



FRIENDSHIP FARMS & FARE

Friendship Farms & Fare affirms and advances agrarian ideals to reestablish a sustainable culture

3F FARM REPORT & NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 21, 2015 – 12TH 2015-2016 FARM & CSA REPORT

Friendship Farms & Fare is a division of Ecology Florida, a not-for-profit corporation.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida are tax deductible.

If you would like to support our work, please consider sharing a donation.

PO Box 596 • New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0596

<http://www.ffffsite.org/>

FARM REPORT

72 degrees at 4:00 AM, December 18, 2015

Historic Average (for 12/21) 71 HIGH, 53 Weather Underground: <http://www.wunderground.com/>

See the complete weekly weather report later in the Farm Report.

This Fall Will Be The Hottest Fall Ever Recorded

This fall has been abnormally hot, and this is clearly related to Global Warming and Climate Change. It is also likely related to El Nino ("The Boy"), a weather pattern that brings us warmer falls and winters. Next year will be different, and probably not as hot; but the fact that we are so very very hot, and setting records every week, offers rather compelling evidence that Global Warming is impacting Florida in a major way.

Most likely we will not be as hot next year as we have been in this year's climate-change fall. But in the very near future another fall will come most certainly when it will be hotter than this one, and we will have hotter falls than that in years to come.

Happy Winter Cold Season Begins Monday December 21

The Winter Solstice is Monday December 21 – the "shortest day of the year." Daylight has been shortening has since the summer solstice – June 21, the day with the longest period of time between sunup and sunset during the year. December 21 is the shortest period between sunup and sunset. Beginning on December 22, the first day of winter, the days will begin to lengthen. This will continue through the Vernal Equinox (when day and night are equal), until the Summer Solstice (June 21), when the days will again begin getting shorter.

Typically, winter brings the coldest temperatures of the year, and we expect that to be the case this year as well – despite Global Warming. So, expect colder temperatures, and maybe even a freeze, in the coming months.

Grand Gardens Taking Off Promotional T-Shirts Available

Together with Nature Coast Real Food Project, and various other organizations and individuals, we are developing Grand Gardens, a major community garden in a food impoverished ("low access") area. Grand Gardens is located near 3F's first farm on Illinois Ave, but it is much larger. It occupies a one-half acre lot in downtown New Port Richey, donated by Gary Gann and Steven DeMatos of Creative Institute of Dental Arts.



The beautiful logo for Grand Gardens was created by a 6th grade art student at Gulf Middle School, Park Mylott. The City Council of New Port Richey chose Mylott's image from a group of three finalists, selected from over 20 submissions from GMS art students. Gulf Middle School is our middle school partner in the project.

As a fund-raiser and promotional collectable object, we are offering a T-Shirt as a premium for contributions to the project. The T-Shirt has the Grand Gardens logo on the front and supporting organizations on the back. We are affirming a minimum donation of \$10 for each shirt, and receptive to greater contributions to support the project – which will allow us to make the shirt available to Gulf Middle School students who might not otherwise be able to afford the shirt.

Contributions of over \$15 (our cost) will receive formal acknowledgement for purposes of tax deductions.

Make checks to Friendship Farms & Fare PO Box 596 • New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0596 or go to the Ecology Florida website <http://www.ecologyflorida.org/> and click on the donate button.

If you want us to mail you a shirt, please give your size, and mailing address and add a little extra contribution for postage.

Folks interested in acquiring a plot at Grand Gardens can contact us through the 3F site. If you would like to participate, contact Travis Morehead, or stop by Grand Gardens on one of the designated work days: <http://eastmadison.org/community-garden-calendar/>

Shareholders interested in acquiring a plot may participate for reduced rates.

