

**Union Square Farmers Market
2006
Grown in Somerville Table
Application**



Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm
June 10 to October 28

The Union Square Farmers Market showcases Massachusetts grown produce, greens, fruits and berries, seedlings, herbs, fresh cut flowers as well as baked goods and crafts. The weekly market transforms the plaza into a truly eclectic market and neighborhood gathering experience.

The City of Somerville, The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets and Union Square Main Streets oversee the market with the input of the Union Square Farmers Market Committee, a group made up of local residents and organizations.

This year, the Union Square Farmers Market includes a Grown in Somerville Table, a weekly space for Somerville's urban growers and organizations to share their produce and services with the community for a select market day.

**SOMERVILLE'S URBAN FARMERS ARE INVITED TO APPLY
FOR SPACE AT THE GROWN IN SOMERVILLE TABLE**

The Union Square Farmers Market will provide you with:

- A tent with a 6' table.
- An audience of farmers market customers ready to learn about your urban growing and to buy your products.
- Advice, possibly unsolicited, about how to best present your products or draw interest to your table.
- Loads of goodwill.

At the market you are responsible for:

- Presenting an attractive display no later than 9 am on market day.
- Continuous staffing of the table from 9 am – 1 pm. The market is open rain or shine.
- Cleanup of the area by 2 pm, including taking all materials or trash with you.
- Assisting the Market Manager to set up and dismantle and store the canopy and table.
- Abiding by all instructions of the Market Manager.

GROWN IN SOMERVILLE TABLE AT UNION SQUARE FARMERS MARKET

The Grown In Somerville Table is available to:

- 1) Somerville growers interested in selling home-grown produce – for example, fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit, fresh or dried flowers or plants -- all grown right here in our fair city!
- 2) Non-profit organizations and community groups wishing to provide information and outreach of benefit to Union Square residents.

Vendors at the Grown In Somerville Table are selected on a week-by-week basis. Fees are \$30 per market date. The selection process is competitive -- a completed application is not a guarantee of table space. Selection of vendors for the Grown in Somerville table will take place on a rolling basis by the Union Square Farmers Market Committee. We will strive to provide you with your choice date/s (and we can help you figure out what dates might be best for you, if you ask). In the event that you must cancel less than a week before your scheduled date, you will forfeit your application fee.

For Somerville Growers:

- All products must have been grown in Somerville. Produce may include fresh vegetables and herbs, plants and flowers grown by the seller in Somerville.
- The produce at the market must be of the highest quality and have been harvested as close to market date as possible.
- Farmers come to market to support the community and make a living. Any price structure that undermines those efforts will cause the market to fail. Please keep this in mind when you set your price. We require that you determine your price(s) and provide them to us with your application.
- In accordance with federal law, only produce certified by the Northeast Organic Farmers' Association (NOFA) as organic may be labeled "organic." You may, however, state what the product was NOT grown with. (i.e. "Grown without synthetic pesticides.")
- Each package or container must be labeled with the list of all ingredients.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. There is no deadline, but submit early to get your first choice of dates.

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:

- 1) A completed Grown In Somerville Table Application
- 2) A check or money order for \$30 per desired date made out to Union Square Main Streets. If your application is not accepted your fee will be returned to you.
- 3) A copy of the lead/heavy metal soil test results with beneath-acceptable levels. You may apply before your results are in but must show proof of test in process.

GROWN IN SOMERVILLE TABLE AT UNION SQUARE FARMERS MARKET
SOMERVILLE GROWER APPLICATION

Completed applications should be delivered to

Union Square Main Streets:

By mail: USMS, PO Box One, Somerville, MA 02143

By hand: c/o CAAS, 66-70 Union Square, Suite 104, Somerville, MA 02143

Please print clearly or type

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone – Day: _____ Phone Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Dates requested in order of preference: _____

Market dates are Saturdays, June 10 through October 28

List the products and products prices you wish to sell at the market:

(e.g. basil \$2 per bunch, hot pepper plants \$5 for seedlings)

Please describe where you grow your produce:

* Checks or money order of \$30 payable to Union Square Main Streets.

* Include a copy of your the lead/heavy metal soil test results, or proof of test in process.

Application Deadline is rolling.

SOIL TESTING IS GOOD FOR YOU – KNOW YOUR SOIL!

All Grown In Somerville applicants must test the soil in which they will be growing any edible products, or products that will be packaged with soil (such as bedding plants) for lead and other heavy metals. Products from vendors with unsafe levels of lead or of other metals in their soil cannot participate in the Union Square Farmers Market, regardless of product, until successful remediation of the soil is proven to the satisfaction of the USFM Committee.

Lead levels in the soil we play in, grow in, and track into the house (where it becomes dust that we breathe in) is a serious matter, especially in yards where young children are present. If you find that you have unacceptably high levels of lead in certain “hot spots” in your yard, there are many options open to you to keep your yard, your family and yourself safe.

There are private labs that can do soil testing, and kits you can order online to test for yourself. However, we strongly recommend the University of Massachusetts soil lab in Amherst, which is relatively inexpensive and usually provides results within a week. The \$9 Standard Soil Test will provide you with lead and other heavy metal results, as well as pH and nutrient amounts found in your sample. Recommendations for nutrient and pH adjustment are included with the results. Procedure and forms are online at www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/ or follow the procedure outlined below.

How to prepare soil sample for testing:

Using a small spade or trowel, take soil from 12 different sections of the whole area in which you plan to plant. Soil samples should be about 6-8 inch deep plugs, the approximate root zone of most plants; include the soil from the first inch all the way down. Mix the samples together and spread the soil to air dry (do not dry in oven). Mix once more; from this mixture place one cup into a Ziploc bag. If you are growing in more than one location with distinctly different soil types, prepare separate samples for each. Label the bag with your name, address, and an ID name for the sample for your reference (i.e., “backyard”, “23 Main St side”)

Send the following to the soil testing lab:

- 1) your ziploc bagged sample(s), carefully packaged.
- 2) a check made out to *University of Massachusetts* for \$9 x # of bagged samples
- 3) Your complete address, email, phone, and what you are growing (choose: Home Vegetables, Home Flowers/Herbs, Home Fruit)
- 4) state a preference for receiving results EITHER by mail OR by email OR by fax (if you want more than one, then clearly state it and include \$2 extra).

Mail your package to:

Soil Testing Lab, West Experiment Station, 682 North Pleasant Street,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003