

Tishrei - Cheshvan 5784 (October - November 2023)

Upcoming Events

Sign up at the links below! Dance with us on Simchat Torah. Explore your creativity outdoors with the farm art studio series. Learn about a beloved crop during garlic planting. Participate in the land stories workshop and film screening facilitated by visiting teacher Ollie Schwartz. All of these activities will take place in person at Yesod Farm+Kitchen.

Saturday, October 7, 7:30-10:00pm: [Queer Dance Party on Simchat Torah](#)
 Saturday, October 14, 2:00-4:00pm: [Relationships with Animals: Farm Art Studio](#)
 Sunday, October 22, 1:00-4:00 pm: [Garlic Planting](#)
 Thursday, November 2, 5:00-7:30 pm: [Linke Figli Land Stories Workshop](#)



Image description: We had a great time building a sukkah to prepare for the harvest festival Sukkot.

Please bring us your cardboard!

We are seeking large pieces of plastic-free cardboard (at least 1.5'x1.5', and bigger is better; ideally with all tape removed). Reach out to info@yesodfarm.org to coordinate a pickup or drop off.



Image description: Three varieties of qishu'im in the garden. We've been saving seeds with the [Jewish Seed Project](#).

Growing Veggies in 5784

People often ask us "What does it mean to be a Jewish farm?" Just as there are many different ways to be Jewish and practice Judaism, there are many ways to farm Jewishly. For us, this includes our understanding that when we grow food, a portion of the food grown does not belong to us but to the greater community. We approach farming with curiosity, question asking, historic and modern learning. We incorporate cycles of rest, practicing patience and restraint.

We're excited to tell you what growing Jewishly in the vegetable field will look like in this year, 5784.

Access to Farmland

Inspired by pe'ah, leaving the corners of your field for landless members of the community, we invited other landless farmers to grow food in portions of the field. Our main growing space will be in the center, and other farmers will grow around us. The split this year is 50/50, us and other farmers. We'll move our strawberry patch to the southeast corner of the field, to make it easier for others to come harvest.

Tithing

We steward a portion of food grown here to be redistributed in the community. Jewish traditions assign different types of tithes to years of the shmita cycle. We are entering the 2nd year of the shmita cycle, when we offer the "first" and "second" tithe. We interpret the "first" tithe as giving through communal institutions (for us this means we donate to [Bounty & Soul](#)). We interpret the "second" tithe as towards communal celebrations, especially around holidays. In addition, we always add 10% to our produce donations as a catch-all for other traditional Jewish forms of food aid that don't translate well to our particular situation.

Growing Jewish-Specific Crops

Many crops have Jewish significance. This year, we're growing crops that our current residents have cultural connections to. We will grow poppies, potatoes, wheat, strawberries, garlic, ingredients for chicken soup (carrot, onion, parsnip, celery, dill), and sunflowers.

If you have a personal connection to these plants and are interested in helping care for them consistently and/or co-teaching about them at a volunteer day, please email info@yesodfarm.org. We would also love to hear your stories and favorite books/songs/art connected to any of these crops.

In our auxiliary garden, we'll grow our favorite foods to eat, as well as crops that we are honored to grow for seed: qishu'im, amaranth, and aleppo chilis. Do you have an ancestral seed that you'd like us to grow out for you? Contact info@yesodfarm.org.

Cycles of Rest

We're inspired by the cycles of rest of Shabbat (every 7th day), shmita (every 7th year) and yovel (every 7th shmita cycle).

We learned from the last shmita year that it is actually not sustainable for us to farm the entire field ourselves as a team of 4 people. Vegetable farming took time away from other necessary work and made it harder for us to rest when needed and to freely help others in our community. It's been such a joy finding our "right size" in the field while inviting other folks to farm other sections of the field.

The other farmers who tended plots in the field let the land rest on Shabbat, along with us. Both reflected that the boundary of not farming on Saturdays brought more rest into their lives.

Each year we keep 1/7th of the field "in shmita" to always have a taste. This plot rotates across the field as a living calendar. Since we are in the 2nd year, sections 2 North and 2 South will be in shmita. This means that we release control over what happens and do not intervene. Anything that grows in these sections of the field is open for any humans, animals, or fungi to eat. We harvest only what we will use immediately, and do not preserve these foods. You are invited to walk through, sit in, and harvest from these shmita plots. They are marked with a sign.



Image description: Twin goats face the camera. These bucklings, who were born at Yesod this spring, have moved to another farm, [Chutzpah Hollow](#).