2016 Organic Seeds Now Available

New Port Richey University of South Florida

Seeds from Seed Savers Exchange for the 2016 season are now available through Friendship Farms & Fare and our kiosk sites in New Port Richey and the University of South Florida. We are pleased to support the work Seed Savers, which is dedicated to preserving heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables. Unless we use our own saved seeds or ones from other local gardeners, we use SSE seeds exclusively. Here is a link to Seed Savers Exchange: <http://www.seedsavers.org/>

Here is a links to Rose's Bistro: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketOffMain>
And here is one to USF's Botanical Gardens: <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

First Ripe Loquats Festival March 26 Frances Avenue Park New Port Richey

In another example of Global Warming, we observed our first loquats. This is the earliest we've ever seen them – December 12 for those keeping records. This is about one month earlier than the earliest previous date.

The Loquat Festival will be March 26 this year. Make your plans now.

Arugula Doing Very Well

Arugula, is abundant – the big winner so far this fall. The plants are thriving. All are healthy and strong. Shares can request extra quantities if desired. This arugula is from our own seeds, saved for three generations.

Collards and Kale Making Progress

Collards and kale are doing very well. The cooler weather this weekend (12/18-20) will be helpful. The heat has been hard on the both kale and collard – but harder on kale. Small kale offerings can be included in all shares, if requested.

Fresh Honey Harvest From Daddy's Bees

For those interested in local honey, Robert has just completed a summer harvest, and we have plenty of bottles on hand. 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Please do not purchase or use insecticides with neonicotinoids. Here are reliable sources on the neonicotinoids, and the commercial "home and garden" insecticides that contain them.

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NeonicsSummary_XercesSociety.pdf

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Are-Neonicotinoids-Killing-Bees_Xerces-Society1.pdf

<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/2013/12/feature-make-meadows-not-lawns-for-honey-bee-colony-health/>

Record-breaking Highs Again Last Week

Brief Cool Spell Over Weekend (12/18-20) Temps Drop Below Normal For One Day Then Back to More Record Highs

It is being reported that 2015 will be the hottest year in recorded history – replacing 2014 as the hottest year on record (since records have been kept, 1880)

<http://www.cnbc.com/2015/11/25/2015-to-be-hottest-year-on-record-until-next-year-wmo.html>
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/11/2015-set-hottest-year-record-151125154306485.html>

72 degrees at 4:00 AM, December 18, 2015

Historic Average (for 12/21) 71 HIGH, 53 Weather Underground: <http://www.wunderground.com/>

Historically, the average high temperature is now 71 degrees (one degree higher than the lowest average high of the year [70]), and nineteen degrees lower than our highest average [90]). Our average low is now 53 degrees, twenty-three degrees lower than our highest average low of the year (76), and two degrees higher than lowest average low [51].

Average highs and lows continue their annual decline, which lasts until January, when we reach our lowest average temperatures – 70 and 51. Thus far for the fall, we have been well above normal.

This past summer Hottest Ever Recorded: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA, and Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) data indicate this past summer (June-August, 2015) was the hottest in recorded history. NOAA also reports that July was the hottest month in recorded history. We at the *3-F Farm Report* are not surprised. See this story.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/summer-2015-hottest_55fae2bfe4bofde8bocd408e

It is now being reported that 2015 will be the hottest year in recorded history – replacing 2014 as the hottest year on record (since records have been kept, 1880). Ocean and land temperatures were at their all time highs. 2014 was also the warmest winter on record in the Arctic, and May 2015 was the hottest May on record.

Looks like December will join this list.

Know the Science:

This is no great surprise to us. Temperatures have been running well above normal most of the year here at the farms; and for the past few years, our highs and lows have typically run a bit higher than historic averages. Last year the trend continued, and so far this year, it is still continuing. Although humans may enjoy unseasonably warm weather, above normal temperatures stress plants and animals.

According to NASA, 97% of climate scientists agree that global warming and resultant climate change is a reality and most likely due to human activity. <http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>.

Here is NOAA on the human causes of climate change and global warming. <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/climate/factsheets/howhuman.pdf>

Last Week (12/11-12/17): Once again, we were above normal every day last past week. It looks like we broke or tied the record high twice (85s on Saturday and Sunday). The closest to normal we got was 79 degrees on Tuesday – when normal is 72.

