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August 2024 Newsletter

Needham Community Farm <farmmanager-needhamfarm.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

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Reply-To: office@needhamfarm.org

To: csodano@needhamfarm.org



August 2024 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



Hi folks!

We're rolling into August and, with the new month, some cooler weather. Mornings are even a little (dare I say?) chilly! It's funny how quickly the weather can shift, but we are certainly not complaining. You can see this change in the field, too; this month, we're planting cool weather crops again, like radishes, turnips, and arugula. But don't fear! Our summer crops are still growing like mad-the high tunnel tomatoes are so tall that we need a ladder now when trellising! We're also working on getting an efficient compost system started.

We filled our compost infrastructure (which we built with a volunteer group in May) with a ratio of 2:2:1 of green material, brown material, and manure from Avery's roommate Haley at Natick Community Organic Farm. Now, we're waiting for it to get hot (hotter than 131 degrees Fahrenheit) and stay hot for 3 days before turning it and repeating the process. On Friday, the compost pile reached

that threshold temperature, which was very exciting for us. It means there are microbes and bacteria present in the compost pile, eating and decomposing the material and releasing heat as a by-product of respiration. Respiration is the name of the chemical process in which sugars are broken down into energy. In the case of a compost pile, those sugars are coming from the material we put into the compost.

Hopefully soon, we'll be producing our own compost, chock full of beneficial microbacteria and nutrients for our soil!

Hope to see you on the Farm,

Sasha, Assistant Farm Manager

Register Now: Fall Gardening Class for Kids!



Fall is almost upon us, and we'd like to share an exciting new program! Assistant Farm Manager Sasha will be teaching a gardening class specifically for children ages 7-12.

In this 6-week long class, students will:

- plant, care for, and harvest two beds of vegetables, including broccoli, carrots, kale, cauliflower, beets and herbs.
- learn the science behind soil health, practice identifying plants, and strengthen their math skills
- get to take home vegetables

This is a great alternative to sports or an addition to your athletes schedule! [Register now](#) or click [here](#) to learn more. And please share this wonderful opportunity with

anyone who might be interested - spots are limited!

[Register now!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



Fall is on the horizon, and so is our high harvest time! Help us down on the Farm as we continue with the summer rush, and prepare for all that fall brings!

We will be planting, weeding, and doing other farm tasks. Sign-up for [August or September sessions here](#). Or check out and sign up for [October](#) here.

And if you'd like to bring a group with you to volunteer, please visit the 'Volunteer Group' section of our website [here](#) and submit a request form.

We'll see you on the Farm!

Save-the-Date: Farm Open House!

The Needham Community Farm's 4th Annual Open House will be held on **Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 1-3pm.**

Come down to the farm for an informational walk around the farm, see what we do, and visit various info and activity stations led by staff and volunteers! Activity stations include a farm craft and family scavenger hunt. Music, refreshments and more! All ages welcome.



More details to come soon!

Buy a Bag: Support NCF!



Needham Community Farm has been chosen for Hannaford's Fight Hunger Reusable Bag program! For the month of August, NCF will receive \$1 for every \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag purchased at:

Hannafords on [55 Russell Street, Waltham MA](#)

Community Events



Needham's 3rd Annual Overdose Awareness Vigil

Needham's 3rd Annual Overdose Awareness Vigil will take place on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 pm at the Memorial Park Gazebo. This will be an opportunity to remember those affected by the opioid epidemic and renew our sense of hope as we head into National Recovery Month in September. More details [here](#).

Farm View



Cherry tomatoes ripening on a warm August day.



Rainbow chard nearly ready for harvest in the foreground with lettuces and tomatoes in the background.

Donations always accepted!

Donations can be made by clicking on the button below, by visiting our website at [needhamfarm.org](https://www.needhamfarm.org) or by sending a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm and mail to P.O. Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492.

Donate Now!

Thank You to Our 2023-2024 Food Donation Program Sponsors



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Needham Community Farm



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