

2023 GLEANING ORIENTATION INFORMATION

1. Intro to project
2. Steps for volunteers
3. What to bring to a pick
4. Pick overview
5. Equipment
6. Safety for 3 legged orchard ladders
7. Reporting wildlife conflicts
8. Compost and waste fruit
9. Contact



1. INTRO TO PROJECT

The Alberni Valley Food Security Society welcomes you to the 2023 season of The Gleaning Project! Your participation benefits the entire community and increases access to local nutritious and delicious food. The Alberni Valley Gleaning Project started in 2012 and collects an average 11,000 pounds of fruit every year. It is a food recovery project that connects volunteer fruit pickers with property owners that have excess or unwanted fruit. Of what is harvested, $\frac{1}{3}$ goes to the property owners, $\frac{1}{3}$ to the pickers, and $\frac{1}{3}$ to support local food security initiatives.

When there is more fruit than the pickers and property owners want, it is sold to raise funds for the project. There is a membership fee of \$20 for individuals and \$30 for households. This fee helps to cover the cost of insurance, administration, equipment, and other program expenses. There is no cost to property owners/pick hosts for signing up their fruit trees with the Gleaning Project.



2. STEPS FOR PICKERS

1. Fill in our volunteer picker survey on our website here: <https://www.avfood.ca/picker>
2. Read and sign the AVFSS Participation Agreement Form - [View Document](#)
3. Commit to attend an orientation session or view the virtual orientation video
4. Pay membership fee via e-transfer to gleaning@avfood.ca to receive information
5. Sign up for picks by responding to emails from gleaning@avfood.ca



3. WHAT TO BRING TO A PICK

- Wear appropriate clothing (clothing you can get dirty, closed toed shoes, gloves, hat)
- Water and snacks
- Own bags or boxes to bring your fruit home

4. PICK OVERVIEW

- There will be an email to all volunteer pickers with information about a pick; what time, which day, which fruit, and how many pickers are needed.
- Interested pickers reply to the email.
- The address will be sent to the first responses via email. We will make sure everyone has equal access.
- On the day of the pick, come prepared with what you need to bring.
- Unload necessary equipment from the trailer.
- Rake up and collect the ground-fall.
- Lay down tarps under the trees.
- Set up the ladders and pick!
- Weigh the boxes filled with fruit.
- Divide 1/3 of the harvest among the volunteers.
- Make sure 1/3 of the fruit is left for the property owners. If they do not want their share, the fruit will be sold by the organization.
- 1/3 is used for local Food Security Initiatives.
- Picks are capped at 2 hours.

5. EQUIPMENT LIST

- Orchard ladders (8ft, 10ft, 12ft x2)
- 4ft step ladder
- Telescoping and non-telescoping picking poles
- Cherry picking buckets
- Picking bags
- Totes & pails
- Rakes and shovels
- Tarps
- Kitchen scale
- Latex gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant
- Towels
- Pruners



6. SAFETY FOR 3-LEGGED ORCHARD LADDERS

- 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
- Make sure the latch of the single leg is closed when handling the ladder
- Pick bag is on your chest and the straps are across your back

7. 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.

8. COMPOST AND WASTE FRUIT

Collected ground-fall goes to farmers who want the fruit for livestock. Alternatively, ground-fall can be composted with the ACRD organic waste program.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Coordinator: Carley Gitelman
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Thank you for participating in the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project!

