CSA runs for 18 weeks, from June to October. Members are responsible for picking up their share of freshly harvested produce each week. You will generally receive an amount of produce equal to at least 1/18th of the cost of your share; in 2022 this is roughly \$24 per week for Regular Shares and \$36 per week for Family Shares. Detailed information regarding pick-up is discussed below in Section 3. Variety and quantity may vary as described below in Section 2.

B. Our Growing Practices. Three Maples Market Garden uses organic growing methods, although we are not USDA Certified Organic. We do not use synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. In order to protect pollinators and other helpful insects on the farm, organic pesticides are used carefully and only when needed. Most of our field work is done by hand and we make use of compost, mulch, and a variety of natural fertilizers and nutrients to feed the soil. We strive to produce abundant, delicious, and nutritionally dense vegetables.

C. Expected Harvest. The list below outlines some of the vegetables we hope to deliver and when you may begin to see them in your share. This information is based on our best estimate, but of course weather, pests, and other events will affect actual production.

a. June: Greens like kale, arugula, tatsoi and mizuna; salad mix and head lettuce; radishes; snap and snow peas; salad turnips.

b. July: Several varieties of summer squash and zucchini; carrots; green and wax beans; garlic; scallions; cucumbers.

c. August: Peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, cabbage.

d. September: As above, plus potatoes – this is the height of the harvest!

e. October: As above, plus acorn squash, butternut squash and pie pumpkins

### **Section 2: Our Shared Commitments**

A. Sharing the Risk of Crop Failure. We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. Despite our best efforts, however, the quantity of produce may vary from week-to-week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors. By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members. In the unlikely event of a crop failure, we may

compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm that are ready for harvest at that time. Alternately we may buy in produce from another local farm to supplement. We will always let CSA members know clearly when this occurs, which items are from another grower, and what that farm's growing practices are. In the event of widespread crop failure, we may opt to skip deliveries altogether for a week and add an additional week to the end of the season.

In the case of an extreme emergency, it is possible that the farm shuts down for the remainder of a season. In this incredibly unlikely case, we would make every reasonable effort to provide you with local vegetables prior to ending the CSA distribution.

B. Sharing in the Reward of Crop Surplus. In addition to our CSA, our farm sells produce at an onsite farm stand and may also sell some produce through direct wholesale relationships with stores and restaurants. In all cases, our CSA receives priority. After filling our CSA share with the week's harvest first, the remainder is sold to our other markets. When production is especially abundant, we pack our CSA shares with as much produce as possible.

### **Section 3: Picking Up Shares**

A. Pick-up Procedure. Members are responsible for picking up their share each week. In addition, please observe the following procedures:

a. CSA shares are typically distributed in waxed boxes. Members are encouraged to bring a bag or basket to transfer their produce into; otherwise, please be sure to return your box the following week. Members are asked to unfold and flatten the box and leave it in the designated spot.

b. Pick up your share within the timeframe stated. Although we deliver high-quality produce to the site, it will decline quickly if not picked up in time.

c. Be respectful of the delivery location's property. The Three Maples Worksite CSA program is possible thanks to the generosity of our host sites. Please be mindful of space constraints as well.

d. Follow additional rules posted at your delivery location regarding parking, the use of certain entrances, boxes, etc.

B. Skipping a Week. If you can't pick up your CSA share due to illness, vacation, etc. please let us know with as much notice as possible. You are also welcome to invite a friend to pick up your share, either to bring to you or to keep and enjoy. You do not need to let us know if a friend will pick up your share. You are responsible for explaining the pick-up location and procedure to your friend.

C. Abandoned Shares. Shares that are not picked up within the designated time frame are donated to the delivery location's host.

D. Food Safety. Our produce is picked, chilled, and refrigerated quickly (as necessary) to ensure a fresh product. Greens are triple-washed and loose greens are spun dry. For your added protection, we recommend washing all produce before eating.

### **Section 4: Communications**

A. Contacting the Farm. We want to hear from you! Here are all the ways you can get in touch with us. Three Maples Market Garden 98 State Line Rd. West Stockbridge, MA 01266 Text or Call: (413) 329-8601 (Amanda) or (413) 446-7885 (Cian) Email: [ThreeMaplesGrowers@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeMaplesGrowers@gmail.com)

B. E-News and Social Media. Follow us online for photos and farm musings, recipe suggestions, and weekly harvest reports. Also keep an eye out for occasional emails from the farm with important updates for CSA members. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/threemaples/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/threemaplesma/> Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/threemaplesma/>

C. Visiting the Farm. We welcome visitors to the farm! Please call in advance to arrange a time to visit. We do not live on the property, so please don't knock on the door. Keep an eye out for announcements of Open Field Hours, when customers are invited to join the farmers in the field for a tour, a chat, and perhaps a little light field work.