This Week (12/18-12/24): We'll have a little rain on Friday AM ahead of a weak front. Looks like we'll get a degree or two below normal for one day (Saturday 12/19), then back to above normal for the rest of the week – and mid to upper 80s by the end of the week.

We heard another new way of slating the weather reports to "normalize" the significant aberration in weather we are experiencing due to Climate Change: "It is not uncommon for cold fronts to last only a day or two – then back to higher temperatures." Well, this is correct, but what is omitted in this knowledgeable assertion is the more important fact (and newsworthy observation) is that (1) the cold front brings temperatures only to normal, and (2) the high temperatures are record-breaking or near record highs.

Cold fronts typically take us into the 50s and 40s, then rebound to 60s and 70s. Not so, in Climate Change Florida. Now, cold fronts (if we get them at all) bring us temperatures in the 60s or 70s, with rebounds to 80s.

Now, of course, this fall has been abnormally hot, and this is clearly related to Global Warming and Climate Change. It is also likely related to the El Nino ("The Boy"), the weather pattern that brings us warmer falls and winters. Next year will be different, and probably not as hot; but the fact that we are so very very hot, and setting records every week, offers rather compelling evidence that Global Warming is impacting Florida in a major way.

This is exactly what Climate Change looks like. This is how Global Warming works: Two months with nearly every day's high above normal, record-breaking highs occurring regularly, and setting all-time record highs for a month.

Most likely we will not be as hot next year as we have been in this year's climate-change fall. But in the very near future another fall will come most certainly when it will be hotter than this one, and we will have hotter falls than that in years to come.

Garden Overview

Harvests were good last week.

Most the New South Garden is now planted. We added more collards and broccoli. We harvested another tomato last week, and quite a few small bell peppers.

Kale is doing much better, and Swiss Chard is still struggling. There has been a lot of predation of the Chard.

We started Kale, Swiss Chard, and saved Culantro seeds last week. We'll do another round of broccoli this week and more Kale

See the Share Report for all items.

For all plantings, we use seeds from our collection or heirloom seeds from Seed Savers Exchange (<http://www.seedsavers.org/>).

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Habanero Peppers

Habaneros are fairly abundant now – numerous blossoms, and plenty of fruit. Order if you like this week. Remember: These are among the hottest peppers around.

Scotch Bonnet

Here is a new fiery hot pepper for our shares – the Scotch Bonnet. This is a Jamaican-bread pepper, which reportedly is similar to Habanero. Our Bonnets are larger than our Habaneros, which might be the result of some cross pollination with our bell peppers. Crosspollination would also explain their relatively milder taste. Make no mistake these are fiery hot peppers. Ours are just a little milder than our Habaneros.

Here is little comparison of the Bonnets with the Habaneros. <http://bostonjerkfest.com/the-tale-of-two-peppers-what-makes-the-scotch-bonnet-different-from-the-habenero/>

Sweet Bell Peppers

Our Carolina Wonders and Charleston Belles continue to produce. These are delicious sweet bell peppers. We've not had Bells in significant numbers for a while, but this season is looking pretty good. Bell peppers will be available only by request this week – and hopefully we'll have some.

Eggs

We are hoping to have eggs from Juan's Farm soon. Health issues have slowed down the farmer. Thoughts are with Juan and family.

Viticulture (Grape) News

Most vines are damaged by skeletonizers. A true loss.

Honey: Local honey is available. We have a fresh harvest available now. Our bee husbander, Robert, has been very successful with recent harvests. We support Robert's work, which is as much about sustaining and regenerating bee populations as it is about honey distribution. Robert's bees live in West Pasco County, near New Port Richey, they pollinate wild flowers, domestic fruit trees, and vegetables. Honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 a bottle, \$5.50 for CSA Shares.

Herbs: Herbs are in pretty good shape, but still no cilantro. We have good quantities of basil, tarragon, and oregano. Consult the share list for other herbs, and other available items.

The Share

December 21, 2015 (12)

*** larger quantity available if desired**

FCFS = limited supplies, early submissions given preference

Tampa Transmissions TBA

Vegetables

Arugula*

Collards

Kale – small quantities

Lettuce – Romaine (possible, if requested)

Peppers – Sweet Bell – in recess

Peppers – Habanero (burning hot)

Peppers – Scotch Bonnet (burning hot)

Spinach – Okinawa (not a true spinach) – small quantities

Sweet Potato Leaves – likely

Fruit -

Grapefruit (Old Florida, Duncan White) in recess but more to come shortly

Herbs (* larger quantity available if desired)

Basil – Italian

Basil – globe (in recess)

Basil – Red Basil (in recess)

Chives (in recess)
Cranberry Hibiscus *
Cilantro -- light
Culantro (tastes like a strong cilantro) – light
Mint
Oregano
Parsley *
Peppermint (in recess)
Purslane (small quantities)
Rosemary*
Tarragon

Medicinal
Aloe

Cottage Foods & Samples

Eggs: We are hoping to have eggs from Juan's Farm soon. Health issues have slowed down the farmer. Thoughts are with Juan and family. These are eggs from small local growers. We cannot guarantee feed is organic. Fowl are humanely treated and free roaming; \$6.50 (\$5.00 for shares). Here is a link to Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm (which is the egg and fowl division of Mandy's Monster Farm) <http://www.mandysmonsterfarm.com/Poultry.html>

Honey: Local West Pasco honey from Daddy's Bees is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares). Daddy's Bees just harvested their summer honey. Ready for shares, if desired.

Red Panax Ginseng (liquid, tonic) 3.5 oz bottles (10 bottle box) \$6.50 (\$5.00, shares)

COMPANION FAUNA **Fall Report**

Animal companions are fewer and less active

Leopard Frogs: The two leopard frogs are getting along quite nicely. The male is still singing away, and the female floats in the pond nearby – apparently enjoying the courtship, but nothing more. The Leopards seem to be unperturbed by the cooler temperatures. They remain active throughout the overnight hours. The tree frogs have gone into hibernation.

No sign of eggs or tadpoles.

Here is good site for information on Leopard Frogs
http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/rana_utricularia.php

Swifts: No swifts.

Tree Frogs: None this week

Bald Eagle: None this week

Raccoon: One spotted in the south garden. We encouraged the raccoon to leave, which it did. .

Opossum: One young opossum on the roof.

Citrus Rat (also called Roof Rat): None observed this week. These visitors have been with us for years. They seem to be a bit more noticeable this year. Here is the IFAS report on these rats ("the worst rodent pest in the state of Florida and most abundant"):
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/uw/uw12000.pdf>

Florida Ringneck Snake: None at 3F Farm.

Florida Green Grasshopper: None at 3F Farm.

Mediterranean Gecko: None this week.

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/reptiles/mediterranean-gecko/>

Owl: No owls or calls this week.

Greenhouse Frog: None this week. The greenhouse frog is the only North American frog that lays its eggs on land.

Eastern Blue Bird: No blue birds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WlYEmuUhKI>

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/id

<http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-bluebird>

Southern Toad: None this week.

Sweet bees: Several observed at loquat flowers.

Pileated Woodpecker: None this week.

Here is a good site for the Pileated :

http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/pileated_woodpecker?gclid=CjoKEQiA4OqnBRDAj9aazvPji9ABEiQANq28oLTa9kUEg7khhIiQxXQSzXno1KGGekjlUYhQcrnafj8aAnMP8P8HAQ

And here is a video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpYsdZ8gUU8&index=3&list=PLFMP2eIAO8oQFZ3IyCJhIKXCi914uI8uu>

Florida Black Snake: None

Honey Bees: None this week.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

– attributed to Albert Einstein.

