



DIY HARVEST INSTRUCTIONS

*Thank you for your efforts to harvest your surplus fruit and fight hunger!
Below is all the info you need to plan a Do-It-Yourself Harvest with Food Forward!*

Please let us know at least 3 days in advance of when you'd like to harvest, and if you'd like to acquire the equipment so we can provide you with all the info you'll need.

1) REGISTER YOUR FRUIT TREE & CONTACT BACKYARD HARVEST STAFF

- If you haven't already, [register your tree on the Food Forward website](#). Takes just a minute or two!
- If you've previously registered your property call our harvest coordinators at 818-764-1022 x 207 (for Los Angeles & San Gabriel Valley) or 805-630-2728 (for Ventura & Santa Barbara) to give them a heads up you plan to harvest the fruit from your tree.

2) CHOOSE YOUR EQUIPMENT HUB (only if equipment is needed)

- We have locations in North Hollywood, San Pedro, San Marino, Torrance, Westchester, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara, & Ojai.
- Contact Backyard Harvest Staff at the numbers above to receive additional information required to gain access to the equipment.

3) DETERMINE WHERE THE FRUIT WILL GO!

No matter where you are, chances are, Food Forward has a relationship with a service agency nearby. Based on your location, Food Forward will send you a list of options along with contact and drop-off information. The final decision about where to send your bounty is yours! Food Forward is always looking for additional places to donate produce to, so if you have a place in mind, let us know!

4) HARVEST THE FRUIT

For tips on harvesting specific types of fruit, check out our [Fruit Profiles Harvest Guide](#). Below are a few guidelines to follow when harvesting and donating your fruit:

- Always keep in mind that Food Forward's goal is to harvest and donate FRESH fruit for those without the means to afford it. Remember that someone will be consuming this fruit within a few days so please, **only add to the box fruit that you yourself would eat, and dispose of pieces you would not.**
- **Only ripe, undamaged fruit should be added to the box. No broken skin, fruit rot, or fruit that has been on the ground should be donated. (See photo for examples of what NOT to donate)**
- **Do not donate unripe or green fruit (citrus does not ripen off of the tree).**
- When transferring fruit into boxes or bags, **it is very important to remove any leaves or stems.** Citrus leaves and stems may carry the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), a vector responsible for the spread of HLB (citrus greening disease). Find out more ACP & HLB and what you can do to prevent its spread [here](#).



IMPORTANT: Contact Food Forward following the harvest with the number of boxes or bags harvested so we can save the info for our records and email/mail you a tax deductible receipt.