

## **Food Safety Guidelines for Plant it Forward Donors**

Thank you for helping your neighbors in need by donating fresh produce! It is important to consider the safety and quality of the food being donated by following these simple guidelines for your harvest.

### **Would you eat it?**

Please donate high quality produce to the Food Bank.

### **Personal Hygiene**

Prior to any harvesting, use proper hand washing techniques (wash hands for 40 seconds using warm water and soap, rinse and dry with a clean or disposable towel, or air dry).

### **Safe Harvesting**

Ideal containers are plastic baskets, plastic bowls or coolers.

Clean all containers, scissors or other harvesting tools with warm, soapy water prior to harvest. Sanitize as needed. Large pieces of dirt can be removed from the produce by shaking gently and/or rinsing with water from the garden hose.

### **Safe Storage**

If produce needs to be stored, please place produce in a food-grade plastic bag, store on the top shelf of a clean refrigerator away from raw animal products and without exposure to open containers.

### **Safe Delivery**

Transport in a cooler that has been cleaned with warm, soapy water and sanitized by spraying with a solution of 1 teaspoon bleach per quart of water. Allow to stand for several minutes, rinse and air dry. If ice is used, please make sure ice is made from clean, potable water.

### **Protection from Liability**

As a donor you are protected by the “Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act” (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-104publ210/pdf/PLAW-104publ210.pdf>). This law protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the needy recipient.

Updated 8/1/2019



# PLANT IT FORWARD FAQ

**What is Plant It Forward?** As a partnership between the Gardens on Spring Creek and the Food Bank for Larimer County, Plant It Forward encourages local gardeners to plant, grow and share some of their fresh produce with community members in need. The Food Bank for Larimer County strives to ensure that 40% of the 9 Million pounds of food distributed annually are fresh produce – Plant It Forward helps achieve this goal.

**Who benefits from Plant It Forward?** Your neighbors, friends, co-workers, and other community members. Produce donations directly benefit individuals, families, seniors and children who receive food from the Food Bank for Larimer County's Food Share pantries.

**When did Plant It Forward begin?** 2011

**When does this year's program begin and end?** It corresponds with the growing season in Colorado. Usually we start accepting donations in May and continue to accept through the end of the growing season, which usually occurs in October.

**Who can participate?** Everyone!

**Is there a cost to join?** No, it's free!

**What if I only have two tomatoes to donate?** No donation is too small. Or too large!

**Will you accept herbs or fruit?** Yes!

**How can I get involved beyond donating my produce?** Be a Neighborhood Champion! The neighborhood Champions extend our reach into our community. Our champions serve as volunteer collection points for produce donations in various neighborhoods, churches, or workplaces throughout Larimer County.

**Will my produce be weighed when I drop it off?** Produce donations will only be weighed at the time of drop off if delivered to the Food Bank for Larimer County directly. The Gardens do not have a scale. However, program coordinators will be monitoring total pounds collected throughout the season, and will be updating the website with the pounds received so far.

**What is your goal this year?** Each year we work to collect 45,000 lbs of fresh garden produce.

## Donation Locations & Times:

**Fort Collins Food Bank**  
1301 Blue Spruce Drive  
Monday-Friday, Noon-6 pm

**Loveland Food Bank**  
2600 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am-2 pm

**Food Bank HQ and Distribution Center**  
5706 Wright Drive, Loveland  
Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm

**Gardens on Spring Creek**  
2145 Centre Avenue  
Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm

