How to Donate Homegrown Produce to Food Pantries

The 1996 Bill Emerson Food Donation Act protects gardeners who donate produce in good faith to nonprofit organizations from criminal and civil liability.

Find local food pantries online at ampleharvest.org

Contact the pantry manager

Do they accept fresh produce?

When should donations be dropped off?

What produce is best to donate?

Select vegetable seeds or plants to grow that are most needed by food pantries.

Only apply animal manure or manure compost 4 months before planting.

Trellis tomato and pepper plants to avoid soil contact.

Wash hands when working with crops and before harvesting.

Clean and dry reusable storage and donation containers.

Create a sorting station. Discard food with insect damage, mold, yellow or off-color leaves, bugs, and rot.

Wash greens with fresh, municipal tap water. Do not wash tomatoes and peppers.

Bring produce donations to the food pantry at the appropriate time.