

# Growing For Good

## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

### Local Ag & Seafood Grants



RI Department of Environmental Management awarded six grants to farmers in the SCLT network in March. The farmers, Jean, Josephine, Steven, Garmai and Josephina, pictured at left with Governor McKee, will use the grants for vans, a chicken coop and a tractor.

### Good Earth Garden Center

In it's 3rd year of operations, we will open Saturday, April 27, at 1800 Scituate Avenue in Hope, RI. Stop by to purchase cold weather crops like bok choy, kale and spinach. By May 11 you will find warmer weather herbs, veggies and flower starts grown by farmers in the SCLT network. Friday through Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm until June 16. Compost and organic fertilizer will also be available for purchase.

### SCLT's 32nd Annual Rare and Unusual Plant Sale

Head to City Farm for the Plant Sale at 168 West Clifford on Saturday May 18th and Sunday May 19th. We got the band back together and are working everyday in our own greenhouse and in nurseries and gardens across the state to bring you the healthiest, most exciting and diverse range of plants that we can. Mark your calendar now!

### 401 GIVES

United Way of RI hosted the 401 Gives fundraising drive in April. 74 generous supporters contributed \$31,117 to SCLT's Youth programs. These funds will be used to pay wages and other costs for youth involved in SCLT's workforce development program. The program provides hands on training for agriculture, nutrition and food preparation and careers in the green economy. THANK YOU!



# SCLT Promotes the Small & Urban Farms Success Act

This proposed bill has been introduced in the RI State Senate by Sen. Tiara Mack (Providence) and in the State House of Representatives by Rep. Michelle McGaw (Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton). It aims to provide tax relief to small and urban farmers on sales, income, and property taxes. It will encourage the growth of urban and small farms in RI while fostering a sustainable and equitable local food system.

Existing farm tax relief programs were designed over 30 years ago and do not benefit small and urban farms. This is because these farms do not meet the size and revenue thresholds set for participation in the programs.



**Edith** Paye on her 1/2 acre plot at Urban Edge Farm.

“

**The bill will lift a major burden off of my shoulders that are already aching from all of the hard labor and expenses that go into this difficult work. - Edith Paye**

The result is that small and urban farmers pay taxes that many large and rural farmers don't have to pay. This legislation levels the playing field by creating tax relief programs for small and urban farms that are designed specifically to support these businesses.

Recent USDA Agricultural Census data indicates that Rhode Island still has the highest prices for ag land in the 48 contiguous states. Despite this, the total number of farms increased from 2017 to 2022. This increase was driven by the small farm sector which saw growth of over 19% while the total number of larger farms decreased by about 9%.

The time is now to modernize our farm tax relief programs in RI. Food costs keep going up and we can't afford to lose more farms. Let's invest in the farmers we have now so that we can grow our local food system in the future.

Please contact the chairs of the Senate and House Finance Committees (Rep. Abney from Newport and Middletown and Sen. DiPalma from Middletown, Newport, Little Compton and Tiverton) and ask them to refer this bill to their respective chambers for a vote! Do you need an email address or phone number for them? Contact Amelia Lopez, SCLT Food Access Associate at [ameila@southsideclt.org](mailto:ameila@southsideclt.org)



Southside Community Land Trust's 32nd Annual

# Plant Sale 2024

City Farm  
168 West Clifford  
(corner of Dudley St.)  
Providence

Saturday & Sunday  
May 18th & 19th  
10am - 2pm

Come get  
your city-sown,  
city-grown

members  
get in early  
9am on  
Saturday

EBT &  
SNAP  
benefits



JOIN US SATURDAY, MAY 18th AND SUNDAY, MAY 19th  
FOR THE 32nd ANNUAL  
RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANT SALE

Members only shopping at 9 am on Saturday. General public joins Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm and on Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm. As always, SCLT members can pick up 50 lbs of compost and receive a 10% discount on plants! Come get your favorite herbs, veggies, annuals and perennials from your favorite people.

## BECOME A MEMBER

If you are shopping at Plant Sale it really pays to be a member of SCLT. Benefits include:

- Early entry into the sale at 9 am on Saturday. This is when our selection is largest.
- 50 gallons of organic compost you can take home THAT DAY so you can get your new plants in fresh soil right away.
- Discounts from SCLT retailer members like Briggs Nursery, Southside Smoothie and Stock Culinary Goods.
- Free seeds and discounts on items like organic fertilizers.

Other people become SCLT members as a way to support our gardens, farms and the programs we operate that help people build local food systems in their communities. **Scan the code or visit [southsideclt.org](https://southsideclt.org) today.**





Southside Community Land Trust's 32nd Annual

# Plant Sale 2024

City Farm  
168 West Clifford  
(corner of Dudley St.)  
Providence

Saturday & Sunday  
May 18th & 19th  
10am - 2pm

members  
get in early!  
9am on  
Saturday

Come get  
your city-sown,  
city-grown  
plants here!

EBT &  
SNAP  
benefits  
accepted

rain  
or  
shine!



Live music!

Circle of The Drum  
Chris Monti, Phil Edmonds  
Mira Goldman, the Mericans  
Kenny Ellis and Sean Martin  
The Southside Three  
Karen Isenberg  
& other musical  
surprises!

 SOUTHSIDE  
COMMUNITY  
LAND TRUST  
southsideclt.org

Become  
a member!

thousands  
of rare &  
unusual plants!