Please do not purchase or use insecticides with neonicotinoids. Here are three reliable sources on the neonicotinoids, and the commercial "home and garden" insecticides that contain them.

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NeonicsSummary_XercesSociety.pdf

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Are-Neonicotinoids-Killing-Bees_Xerces-Society1.pdf

Bumble Bees: None

Hawk: None.

Earth Worms: Several in beds being planted

Sphinx Moth: No sphinx this week. Here is Youtube video of a Sphinx Moth feeding at 4 o'clocks, very much like the moth at the 3F farm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaTfKLOg6gE>

Pygmy Rattlesnake: No pygmy rattler this week. Here is a good site on the pygmy rattlesnake from the University of Florida: <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/Pygmy%20Rattlesnake%20Info%20Sheet.pdf>

"Nocturnal Garden Spider" – Still plenty – like stars in the ground.

"Asian Tramp Snail." None this week.

Woodlouse – Several. Usually not seen at this time of year, the warm weather has brought the little louses back to life.

Marine Toad (aka: Brazilian Cane Toad, *Rhinella marina*, Giant Toad): None.

Marine Toads are destructive of ecosystems and poisonous to mammals. They are omnivorous, aggressive, and drive out native and assimilated frogs and toads. A survey of several professional sites found none that recommended killing the frogs, although this has been advocated by several folks in the area.

Here is the Extension Office's website on the Marine Toad (which includes an audio of its call): http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/rhinella_marina.php

Here is a very detailed, professional study of the Marine Toad, also from the Extension Office. This site has instructions for humane euthanizing of the creatures: http://www.egovlink.com/public_documents300/winterhaven/published_documents/Winter%20Haven/Lakes/Backyard%20Wildlife/Animal%20Information/Frogs%20and%20Toads/Marine%20Toads%20UW04600.pdf

Cats: Neighborhood cat, Frankie, appears regularly. Lady Gray visits occasionally.

Planting & Harvest Notes Winter Seeding and Garden Starts Continue

Seedings: Giant Swiss Chard (72)

Garden Starts: Collards and Broccoli

Harvest Notes: bell peppers, collards, kale, bell pepper and all herbs that were mature

Vermipost: None

3F Stories, Events, and Policy Updates

Programs and Plans

We often receive questions about the Friendship Farms & Fare project. We are happy to send an information brochure with details on our mission and our various programs. Here is a brief sketch of our programs:

We offer heirloom organic **seeds**, including seeds from plants acclimated to local climate and soils. We have a good stock of several types of okra (including the much desired Red Burgundy), robust arugula, and our famous Calabrese Broccoli. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed seed dealer in the State of Florida, and a member of Seed Savers Exchange (with several listings in the SSE Yearbook).

Seed Kiosk Friendship Farms & Fare also sponsors a sales kiosk featuring organic seeds from Seed Savers Exchange at the Market Off Main, in New Port Richey. We never offer seeds from for-profit commercial seed sellers, and we discourage others from doing so as well. Acquiring your seeds from local seed dealers supports local ecologies and economies, and will usually result in stronger, healthier plants – and seeds for next season!

Organic **seedlings** are available throughout each growing season. We use our own seeds from previous years whenever possible, and otherwise, we use only organic seeds and heirloom varieties when available. We never use seeds from for-profit seed sellers, and we do not offer seedlings grown from such seeds. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed nursery in the State of Florida.

A developing area of our mission is our **fruit tree project**. At present, we offer loquat and avocado trees, with a few native flowering shrubs. We are a state-registered nursery, and among a small number of nurseries in the region offering loquat trees. We also are pleased to host (along with Ecology Florida) the **Florida Loquat Festival**, held each spring in New Port Richey.

Our original project, and still our central focus is a **Community Supported Agriculture** program. This is a small (“boutique”) CSA, featuring organic produce from our gardens and local cottage industry foods. We are 100% organic and have a no-kill policy. Our program is recommended for single persons, couples, or (at most) three-person families.

