


## Thank you so much for your donation of fresh, local produce!

Fresh produce is a delicious and nutritious part of a healthy diet, and we are so thankful for your support in providing fresh fruits and vegetables to our neighbors in Rhode Island!

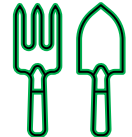
To ensure food safe fruits and vegetables for our community, please follow these steps from the University of Rhode Island's Produce Safety Education Program:

### PRACTICE GOOD PERSONAL HYGIENE

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- ✓ **Wash hands often with soap and water!** Wash hands:
    - Before working in your garden
    - After touching anything that could contaminate your hands (ex. sneezing, rubbing nose, touching eyes, using a cell phone)
    - After using the bathroom
    - Before / after eating or drinking
    - Before / after treating wounds or cut
  - ✓ Wear **clean clothes, shoes,** and use **clean gloves.**

### KEEP TOOLS AND CONTAINERS CLEAN

- ✓ Keep your **gardening tools clean,** and sanitize when needed (ex. droppings found on tools).
- ✓ Use **clean, food grade containers** for harvested fruits and vegetables. If you use plastic bags, use **new, single-use,** food-grade bags.
- ✓ After harvesting, keep food and harvest containers **off the ground.**



### PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF CROPS

*Did you know fresh produce is one of the leading causes of foodborne illness? Most foodborne illnesses are caused by contact with animals or animal waste.*



- ✓ **Keep animals away** from active growing areas.
- ✓ Monitor gardens regularly for **animal intrusion and fecal matter** AND just before harvesting.
- ✓ Do not use **manure or animal waste** in the garden or in compost.
- ✓ **Compost piles** are kept separate and away from active growing areas.
- ✓ Use **potable water** (water that's safe for drinking, such as municipal/town water) in your garden. If you use a well, **test water** prior to the gardening season for any harmful bacteria.
- ✓ When **transporting produce** in vehicles, do not let domestic animals or pets in the vehicle at the same time.



# Resources for RI Local Gardens and Farms



Interested in learning more about how to increase your crop yields, improve your gardening skills, and strengthen your food safety practices? These resources are excellent places to learn all that and more!

## URI Gardening and Farming Support

The University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension has comprehensive educational resources for gardeners and farmers across the state. Here are a few links to explore:

- Produce Safety Information for RI Farmers: [uri.edu/foodsafety/producesafetytraining/](http://uri.edu/foodsafety/producesafetytraining/)
- Produce Safety Information for Home, School, and Community Gardens: [uri.edu/foodsafety/grow/](http://uri.edu/foodsafety/grow/)
- URI Produce Safety Checklist for Self-Auditing Your Garden: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11DW89lurf0NlgP9nAbG7hFV6qDVDzgbUftYlJGEmty0/edit>
- Fruit and Vegetable Production Resources: [uri.edu/coopext/vegetable-production/](http://uri.edu/coopext/vegetable-production/)
- URI Master Gardener Program: [uri.edu/mastergardener/](http://uri.edu/mastergardener/)

### **Contact (URI)**

**Sejal Lanterman**, Produce Safety Educator and Outreach Coordinator  
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 <p><b>URI MASTER GARDENERS</b> <i>Cultivating the future</i></p>	<b>Have a question?</b> Send an email and photos to our URI Master Gardener volunteer educators anytime, or call us Monday–Wednesday and Friday from 9–3 p.m. for science-based answers to your gardening and environmental questions!
	<b>Call:</b> 401.874.4836 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:gardener@uri.edu">gardener@uri.edu</a> <b>Address:</b> URI Mallon Outreach Center 3 East Alumni Avenue, Kingston, R.I. 02881 <b>Visit:</b> <a href="http://uri.edu/mastergardener">uri.edu/mastergardener</a>

**GARDENING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE**

## Department of Environmental Management, Produce Safety (RIDEM)

RIDEM is the regulatory agency for farms in Rhode Island. Beginning in 2020, new legislation requires that any person or business growing, harvesting, packing, or holding produce that enters commerce (for sale or other financial benefit (ex. tax credits)) must register as a RI Produce Farm and renew their registration annually. This does not apply to most home gardens, however, some community gardens may have to register.

Registering will give the garden or farm access to educational materials, trainings, workshops, and services like soil and water testing. **Note:** DEM will NOT inspect registered gardens or farms if they are excluded from the Produce Safety Rule. If you are unsure about what applies to your garden or farm, the DEM encourages you to contact the Produce Safety Program for more information.

- Produce Safety Rule Information: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture/fsma.php>
- Rhode Island Produce Farm Registration Form: <https://ridem.wufoo.com/forms/z1esj6la0ass4kl/>
- RI Produce Farm Legislation <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-00-2>

### **Contact (RIDEM)**

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