

# Grow-A-Row Donation Program

## 2021 Fresh Produce Drop Off Locations

Your extra garden-grown produce can make a difference to those in need.

GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**  
GARDEN PROJECT



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A map with garden and pantry locations can be found here: [www.bit.ly/G-A-Rmap2021](http://www.bit.ly/G-A-Rmap2021)

PANTRY & CONTACT	ADDRESS	CONTACT	DROP-OFF INFO	REQUESTS/NOTES
<b>North Lansing</b>				
<b>Cristo Rey:</b> Jaime	1717 N High St, Lansing, 48906	517.253.8272	<b>Mon-Fri 8-3</b>	Gardeners should speak with the receptionist upon arrival and they will call someone to assist. All donations welcome.
<b>The Salvation Army Lansing Capital Area:</b> Francisca	525 N Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, 48912	517.484.4424 x 100	<b>Mon-Fri 9:30-12 or 1:30-4</b>	Allowable quantities of items determined on a case-by-case basis.
<b>West Lansing</b>				
<b>Seventh Day Adventist:</b> Snow	5400 W St Joseph Hwy, Lansing, 48917	517.321.8238	<b>Wed 9 am – 3 pm or call for appt</b>	All donations welcome.
<b>Central Lansing</b>				
<b>ANC Breadbasket Food Pantry:</b> Julia	Allen Market Place, 1629 East Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 48912	517.367.2468	<b>Mon 9 am – 12 pm</b>	All donations welcome.
<b>City Rescue Mission of Lansing:</b> Joe	607 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing	517.485.0145	<b>Mon – Sun 7 am - 7 pm</b>	Favorites are bell peppers, cucumber, cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, zucchini, and summer squash. Please no lettuce, kale or herbs.
<b>First Presbyterian Church:</b> Ron or Dave	510 W Ottawa St, Lansing, 48933	517.574.5124	<b>Mon-Thurs Call between 9-11:30 to drop off before noon.</b>	Earlier in the week is best for donations. No celery, lettuce or carrots.
<b>Northwest Initiative:</b> Peggy	510 W. Ottawa St (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), Lansing, 48933	517.999.2894 (office) or 517.885.0659 (cell)	<b>Office is open Mon, Wed, Fri. Most staff are working from home, so call to organize a drop off time.</b>	Favorites are tomatoes: especially green or large red; collards, corn, mustard & turnip greens, smaller zucchini, cucumbers & all fruits. Please no garlic scapes, kale, or eggplant.
<b>South Lansing</b>				
<b>Crossroads (Gateway):</b> Home Manager	3240 S. Waverly Rd, Lansing, 48911	517.882.7217	<b>Open 24/7; 9-5 preferred</b>	Favorites are fruit, corn, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and onions.
<b>Lansing COGIC:</b> Vishinski	5304 Wise Rd, Lansing, 48911	517.882.2335 517.231.5339	<b>Tues, before 8am</b>	All donations welcome
<b>LMTS Community Outreach Services:</b> Joshua or Joy	2645 W. Holmes Rd, Suite #3, Lansing, 48911	517.253.0302 517.862.6011	<b>Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm Fri 12-2pm</b>	Favorites are onions, green peppers, tomatoes, and greens. Prefer not to receive herbs.