When quantities are sufficient, we offer produce to the general public through **local markets**, such as Tasty Tuesdays and Market Off Main in New Port Richey. Folks can also make requests through our website. Non-members can request any and all items on the share list for \$20.

Our newest project is a **community garden**, dedicating a portion of the 3F farm for use by others in the community. The community garden is located in New Port Richey, and operates through the City's urban agriculture ordinance. The 3F community garden follows the standard policies of Friendship Farms & Fare. We are 100% organic, non-GMO, and have a no-kill policy. With the exception of the predatory Marine Toad, no animals are harmed on our farm. We follow permaculture principles, and working with and within our natural systems.

If you would like to know more about any of these programs or would like to volunteer to share in our mission, just let us know. Folks interested in the Friendship Farms & Fare project can contact us through our website. <http://www.fffsite.org/> See the "Let's Talk" section for an email connection.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare are now tax-deductable. If you would like to offer financial support, your contributions will be a wonderful enhancement to our project – and they will be tax deductible.

2016 Seeds Have Arrived **3F, Ecology Florida, Rose's Bistro, and USF Offer Seed Savers Exchange Seeds**

Through a cooperative arrangement with Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida, Rose's Bistro, in New Port Richey, and the Botanical Gardens of at the University of South Florida offer a wide range of organic, heirloom, non-GMO seeds exclusively from Seed Savers Exchange.

This is a trend-setting achievement for the Bistro and the Botanical Gardens, and another verification of Friendship Farms & Fare and Ecology Florida's leadership in ecological stewardship, sustainability, and resiliency. These two locations are the only location on the West Coast of Florida offering these high quality packaged seeds.

Ecology Florida advances the harmonious integration of healthy natural, cultural, and economic ecologies to regenerate a sustainable world
<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/>

Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds. Since 1975, our members have been passing on our garden heritage by collecting and distributing thousands of samples of rare garden seeds to other gardeners.
<http://www.seedsavers.org/>

USF Botanical Gardens
<http://gardens.usf.edu/>

Rose's Bistro
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketOffMain>

Next Workday: TBA

If you would like to join us for a workday, we'll have a lot to do. Please send your best Saturday(s) in November. See also designated work days on the calendar for the Grand Gardens: <http://eastmadison.org/community-garden-calendar/>

2015-2016 Nursery Certification and Registration **Friendship Farms & Fare** **48015239**

Friendship Farms & Fare is a registered nursery in the state of Florida. Our registration number is 48015239.

Our successful re-certification and registration renewal is another step in the development of the Friendship Farms and Fare sustainable urban agriculture project. As most of you know, we are also a registered seed seller. The nursery certification is an important expression of our farm's mission and our commitment to responsible community development.

If you would like to support the work of Friendship Farms and Fare and help us cover expenses related to the project, please feel free to share a contribution. Friendship Farms and Fare operates under the umbrella of Ecology Florida, a not for profit corporation, so your contributions are tax deductible.

**2015-2016 Renewal
Seed Dealer License & Registration
Friendship Farms & Fare
S009451**

We are also a licensed Seed Dealer License for 2015-2016.

3 F is a licensed Seed Dealer, through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which issues these licenses that are required to sell seeds to the public.

We renew in July every year. Through our friendship with Ecology Florida, we apply for the license as a subsidiary of Ecology Florida – a federally sanctioned Not For Profit organization.

Want to buy some seeds?

To explore the Ecology Florida project, see: <http://www.ecologyflorida.org/>

Grand Gardens Project

Folks interested in acquiring a plot can contact us through the 3F site.

Together with East Madison Growers and other organic agriculture organizations we are developing a new community garden plot on Grand Blvd. in New Port Richey. If you would like to participate, contact Travis Morehead, or stop by Grand Gardens on one of the designated work days: <http://eastmadison.org/community-garden-calendar/>

Shareholders interested in acquiring a plot may participate for reduced rates.

