



Early Bird Special

Reduced Share Price for Returning Members Signing up by March 1st

As usual, returning members who sign up by March 1st will pay the previous year's share price. For 2012, that means \$560 instead of the new price of \$580. Simply cross off the price on the sign up form and write in \$560. Then send it in with your check(s) by 1 March.

Signing up by March 1st will also guarantee your spot for 2012. It is very important to us that anyone who wants to return to Troy has a spot, so we will hold your share for you until March 1st. After that date, membership is open to new and returning members on a first-come, first-serve basis.



CSA Share Rebates

Physicians Plus, Group Health, Dean, and Unity all offer rebates worth \$50 to \$300 on the cost of your CSA share. Find out more at www.macsac.org/rebates.html

Claire's Comments

What's New for 2012

We made some significant changes on the farm in 2011. We added a new position to our permanent staff and hired Julie Engel as our crew leader. We took a whole half-acre out of production in order to include more fallow in our crop rotation and improve our long-term weed control and fertility. We installed and used our new irrigation system. And we also moved into our new passive solar greenhouse. In part because of all these changes, we had the very best season we have ever had. The CSA shares were full of great vegetables, we taught 13 interns about urban agriculture, and we did it all with pretty good cheer.

Now it is time to start planning for new improvements in 2012. While I still have a number of plans in the works, there are a few things that we already have worked out and that will be of interest to you as CSA members.

First, we have a new egg supplier. Keene Organics has agreed to supply eggs for us this year, and I am very much looking forward to working with them. They produce "farm fresh pastured eggs," which means that their eggs are fresh and that their chickens are out on pasture every day. Though the eggs themselves are not yet certified, the chickens are raised from certified organic pullets and are fed only on certified organic pasture and grains without any medications. See the [Keene Organics](http://www.keeneorganics.com) website for more information. Keene is able to provide up to 60 dozen eggs per week, so this increased supply will mean that we have plenty of eggs for everyone! Please find details and prices for a weekly or biweekly dozen on the CSA sign up form.

Second, we are increasing the size of our Westside pick up site. We have maintained a Westside pickup for years, but have never really advertised it because we like that most of our members pickup their shares at the farm. After a number of requests for off-farm sites, we have finally decided to open up the Westside pickup. Damon Bourne, one of our long-term supporters and CSA members, will be hosting the site at the corner of North Prospect and Chadbourne Avenues on Friday afternoons. Details are in the CSA brochure. If you can spread the word to your Westside friends, we would appreciate it! Members who pickup at the Westside still have open access to the CSA flower and herb garden whenever they like.

And third, we have added a new type of CSA share – the Every Other Week share. Many farms have been offering this option for years, but we resisted it because we did not know how it would work with our farm-stand style pick up. We think we have finally worked out the kinks and we are going to give it a try for 2012. More details are available on the back of this newsletter and in the CSA brochure.

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More Share Options for 2012

Every Other Week Share

New for 2012, we are introducing an Every Other Week (EOW) share option. This share includes the same selection and quantity of vegetables as in the weekly standard share, except that members pick it up only every other week for a total of 10 shares over the 21-week season. The cost of this share is \$350.

EOW shares are perfect for folks who value the traditional CSA experience but simply cannot use all their vegetables each week. When picking up only every other week, members still pack their own shares from the CSA display, but have two weeks to actually use up the share.

Market Share

In 2010 we opened up a new type of CSA share called the "market share." It is a smaller CSA option designed for folks who are often away in the summer or who have their own summer gardens.

Just like with the regular share, members pay up-front for the season and are eligible for the HMO rebates. Then, instead of getting a weekly box, members come to the farm stand to shop using the up-front credit. Members may come to any or all pick-ups and select as much or as little as they need. They can also use their credit for bulk tomatoes, broccoli, beans, or other items available for pre-order when the farm is booming. Market share members also have access to the CSA garden, farm events, and the weekly CSA newsletter.

The cost of the market share for 2012 is \$280. There are some restrictions on how the \$280 credit can be used (related to using it up throughout the season); when we are tight on some crops the standard CSA will have priority and those crops may not be available at the farm stand; and members who choose the market option may miss some of the excitement of trying out new vegetables each week. Still, the market share is just the thing for many folks who want to be part of CSA but prefer the shopping experience.

All CSA Shares

All our shares (standard, EOW, and market) are eligible for the HMO rebates, can add eggs from Keene Organics, receive a weekly newsletter, and have open access to our CSA garden for u-pick herbs and flowers.

If you are interested in the details for any of our shares, please visit the CSA membership page of our website to view the CSA brochures: <http://www.troygardens.org/what-we-do/troy-community-farm/csa/membership>.

Upcoming Events

Special Price Sign-Up Deadline

Thursday, 1 March 2012

Returning members, send in your sign up form and check(s) by March 1st and pay the early bird price of \$560. Sending in your form by the deadline will also guarantee your spot in the CSA. After March 1st, membership is open to both new and returning members on a first-come, first-serve basis.

First CSA Pick-Up

Thursday, 31 May 2012

at Troy Community Farm

Remember to bring a tote bag to the first delivery of the season. We will fill it with lettuce, spinach, radishes, sprouts, green garlic, and more.

Farm Volunteer Days

Fridays, 7:00 to 11:00 am

May through October

at Troy Community Farm

The farm has open volunteer hours on Friday mornings. We transplant, mulch, weed, harvest, and have interesting conversation while working hard. Everyone is welcome. You will leave with some dirt under your fingernails, a stretch in your hamstrings, and as many flowers and herbs as you can carry.

(continued from "Claire's Comments")

Other changes we have planned for the year are mostly about technical improvements in how we grow food. We have a five-year goal of dramatically reducing our weed load in the field and many changes will be focused on achieving this goal. We are also still working on better melon production and on possibly producing our own mulch on the farm. But the biggest and most exciting project for the year is designing and raising money for a barn! After 10 years with only a 10' by 16' shed and my garage, we are very excited to finally be moving toward a real barn!

Troy Community Farm

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