

Best Practices for Donation Gardening



One in eight Iowans is food insecure meaning they do not have access to enough food to make up a healthy diet. This is a big problem given how important nutrition is to overall health. The good news is, gardeners have the ability to make a difference! Many gardeners produce more vegetables than they need during the summer. Why not consider 'donation gardening'?

Donation gardening is easy! Gardeners can donate excess produce from their own garden, plant extra rows specifically for donation, or work with other gardeners to plant a whole garden specifically for donation to a food pantry.

Principles for Successful Donation Gardening

1. Plan and plant with the recipients in mind. Visit with pantry staff and clients and plant items they request.
2. Work with pantries to set a schedule for harvest and drop-off.
3. Team up to share responsibilities in the donation garden.

Food Safety in Donation Gardens

1. Wash your hands for twenty seconds with soap and water before and after handling produce.
2. Use clean tools, utensils, gloves and containers to harvest fresh produce.
3. Discard or compost bruised or damaged produce.
4. Keep pets and wild animals away from your plot.
5. Use clean municipal (drinking) water to rinse and irrigate your produce.
6. Remove visible dirt or rinse produce.
7. Transport food in a covered vehicle.

Fruits and Vegetables Preferred by Pantries

Fresh fruits and vegetables.
Things like
lettuce, spinach,
carrots,
potatoes, sweet
corn, radishes,
berries,
cucumbers,
squash,
tomatoes,
onions, cabbage.

Clinton Pantries and Drop Off Hours

Monday-Friday
Information and Referral
9AM-12 Noon
Victory Center
10:45 AM-11:15 AM
Thursday
Masonic Temple
The Regency Inn
Human Services
Noon-1PM
Sunday
Zion Lutheran
5:30 PM 2nd and Third Sunday
Mobile Food Pantry
May 20 and August 10
Old Mater Dei Lot



This program is funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in Iowa as Food Assistance, provides nutrition assistance to people with low income. It can help you buy nutritious foods for a better diet. To find out more visit www.yesfood.iowa.gov.

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