Farm Tours (Local Urban Gardens)

If you would like to schedule a tour of local urban gardens in New Port Richey, please let us know, and we can make arrangements. Our tours are experiential, informational, educational, and fun. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Typically, and depending on the season, participants will spend an hour or so in two or more gardens, learn about organic farming in an urban environment using permaculture philosophies and practices, observe and learn about urban wildlife and helpful plants, and enjoy samples of live produce. Tours are structured on the basis of participants' interests and background.

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled.

There are four categories of tours:

- * Urban Farming, Permaculture and Soil development
- * Urban wildlife and helpful plants
- * Seasonal produce, from seed to harvest
- * General (including two or more categories)

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled – typically, \$100.

3F: A Florida Friendly Farm

The 3 F gardens are certified as a "Florida Friendly" environment – a certification we have held for over a decade.

Florida Friendly recognition is given to environments (typically residential yards) that support and enhance natural ecosystems. Certification is given in three categories (bronze, silver, and gold) based on a point system rating various features of the property and practices followed by the property owner. We received a high score but only a silver rating because of some changes in the program of which we were unaware.

Attention is given to features such as water-retention, native and drought tolerant plants, diversity in plant species, responsible irrigation systems, and amenities for native pollinators. Positive practices include minimal use of fertilizers (with organic preferred) and little or no use of poisons, groundcovers rather than turf, composting, and rainwater collection systems.

We encourage all our members and friends to pursue Florida Friendly designation for their properties. It is a wonderful way to learn more about Florida's natural ecology and what you can do to create a healthy environment right where you live. It is also a great way to go green.

Folks who wonder what they can do be more environmentally responsible are encouraged to review the Florida Friendly checklist. If you can change even one thing about your yard or your landscape practices to bring it into agreement with the guidelines, you will have made a difference. Even if you do not apply for the designation, reviewing the criteria will be an enriching educational experience. Putting the guidelines into practice will make a definite difference. Here is the website for the program:

Other News and Reports

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COMMERCIAL PRODUCE REPORT

Our Commercial Produce News Report is currently in repose.
We will resume when time and talent allow.
If anyone would like to volunteer to collect market prices, please let us know.

OTHER PRODUCTS FOR THE CSA FAMILY

3F Produce for non-shareholders: Non-Members may order items for \$10.00 each, shares for \$20 per week, or \$50 per month. For this amount, contributors may request any and all items they desire from the weekly Share. Although we will assist with transmissions, it is the responsibility of the contributor to make arrangements for pick up of the share.

As always, non-CSA Members may request single items from the share list for \$10 per item. A full share for one week (any/all items) is \$20, and \$50 for one month. Annual shares are recommended, at \$300 per year. Five-month shares are \$200.

Just reply using the website contact link if you desire anything on the list. We suggest non-shareholders start an account to cover costs of items.

EGGS. Prices are \$6.50 a dozen (\$5.00 for shares), and \$4.00 a half-dozen (\$3.00 for shares). These prices are a bit higher than prices for organic eggs at commercial grocers. Acquiring eggs from local farms keeps resources in our community, supports local farming, and directly benefits a local farm family.

As required by our policies, our suppliers are local, follow organic principles, practices compassionate husbandry, and allows chickens free range. If you would like to be included on the egg list, please start an account (\$20 suggested), and make requests accordingly. Eggs are from humanely treated chickens, and fed non-GMO feed.

Honey: Local West Pasco honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Seeds: If you would like organic vegetable seeds for your garden, we will order them for you. Seed packs are \$4.00 each, 2 for \$7.00, and 5 for \$14.00. Just tell us what you'd like. Be sure to send your mailing address. No charge for shipping.

Seedlings: We are also happy to start plants for you. Just give us the word on the plants you want us to start, and we'll do the rest. Starter plants in cells are \$2.00 per plant (\$1, for shares), \$3.00 for 2, \$5.00 (\$4) for four, \$8.00 (\$7.00) for nine. When available, small plants are \$3.00 (\$2.40) each, and medium plants are \$5.00 (\$4).

