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# WEST PASCO URBAN FARM REPORT

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NEW PORT RICHEY FARMNET  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2024



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Mark Your Calendar

[www.FarmNetNPR.com](http://www.FarmNetNPR.com)

## WEEKLY UPDATE BY DELL DECHANT

Growing conditions are challenging, with very dry conditions requiring considerable irrigation daily. The cooler temperatures are welcome for the winter greens, but the arid conditions are stressful.

Beware and be aware: Forecasts call for a possible freeze on Tuesday night into Wednesday morning before dawn. Freeze is likely in areas north of Pasco. In Pasco County, the US 19

urban corridor will probably avoid a freeze, especially in southern Pasco. The further east you are the greater the chances of a freeze.

This week's forecast calls for oscillating temperatures - starting off cool (a bit below normal), then getting colder around mid-week (with the possible freeze Tuesday night into Wednesday morning), then warming to near normal toward the end of the week.

Growers are reminded that we are in the dry season, which will continue until next June. Thus far, the fall has been even drier than normal, and fronts have brought little if any rain. In the dry season (September to



## Broccoli seedlings from Grand Gardens with two growers.

June), most rain occurs when cold fronts pass over the area. If the fronts do not bring rain, irrigation is necessary. All plantings will need irrigation this week. Remember to start or expand a rain collection system - even putting a heavy-duty trash can under a gutter downspout will work.

This week's recommendations for CSA shareholders are collards, kale, and arugula. This is the third full week of harvesting, and shares are getting a bit larger. We are still about a month out from full production. We have a special offering of sweet potatoes, left over from the Round-Up.

We encourage Growers and gardeners to plant all winter vegetables: collards, kale, arugula, broccoli, cabbages, even brussels sprouts. All are members of the Brassica family. All will thrive throughout the winter and into the spring. Additional good news, these greens can survive a freeze. Collards, are the champions in this regard, and can survive a hard freeze (to about 10 degrees). The other Brassicas are a bit less hardy, with mid- to upper-20s the safe zone for them.

Watch for articles coming up on winter growing and freezes on the FarmNet web site. Go to <https://farmnetnpr.com/>

In the meantime, pick up seeds and seedlings from FarmNet, which feature organic heirloom seeds from Seed Savers Exchange, and the FarmNet seed bank - the largest collection of local seeds. Seedlings are also available, including tomatoes and collard greens.

Besides the winter greens, right now, three excellent transitional vegetables are cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers. We also like Dragon Tongue Beans. All of these transitional crops will produce through the rest of the fall, through winter and into spring. Be advised, however, unlike the winter greens noted above, they do not thrive in very cold temperatures and a freeze will kill them. So, growers beware.

If you desire seeds and seedlings, contact us through FarmNet web site, and join our mailing list for the Seed & Seedling Project. Go to <https://farmnetnpr.com/>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Collards and Winter Green  
Festival

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Details coming soon!

# Friendship Farms & Fare - CSA

December 2, 2024

West Pasco pickup Tuesday afternoon to evening (5:00)

\* When you order, please indicate pickup time.

\* larger quantity available if desired

***Welcome to the start of our 14th year!***

## Vegetables

**Arugula**

**Collard Greens**

**Hibiscus, Cranberry** - excellent addition to salads, can be used to make tea.  
Tangy, semi-sweet

**Kale** - first of the season, smallish

**Sweet Potatoes** - USDA Organic "Red Sweets." Our local harvest has been distributed, but we have some beautiful large red sweet potatoes, left over from the Round-Up. Each of these are 2 pounds or more.

## Herbs

**Basil** - lavender

**Chives\***

**Cilantro** - similar to cilantro but richer, more intense flavor

**Oregano, Italian**

**Purslane** - end of season on purslane, enough for a nice share

<https://www.nutrition-and-you.com/purslane.html>

**Rosemary \***

**Tarragon**

## Medicinal

**Aloe**

## Other items and Samples

**Seedlings:** lavender basil, milkweed, bell peppers, arugula, tomatoes, collard greens, dragon tongue beans (\$3-\$5)

**Loquat Trees:** Various sizes (\$10-\$25)

**Worms** - Quart sized container of live red worms in vermipost medium (\$10)

Thanks to all who support Friendship Farms & Fare CSA and its Agrarian Mission.

If you know anyone who would like information on acquiring a share in Friendship Farms & Fare CSA, send a message to New Port Richey FarmNet on Facebook.

Cost of annual shares are very modest compared with other CSAs.

If you would like to acquire local seeds and seedlings, send a message to New Port Richey FarmNet on Facebook and ask to be added to our mailing list.

