

Hello Gleaners,

Welcome to the 2020 Gleaning Season! (If you're no longer interested in Gleaning, please let me know and I'll remove you from this mailing list.)

The staff at the Galiano Health Care Society have given the Gleaning Project their blessing to proceed this summer in spite of the pandemic, so long as we take steps to reduce the risk of contamination. This means that this year, things are going to be quite different from in the past, so **please** read this message if you are planning to pick with us this summer. In order to ensure everyone is safe, we will need to be patient with one another as we adjust to a new way of doing things. Please ask questions and voice your concerns, and I will work to make sure things are clear and that everyone is comfortable.

General Guidelines:

- Do not join a gleaning session if you are feeling ill or have been out of the country in the past 14 days.

Gleaning Guidelines:

- Maintain social distancing (2 meters) at gleaning sessions - this may not always be possible. Pickers are encouraged to wear masks in such situations. I will assign tasks in order to support physical distancing.
- Maximum 6 people at each picking session.
- Everyone must sanitize hands at the beginning of each picking session - I'll have sanitizer available.
- Bags: Each person will get a picking bag to use. They're numbered so you can keep track of which one you've been assigned. At the end of the pick please load it into the green used bag tote so it can be sterilized.
- Orchard ladders and Picking tools: we don't have enough of these for everyone so please cooperate so that only one person is touching each tool at each picking session.
- This year we'll also be having pickers pick their own share, rather than pooling the produce together and then redistributing it. When picking for the Food Program or the landowner, pickers will wear gloves, which I'll have available.
- We will still be weighing the harvest, so we can keep an accurate record for our notes and our funders. Each person will weigh the fruit they pick, hanging their picking bag on the scale. Please don't touch the scale.

As always, Gleaning is an exercise in working communally - please be patient if the way we do things this year means that some shares are not exactly the same size as others. The Food Program share will be processed or cleaned before use in our programs. Attached please find the Galiano Club's general Covid Risk Reduction Procedures, as well as those specific to Gleaning.

General Gleaning Program information

- The gleaning project organizes groups of volunteer pickers to pick excess fruit (and sometimes vegetables). We are very grateful to the landowners who generously host us, and being respectful of their space and property is very important. Please keep that in mind when you arrive at a site. This also sometimes determines the times we are able to pick, as we make sure we are there when it is convenient to any residents.

- The harvest is divided 3 ways: One third for the landowner, one third for the Food Program, and one third divided among the picking volunteers.
- When I have a site that I know is ready to pick, I will email everyone on the Gleaning list to inform you of the opportunity (if you're getting this email, you're on it!). I try to give you as much notice as possible, but often the window is pretty tight - ripe fruit waits for no picker! It's much easier for me to coordinate if you reply promptly.
- I work hard to gauge the right number of pickers, taking into consideration how much fruit there is, and what we can safely manage at each site. Sometimes there are more people interested than we can accommodate - please know that I do my best to make sure everyone gets a chance to pick and if I say no to you for one pick, you'll probably be first in line for the next opportunity. This does mean that each person should not expect to pick more than a handful of times each season. How often you can expect to pick depends on your availability and how bountiful a harvest we have from year to year.
- If you indicate you are available for a pick, and you are offered a spot to pick, please take that commitment seriously. I know that things come up last minute and sometimes it is necessary to cancel - in that case please give me as much notice as possible so that I can hopefully replace you. It's much more efficient when we can visit a site with the right number of pickers and get all the ripe fruit, rather than have to arrange to return multiple times to the same trees. (However, please do NOT attend a picking session if you are unwell, even if it means cancelling at the last minute.)
- To ensure your safety, please take time to orient yourself with any equipment before using it, especially for the first time. Please speak up if you're not comfortable doing a task. Below is a guide to orchard ladder safety - please make sure you read it before coming to a picking session.

Orchard Ladder Safety

- Choose area where earth is firm, dry and even. Move any debris. Ideally, place tripod at a 75 degree angle.
- Use the tripod rather than leaning the ladder on a tree limb. When working on sloped terrain, place the tripod upslope. While working on a cross slope, place the tripod in alignment with the lower side rail.
- Ascend and descend facing the ladder
- Hold onto the side rails and not the rungs
- Begin harvesting fruit at the top of the tree and work down, descending the ladder as the fruit bag becomes fuller.
- Rest the fruit bag on the rungs to reduce back strain
- Empty the fruit bag before it becomes too heavy or full
- Keep belt buckle or navel, as well as the picking bag, within the two side rails to maintain center of gravity
- Never lean too far because this will affect center of gravity
- Wear proper fitting clothing that will not catch onto the ladder or tree branches
- Wear shoes with heels so feet do not slide through the rungs
- Pay attention to muddy shoes as this could lead to slipping and falling off of the ladder
- Do not use a branch or limb to extend reach
- Move ladder by picking it up
- Avoid sitting or stepping on the top cap or first step
- Do not use a cell phone while on the ladder

If you have any questions about any of this, please let me know.
Thanks all, see you soon.
Emma