Let us know if you want to acquire seeds or starts for spring and summer.

Trees: Young Loquat trees are available in small (half-gallon) and medium (gallon) pots - \$10.00 (\$8.00 for shareholders). \$20 (\$18) for two-gallon pots. Larger trees in five-gallon pots are \$50 to \$70, depending on the size of the tree.

Vermipost and Worms: For folks interested in organic gardening, we have the best all-natural soil amenities you can find: Vermipost and Worms! Vermipost is compost that has been broken down and enriched by Red Worms. We also have the worms themselves. **Vermipost** is available in 32 oz containers for \$2.50 each (\$2.00 for shareholders), with discounts for orders of five or more. Vermipost containers will most likely have some worms in the mix. We recommend mixing the vermipost 1 to 1 with regular soil, and 1 to 3 or 4 with organic soil. Remember, if you use synthetic chemicals (such as fertilizers or pesticides), the vermipost will be compromised. Pesticides will kill the worms and synthetic fertilizers will kill the worms or drive them away.

Worms are available in 32 oz containers for \$7.50 (\$6 for shareholders). We cannot specify the exact number of worms in a container, but there should be 30-50. By the way, if you are developing an organic garden, always look for the OMRI seal of approval on fertilizers, soils, and insect deterrents.

Seeds: Shareholders are entitled to samples of seeds from our seed bank – three types of okra, arugula, and our famous Calabrese broccoli. Our seeds are organic and derived from heirloom stock. They are listed with Seed Savers Exchange, and also available at the New Port Richey Library Seed Exchange. Let us know if you are interested – additional packages of seeds for \$4.00 (\$3.00)

a packet (of 30). We cannot guarantee germination, but in our tests germination rates are close to 100%.

Heirloom, organic seeds from Seed Savers Exchange are \$4.00 each (\$3.00 for shares). You may order Seed Savers seeds from us. Find the seeds you desire on line, and let us know, and we'll order them for you. <http://www.seedsavers.org/onlinestore/> Florida Central West Coast acclimated Broccoli seeds are offered by 3F: \$3.00 for 30.

Local Markets and Growers' Sites Open to the Public Endorsed by Friendship Farms & Fare

Rose's Bistro Off Main: We encourage folks to patronize Rose's Bistro in New Port Richey, and other local produce markets. The Bistro often has organics, usually has local produce, is locally owned, and is a distributor of Seed Savers Exchange Heirloom Organic Seeds. Here is the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketOffMain>

Tasty Tuesdays: Visit the New Port Richey Library Tuesday (10:00 AM – 12:00 noon) for a good selection of locally grown organic vegetables. [New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main St, New Port Richey, FL](#)

Freedom House Farms: Open to visitors on Saturday afternoons. Featuring freshly harvested produce available for purchase. 5642 Virginia Ave., New Port Richey

First Farm: Receptive to visitors on weekend afternoons. Featuring seeds, seedlings, Loquat trees, and select produce in season. Call for appointment afternoons or evenings: (727) 849-1626. New Port Richey.

To Return to our website, go to: < <http://www.ffsite.org> >

Friendship Farms & Fare

An Urban Farm Community, CSA, Seed Saver, Community Garden, and purveyor of seeds, seedlings, fruit trees, and organic cottage-industry foods.

Friendship Farms & Fare Community

Cadle's Cove Farm

Black Cat Growers

Freedom House Farm

Friendship Farms & Fare: First Farm

Good Chance Farm

Hart's Family Farm

Seeds of Love Organic Farm

Tarry Lane Tasting Station

December 21, 2015 – 12th report for the 2015-2016 Garden Year

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Friendship Farms & Fare affirms and advances agrarian ideals to reestablish a sustainable culture



Ecology Florida advances the harmonious integration of healthy natural, cultural, and economic ecologies to regenerate a sustainable world

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