



Alberni Valley Gleaning Project 2022
Orientation Package
albernivalleygleaning@gmail.com
<https://www.albernivalleygleaning.org>

Overview

1. Intro to project
2. Steps for volunteers
3. Pick overview
4. Equipment
5. What to bring to a pick
6. Reporting wildlife conflicts
7. Fruit distribution locations
8. Compost and waste fruit
9. Pick checklist
10. Contact

1. Intro to project

The Alberni Valley Gleaning Project started in 2012 and has harvested over 50,000 lbs of fruit since it began. It is a food recovery project that connects volunteer fruit pickers with homeowners with excess or unwanted fruit. Of what is harvested, $\frac{1}{3}$ goes to the homeowners, $\frac{1}{3}$ to the volunteers, and $\frac{1}{3}$ to a local charity. When there is more fruit than the volunteers and homeowners want, it is sold to raise funds for the project.

**Local Charities &
Organizations**



2. Steps for volunteers

1. Fill in our survey found under the volunteer tab of the website
<https://www.avtransitiontown.org/gleaningproject/volunteer-signup/>
2. Pay membership fee

--	--	--

--	--	--

3. Attend an orientation session
4. Sign up for picks by responding to emails from albernivalleygleaning@gmail.com

3. Pick Overview

- A few days before the pick, touch base with fellow volunteers via email or phone. Who is picking up the equipment, pick location, and any other necessary information.
- On the day of the pick, come prepared with the material you need for picking (see “What to bring to a pick”).
- Unload necessary equipment from the trailer.
- Pick up the ground-fall first to make sure it is separated from the fruit picked.
- Set up the ladders and pick!
- Weigh the boxes filled with fruit.
- Divide 1/3 of the harvest fairly among the volunteers.
- Make sure 1/3 of the fruit is left for the homeowners. If they do not want their share, volunteers may take extra if they want it. Any remaining fruit will be sold by the organization.
- 1/3 is transported to one of the donation sites (see “Fruit Donation Location” section).
- Picks typically take 2 hours

4. Equipment

List:

- Orchard ladders
- Telescoping and non-telescoping picking poles
- Cherry picking buckets
- Picking bags
- Totes & pails
- Rakes and shovels
- Kitchen scale
- Latex gloves

Safety:

- 3 legged orchard ladder
 - If on a slope place the single leg up hill
 - Do not use on cement or smooth surfaces
 - Check angle by lining toes up with baseline and stretching out arm
 - Don't put items on top that could fall
 - Don't reach out too far

--	--	--

--	--	--

- Your hips should not go above the top of the ladder. Don't step on the top step.
- Be safe when handling the ladder. Make sure the latch of the single leg is closed.
- Pick bag is on your chest and the straps are across your back.

5. What to bring to a pick

- Wear appropriate clothing (eg. clothing you can get dirty, closed toed shoes, gloves, hat)
- Water and snack
- Own bags or boxes to bring your fruit home
- You can bring your children if the homeowner permits it

6. Reporting wildlife conflicts or distressed animals:

Report habituated, conditioned, or aggressive animals to conservation officers
1-877-952-7277

Food conditioned: animal regularly returns to human inhabited areas for food (gardens, garbage, etc.)

Human Habituated: Animal shows no signs of wariness or fear towards humans.

7. Fruit Distribution Locations

- Bread of Life, 3130 3rd Ave.; Monday-Sunday between 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Call Al @ 250-266-9171
- Hupacasath Community Farm; 4890 Beaver Creek Road; Tuesday to Thursday 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Kuu-Us Crisis; Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm, call 250-723-4050 to let them know you are bringing food and to get access at 4589 Adelaide St
- PASS Overdose Prevention Site, 3699 3rd avenue; 8:00am-4:00pm Monday to Friday
- Port Alberni Friendship Centre; Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm
- Nuuchahnulth Child and Youth Services, 4835 B Argyle Street; Monday - Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm
- Sage Haven Society, 3082 3rd Avenue; drop inside Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm (closed for an hour at 11:30pm for lunch) *wants only a box at a time*
- Salvation Army; 4835 Argyle St.; Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm,

8. Compost and waste fruit

Give compost fruit to farmers who want the fruit for livestock. Alternatively, can be composted with the ACRD organic waste program.

--	--	--

--	--	--

9. Pick Checklist

Make sure that each task is completed by the end of each pick.

- Bring equipment trailer to the pick site
- Meet other volunteers
- Knock on homeowner's door and say hello
- Clean up any fallen fruit off the ground
- Clean up debris when you are done
- Weigh in pounds (lbs) fruit that has been picked (or estimate)
- Put aside 1/3 of the fruit for the homeowners if they want it.
- Distribute 1/3 of the fruit among the volunteers at the pick
- Bring 1/3 of fruit to a donation location
- Compost or donate to farmers the waste fruit
- Return equipment trailer
- Fill out pick log

10. Contact Information

Contact the project coordinator if any issues arise.

Project Coordinator: Carley Gitelman
403-998-2770
albernivalleygleaning@gmail.com

Thanks for participating in the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project!

--	--	--