



Courtney Sodano <csodano@needhamfarm.org>

November 2024 Newsletter

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

Mon, Nov 18, 2024 at 10:50 AM

Reply-To: office@needhamfarm.org

To: csodano@needhamfarm.org



Nov 2024 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



Hi folks,

Garlic planting is one of my favorite times of the year!

It has been a bit more work than usual because we planted garlic in some of our new beds, but it is super exciting to have that space ready! It was a lengthy process:

In early October, we rented equipment to plow new space and shape new Farm beds.

Then, we tarped them for about a month to attempt to kill weeds in the area we planned to plant.

After uncovering the beds, we added wood chips to the aisles between the beds to keep weeds down. We also straightened out and raked flat our beds, and added a thick layer of compost to each bed.

We then used a measuring tape to space the garlic cloves out and we planted them a couple inches deep

Finally, we added a bit of fertilizer and covered the soil with a thick leaf/ pine needle mulch to keep weeds down in the beds as the garlic sprouts in the spring!

Now, we've got 6 beds down, 2 more to go!

I hope you enjoyed learning a little something about our process of prepping new beds and planting garlic! There are pictures below of each step.

See you on the Farm!

Avery, Farm Manager

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteer sessions are done for the year!

Please look to our March 2025 newsletter for new sign-ups.

We have had an incredible year of volunteer programming here at NCF. Over 235 individuals and students stepped foot on these fields, helping advance our mission one weed/seed/plant at a time!

From the Rotary Club of Needham - who re-skinned out Hoop House AND delivered and built our greenhouse - to Whole Foods, Syniti, Turner Construction, Sharkninja, and more, we were so grateful for the immense support.

Our student volunteers, often completing their Community Service Learning hours, were the backbone of so many spring, summer and fall days! We were inspired by their tenacity and willingness to learn. And we were incredibly grateful for our individual volunteers who always lend a vital hand to any and all tasks.

Thank you and see you on the Farm in 2025!

Donate to Support Needham Community Farm



One of our primary initiatives in recent years has been our Farm expansion. The need for food in Massachusetts is urgent and continues to grow. In addition to getting more efficient, NCF must increase our food production to address this escalating crisis.

Our expansion - adding approximately 50 beds in the unused acreage next to the Community Garden Beds at Pine St, will potentially double our overall Farm production. It will allow us to serve hundreds more individuals, increase our CSA shares, and educate more individuals and students through classes and volunteer sessions.

But we can't complete this project without your help. Please **donate today** to help us bring our expansion

to the finish line - as well as support NCF into 2025!

Donate Now!

Community Garden Beds: Year 2 Wraps Up!



We are pleased to be concluding our SECOND season of the Community Garden Beds. This year we leased over 130 of the 150 available beds, representing an increase from 2024. The hot weather proved challenging but also bountiful for many gardeners as the beds were keen to provide.

We hope you consider leasing a bed with us in 2025! This incredible community resource is a great way to grow your own veggies all season long, as well as meet new friends and neighbors alike.

Be on the lookout for registration in January 2025 via this newsletter or on our website.

A Closer Look at Garlic Planting



Bed creation



Killing the weeds with tarps



Adding wood chips and straightening rows



Measuring where each clove should go

Adding a thick layer of mulch and leaves after
cloves are planted

Checking in on our FALL CSA



Our 2024 Fall CSA has been full of beautiful greens and root veggies so far!

This month, CSA members received our own delicata squash and garlic, as well as carrots, turnips, watermelon radishes, spinach, lettuce and more! Despite recent heavy frosts, we still have plenty more greens growing in our high tunnel and greenhouse, including herbs and microgreens.

We look forward to sharing our harvest for a few more weeks with our shareholders!

Be on the lookout in early 2025 for summer CSA signups!

Community Events



The Congregational Church of Needham is hosting a **Rise Against Hunger** Meal packing event. Help them pack 10,000 meals! Please pre-register [here](#).

Date + Time: November 24, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: Congregational Church of Needham

Farm View



Still growing strong in November!



An early November view of the Farm

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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