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<b>Southside Community Kitchen:</b> Marcia	Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, 48911	517.375.2977	<b>Re-opening in late September but would love some late-season veg! Please call and check.</b>	<b>Re-opening in late September but would love some late-season veg! Please call and check.</b>
<b>Outlying Areas</b>				
<b>MSU Student Food Bank:</b> Nicole	They pick up. <b>(East Lansing locations preferred)</b>	foodbank@msu.edu	<b>Flexible</b>	Contact by email to arrange a pickup. All donations welcome.
<b>SIREN/Eaton Shelter:</b> Janet	520 Robinson Rd, <b>Charlotte, 48813</b>	517.543.0748	<b>Mon-Fri 9-5</b>	Must call ahead.
<b>Redeemer United Methodist:</b> Suzie Unruh	13980 Schavey Rd, <b>DeWitt, 48820</b>	Speak to Suzie Unruh: Main: 517.669.3430 x 312 Mobile: 269.275.8775	<b>Mon 8:30-4:30, Tues at 10am</b>	No tomatoes, no food requiring refrigeration.
<b>Heart &amp; Hands</b>	9220 Kinneville Rd, <b>Eaton Rapids, 48827</b>	517.663.7104	<b>Tues 4-6, Wed &amp; Thurs 9-12</b>	Donations can be dropped off at stand anytime during open hours. Come in if you need a receipt.
<b>Haslett Food Pantry:</b> Ruth	1427 Haslett Rd, <b>Haslett, 48840</b>	517.339.8383	<b>Tues &amp; Wed, 10-11:30</b>	Favorites are zucchini, tomatoes, beans, squash, and cucumbers. No kale or collards please.
<b>Helping Hands:</b> Phil or Bill	621 Jefferson St, <b>Charlotte, 48813</b>	517.543.8737 517.231.2205	<b>Tues 11-5:30, Wed 10-4:30, Thurs 9-4</b>	All donations welcome.
<b>Leslie Outreach:</b> Carolyn	112 S Main St, <b>Leslie, 49251</b>	517.960.9456	<b>Thurs 9-5</b>	Thursday morning best. Favorites are tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, fruit
<b>Okemos Community Food Pantry:</b> Beth	4734 Okemos Rd. <b>Okemos, 48864</b>	517.349.4220	<b>Tues 9-1:30 Wed 8:30-9</b>	All donations welcome.
<b>Safe Center (RAVE):</b> Angie	1300 N Hickory St, <b>Owosso, 48867</b>	989.723.9716	<b>Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30</b>	No more than a box of each vegetable.

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## **TOP FRESH PRODUCE VARIETIES TO GROW FOR DONATION**

### **Great due to popularity & ease of growing...**

- 1) **Summer squash (patty pan, zucchini, etc.)** Refrigerate in a plastic bag until drop off. Do not wash.
- 2) **Cucumbers** Store in perforated plastic bag, in cool spot, ~55°F. Ok to store in fridge for a few days.
- 3) **Tomatoes & Tomatillos** Loss of color, firmness and flavor if stored below 40°F, so do not refrigerate!
- 4) **HARDY greens (spinach, kale, Swiss chard)** Harvest the outer leaves when plants are sturdy and well established. Leave 4-6 leaves so that the plant can continue to grow and produce throughout the summer. Consider dipping greens in cool water before bagging and refrigerating before dropping off.

### **Great due to storage capabilities...**

- 5) **Winter squash** Harvest before frost (or string of cold nights below 50F) and cure for at least a week before storage, allowing any bruises or cuts to heal.
- 6) **Onions, leeks, shallots, garlic** Cut tops after 2 weeks of field/bench curing before dry, cold storage.
- 7) **Beets** Consider long-season varieties, Detroit Dark Red and Lutz Green Leaf.
- 8) **Potatoes** Properly harvested and stored potatoes typically last 3 to 6 months or as long as 6 to 9 months!
- 9) **Carrots** Trim tops to within a ½ inch before storing.
- 10) **Kohlrabi, parsnips, turnips** Store well, but are not as popular.

**Note about apples:** Be sure to store these crops separately from ethylene producing crops like apples; exposure to ethylene can cause bitter flavors.

### **In general:**

- **The later the harvest can be delayed, the greater the stability in storage.**
- **When possible, harvest them cold & keep them cold!**

### **For hot meal sites like soup kitchens, churches, and Tri-County Commission on Aging (Meals on Wheels and Senior Dining Sites), also think about:**

- **Herbs:** mint, oregano, sage, basil, dill, chives
- **Peppers** (dried are good too!) Just be sure to clearly label to indicate the level of hotness.

### **For seniors, people who are confined to their homes, your neighbors...**

- Small quantities of your garden produce (*already cleaned is helpful*)
- Raspberries, blackberries (*expensive & perishable*)

### **For items not prepared in a commercial kitchen**

- Items that aren't prepared in a commercial kitchen - like eggs and home canned items - can't be given to pantries or agencies. Share these items only with people you know.

### **A couple friendly reminders...**

- Please, no strange looking garden leftovers! If you wouldn't want to eat it, others won't either!
- Remember, what is "unique" to you, might just be "weird and unfamiliar" to others.
- **Recognizable & common varieties of produce are popular and desired!**

### **Further Resources...**

- Harvest & Storage Options: <https://www.reneesgarden.com/blogs/gardening-resources/98156289-when-the-time-is-ripe-harvesting-vegetables-for-best-flavor>
- Gardening in Michigan: <http://migarden.msu.edu/>
- Volunteer with the GLFB: <https://greaterlansingfoodbank.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/>