

CSA Member Agreement for 2018

Salix and Sedge Farm
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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.

Becoming a Part of Our Farm

Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you as our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become “members” of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm’s harvest. In addition to our CSA, our farm sells to farmers markets and grocery stores. Although our CSA, market and wholesale production are not segregated, our CSA receives priority. After filling our CSA share with the week’s harvest first, the remainder is sold to our other markets.

Our CSA runs for 18 weeks. The start date is in early June, but the specific starting week is weather dependent. Members are responsible for showing up at the farm (Salmo members) or the drop-off site (Nelson members) each week to pick up your share of freshly harvested produce. We are offering two box sizes, a large share with a weekly value averaging \$25 and a small share with a weekly value averaging \$17.

Our Growing Practices

Our farm is certified organic through the Kootenay branch (Kootenay Organic Growers Society) of the COABC (Certified Organic Associations of BC). BC certified organic farmers are committed to using practices that respect the soil, water, air, wildlife, and people, and strive to create a balanced farm ecosystem. We grow our food without the use of any synthetic herbicides or pesticides. For more information about organic production please ask. We’d be happy to tell you more.

We also get our soil tested every year for major and minor nutrients, PH, organic matter levels and cation exchange capacity. We use the results of these tests to tailor a custom prescription of organic amendments and agricultural practices to help create the healthiest soil we can. Our goal is to grow the most delicious and nutrient dense food we are capable of producing, while staying true to our environmental and social values.

The Products We Expect for 2018

The list below outlines some of the vegetables we hope to deliver; this list is based on our best estimate. Weather, pests, management mistakes and other events will affect actual production. We will strive to create boxes that have a variety and balance of vegetables from the different categories we’ve listed below, but in some parts of the season certain vegetables will be unavailable. Early-season boxes will likely be heavier on the greens, while more fruit (ie. Tomatoes, squash, beans, etc.) will be available later in the season. Also, early-season boxes may not contain the full value of the share you purchased (\$25 or \$17), but as the season progresses and the harvests increase, you will receive extra items in your box to more than compensate for the smaller shares earlier on. Members will not be able

to pick and choose what variety and quantity of vegetables make up their box. To allow our members more flexibility and choice, we will have a 'trade bin' at each pick up. This will allow members to trade any unwanted produce from their share for other produce they might find more desirable from the bin. We will try to pre-stock the trade bin with a healthy variety of produce before each pickup. Members also will have the option of ordering extra vegetables, when available, to increase the contents of their box.

This season we have again decided not to grow several crops that are not space efficient or cost effective for us to grow on our scale. Instead, we will partner with other local organic farms to occasionally purchase these vegetable varieties for your box. The vegetables we are NOT growing but planning on purchasing to occasionally supplement your box are potatoes and winter squash. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions about this.

Veggies you can expect in your box

Greens: lettuce, salad mix, chard, kale, pac choi, napa cabbage, mustard, komatsuna, tatsoi

Herbs: cilantro, parsley, basil, dill, garlic scapes, celery leaf

Roots: salad turnips, potatoes, rutabaga, radish, carrots, purple top turnips, garlic, parsnips, celeriac

Fruit: tomatoes, zucchini and patty pan squash, eggplant, sweet peppers, cucumbers, peas, beans, winter squash, melon, tomatillos

Stems/Flowers/Other: broccoli, cabbage, fennel, cauliflower, gai lan, green onions, sweet and storage onions, leeks

Our Shared Commitments

Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of produce, however, may vary from week-to-week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our best efforts. In the unlikely event of a crop failure, our procedure is as follows:

If only a small portion of crops fail, we will compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on our farm that are ready for harvest at that time. We may cover for a crop loss by buying in from other farms in the area. If in the very unlikely event that all crops have failed and it isn't feasible for us to buy in produce from other farms, we will refund you your share value for that week (\$25 or \$17). You won't be expected to pay for produce that you do not receive.

Picking Up Shares

The start date for our CSA is tentatively set for the first week in June. Due to unknown spring weather, this date is flexible, and we will keep you informed of any changes as we get closer to June. You are responsible for picking up your share each week from either our farm (Salmo customers) or your drop site (Nelson customers). Pick up will be on the same day and within the same time window each week. Our pick up time and day has changed from last year. If this schedule does not work for you, please contact us and let us know.

