

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about our veg box CSA.

How long will the scheme run for?

We plan to run the scheme for 30 weeks so starting on 3.6.21 and finishing on 23.12.21.

Where and when can the boxes be collected?

The boxes are ready at farm from 1pm on Thursdays. You can also collect your box from 26 Brooklands Park, Whitehead after 2pm. At the moment we cannot offer a delivery service, but you may be able to join with another user to help with the logistics of picking up boxes; there are currently customer groups in Ballyclare and Jordanstown who take it in turn to collect their and who we can connect you with if you live near these areas.

What size is the box?

We have one standard sized of box with 6 items/week. If you want more, you can sign up for two boxes; if you'd like less we recommend you get a box every other week! The six items will an average so some weeks there may be slightly less especially at the beginning and end of the season and some weeks more when we have surplus.

What is a CSA?

Community Supported Agriculture. We like to say we put the culture back into agriculture. We aim to link those who consume our food with the production as well. So, we all share the risks and benefits and are more closely involved with how food is produced, this is reflected in members//customers signing up for a full season, June to December. In doing so we are all more closely involved in the cycles of food production and the variability of the harvests.

What vegetables will I get?

What is in your box will vary over the course of the season. So far in 2021 we have planted numerous varieties of tomato, courgette, beans, potatoes, onions, shallots, cabbages, leeks, peppers, chillis, aubergine and many others.

Can I help grow the vegetables?

Yes, please. We would love to have more help. The more people who are involved, the more likely we are to succeed. Tuesdays and Thursday mornings are our usual veggie volunteer days, though we also have monthly volunteer days the 4th Saturday in most months.

Will the vegetables be washed or packaged?

No, the vegetable will be straight from the ground and the amount of soil will depend on the rainfall. In the interests of food safety we recommend thoroughly washing your vegetables before cooking or eating. We ask that you bring your own bag/box/basket to put the vegetable into when you collect them so we can reduce the use of plastic as much as possible.

What if I am away?

You can cancel your box for a time, but we will not be able to process refunds. Most people just arrange for a friend or neighbour to use the vegetables and it can be a way of introducing others to the scheme.

How do I pay for my vegetables?

Depending on whether you've signed up for a weekly (£270/season) or a biweekly (£135/season) vegbox, we'll invoice you with the total at the start of the season and you can then choose to pay for it in 1 to 6 instalments. These can be via cheque, cash or BACS.