

FRUITSHARE FAQ

Q: Can any fruit tree be registered in FruitShare? Will you harvest any fruit tree? If my tree does not meet the prerequisites for FruitShare, is there anything that I can do to help it fit into those criteria?

A: No, unfortunately we need to be more selective with the trees we include as we try to maximize the amount of fruit we are able to donate. To be registered, fruit trees must meet the following prerequisites:

- Tree is less than two stories tall (~ 20 ft) **OR** more than half of the branches are below 15 ft.
- There is sufficient space and even ground under/around the tree for ladder placement.

To be harvested, fruit trees, in addition to those prerequisites, must also have a sufficient fruit yield that season. If your tree does not fit the registration prerequisites, a FruitShare staff member can come out to do an assessment of your tree and determine what measures need to be taken for it to fit. The cost of this assessment is \$15. You can contact fruitshare@gulb.org to find out more about this option.

Q: How do I know whether my fruit is ripe? How do I know whether my fruit is good enough? Will you accept fruit with pest presence or damage?

A: This varies based on the type of fruit. Some fruit, such as cherries, must be harvested when ripe, but other fruits can be harvested before they are ripe and left to ripen off of the tree. The damage from some pests can make fruit inedible, but some is totally fine to either donate or process into jams, cider, etc. For specific information regarding ripeness, pest damage, and more, check out our Fruit Guides (*coming soon!*).

Q: Do I need to be present or home for tree care services or harvests?

A: Nope! If we can access the tree and you are comfortable with it, you don't need to be home when we provide a tree care service or harvest. A FruitShare staff member will be present and supervising each event.

Q: How do I schedule my tree to be harvested?

A: First, check out our [Fruit Guides](#) to ensure that your fruit is at the right stage to be picked. Next, visit [our website](#) and click on the Schedule button. During peak harvest season-especially around apricot season-our schedule may be booked out for up to three weeks. It is important to monitor your fruit throughout the season so that you can anticipate when it will be ready and schedule it before it is too late. We will also have a backup list if the schedule is full at the time that your tree is ready.

Q: How do I sign up for tree care services?

A: On our website you can find a list of all of our [tree care services](#), including links to sign up for (and in some cases schedule) services. Some of the services are only available at particular times of the year, while others can be signed up for year-round.

Q: Where does the fruit that you harvest from my tree go?

A: Up to ⅓ of the fruit is yours to keep, up to ⅓ is distributed amongst the volunteers who pick it, and the last ⅓+ of the fruit is donated to hunger relief. We donate fruit to the Utah Food Bank, local food pantries, shelters, health clinics, and anti-hunger organizations. We also distribute fruit through our free [Senior Center Markets](#) and our [Mobile Market](#). Some of the fruit is sold to local businesses, with all proceeds going towards creating sustainability in our program. Lastly, the overly ripe, buggy, damaged, inedible fruit is either preserved, composted, or fed to the turkeys on our farm.

Q: Will my tree be harvested if it is registered?

A: There is no guarantee that your tree will be harvested if it is registered. Your tree may not be harvested in the following situations:

- You do not schedule it using our online scheduling system,
- The schedule is full at the time your tree is ready to be picked,
- The fruit load on your tree is too low,
- The fruit is too difficult to access, or
- The fruit is overly ripe or damaged.

These measures are in place to make sure that we are harvesting as efficiently and effectively as possible so that we can increase the amount of and improve the quality of fruit that we are able to harvest and donate to hunger relief. If you would like to ensure that your tree will be harvested, you can sign up for our [Guaranteed Harvest](#) service on our website.

Q: If I have questions about FruitShare or about my tree, who can I contact?

A: You can contact our FruitShare Coordinator, Jenae, by emailing fruitshare@gulb.org or calling our office at (801) 318-1745. You can also use the [Contact Us form](#) on our website's homepage.

Q: What other resources are there for me to learn more about my fruit tree and how to care for it?

A: You can look in our Fruit Guides (*coming soon!*) for fruit tree specific information, join our [Orchard Stewards](#) educational program, or check out the [Utah State University Extension](#) website (use the search bar at the top to search for specific information about types of fruit trees).