Salmo

Pick up every Wednesday evening at our farm, from 4:30PM to 6:30PM.

Nelson

Pick up every Monday evening at Cottonwood Falls Park, from 4:30PM to 6:30PM.

Pick up Procedures

You are responsible for observing our drop site/farm pick up rules, which are as follows:

1. Bring your own bags to take your produce home each week.
2. Pick up your share within the timeframe that has been set for your location. Although we deliver high-quality produce to the site, it will decline quickly if not picked up in time.

If you cannot pick-up your share, you must arrange for someone else to pick it up for you. You are responsible for explaining the pick-up location and procedures to your substitute. We do not have extra cold storage space and can not store your box for pick up outside of our scheduled pickup hours. Shares that are not retrieved within the pick-up time will be donated to the food bank.

Overview of Changes for 2018

We have made several changes to the operation of our CSA to help meet the needs of our members as well as our own needs as farmers.

1. Our pick-up days have changed. Nelson pick-up is now on Monday evenings, from 4:30-6:30PM. Salmo pick-up is on Wednesday evening, from 4:30-6:30PM.
2. If a member misses the pickup time, we are unable to accommodate next day pickup at our house. We will be splitting our time between our property and our leased land, and often will not be here during the day. Salmo customers will have an opportunity to pick up their missed box the next day at the farmer's market.
3. We have planned a greater diversity of crops for our 2018 CSA.
4. We are planning on having several options for 'add ons' to your CSA box, such as gourmet mushrooms. Stay tuned for more details.

Member Fees

Vacation Option

This season we are offering a vacation option when you purchase your membership share. You can sign up for the full 18 weeks, but only pay for and pick up 16 boxes. This gives you the ability to take two vacation weeks during our CSA season without having to organize a substitute to pick up your box for you. We ask for 48hrs notice if you are not going to pick up a box, that way we do not harvest and pack one for you.

Large Share

\$25 value per week, for 18 weeks. Total cost = **\$450**

Total cost with vacation option (16 weeks of boxes) = **\$400**

Small Share

\$17 value per week, for 18 weeks. Total cost = **\$306**

Total cost with vacation option (16 weeks of boxes) = **\$272**

To reserve a share, you must make a **deposit of \$50**. The remainder of the share is due on **May 1st, 2017**.

By selling memberships in advance of the growing season, a CSA reduces the burden of up-front costs for us, the farmers. Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase equipment and supplies before the season starts, and we appreciate your commitment. A CSA model also provides us with stability by giving us access to a predictable and guaranteed market, which helps us better plan our crops and reduces waste.

We have a limited number of member shares available, so if you would like to guarantee your membership, please ensure you pay us a \$50 deposit as soon as possible. The remainder of your payment will be due by May 1st 2018. If for some reason you no longer would like to receive a CSA share after having paid your deposit, we will be able to give you a full refund up until April 1st 2018. No refunds will be given after this date. Please see the other attached form for more payment information. We are able to offer a more flexible payment schedule if required, please contact us for more information.

Communicating with Us

The best way to communicate with us is via email. Our email is salixandsedge@gmail.com. You can also call us, just be aware that we primarily use our home phone, not a cellphone. Our home phone number is 250-357-2125 and the best times to reach us are around noon and in the evening. We will do our best to respond as soon as possible, but please understand that we spend most of our time in the field growing your food and not at our desk. We do also now have a cellphone which will be on during pick up hours, the number is 250 551 6499. Please contact us with any news of the following: changes to your contact information, or dissatisfaction (or satisfaction!) with your share.

We will communicate with you by email. When you sign up, you will be added to our distribution list. Please read your email from us. We depend on being able to communicate important information such as necessary changes to your distribution schedule or to our farm events. Every week, we will do our best to email a newsletter giving you information about the crops available that month, recipe ideas, or other farm related news. We will send this email out through mailchimp and it will likely end up in your "promotions" folder in your inbox.

Thanks for your interest in our CSA and our produce! We are looking forward to this season of growing and are excited to offer our CSA for the third year. We expect that there will be things that we will need to clarify, update or change, so if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

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