

Application for Dudley Greenhouse Space: 2017 Spring Seedling Production

DUE DATE: January 13, 2017.

Groups will be notified by **January 20, 2017** and can begin seedling production after **March 5, 2017**.

About the Dudley Greenhouse

The Dudley Greenhouse is a 10,000 square-foot facility in the Dudley neighborhood of Dorchester. Owned by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and leased by The Food Project, the greenhouse operates year-round as a food production and educational space. The Food Project's staff manage production and work in partnership with community members and organizations to run programming at the greenhouse. The Dudley Greenhouse Advisory Committee is a community advisory group that works with The Food Project staff to ensure that the Dudley Greenhouse operates in accordance with the vision, values, and purpose for which it is intended. Each year we seek community partners to run greenhouse/gardening programs that benefit residents of nearby communities: Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. In particular, we seek opportunities to support Dudley residents and organizations serving the Dudley community.

Criteria to apply for seedling production space

We are currently accepting applications from groups interested in growing seedlings for use in gardening projects. Eligible gardening projects will:

- 1) **Be located in Dorchester, Roxbury, or Mattapan**

AND either:

- 2) **Have educational component(s): e.g. schools or community groups growing seedlings to support community-based projects with educational goals;**

or

- 3) **Have community-strengthening component(s): e.g. groups that grow food for the purpose of community-building and/or increasing healthy food access for marginalized groups.**

An example of a group we have supported is an immigrant-managed urban agriculture project that grows food in three gardens throughout the City of Boston and donates most of its produce to food pantries. This group seeded 30 trays of seedlings in the Dudley Greenhouse for their garden project.



Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to provide space for individuals looking to grow seedlings for personal use. We invite those of you interested in organic seedlings for your garden to join us at our annual seedling sale, held this year on May 13, 2017 as part of our City Farm Fest.

While we are committed to ensuring that the space is used primarily for supporting not-for-profit enterprises, we may have space to rent to farmers and small-scale growers. Please [email Danielle Andrews](#) to discuss this possibility.

The Food Project will provide accepted groups with:

- Bench space for seedling trays in a heated greenhouse
- Technical support from Dudley Farms and Greenhouse Manager Danielle Andrews to develop a seedling production plan and schedule
- Daily maintenance of the plants (i.e. watering and monitoring for pests and disease)
- Access to soil and trays at wholesale prices

Accepted groups will be responsible for:

- Paying for a minimum of the cost of the organic potting soil and trays from the Dudley Greenhouse. We purchase these materials in bulk and sell them to participants at our cost.

Ex: One tray's cost might be: \$2.50 for soil
+ \$2.50 for tray and webbed bottom support
= \$5/tray

If groups have the means to contribute to the cost of production (including daily watering, heating, and cooling of the space), the fiscal support is appreciated. We estimate the cost of watering, heating, and cooling each tray to be about \$10.

- Seeds
- Labor for seeding the trays
- Periodic care (i.e. thinning and re-potting if necessary) of seedlings, with assistance from Dudley farms and greenhouse manager. Because this is a shared space, groups will need to coordinate regularly with greenhouse staff, who will monitor plants for pest and disease issues and provide guidance to greenhouse tenants on the care of their plants
- Submitting a letter at the end of the growing season explaining how the seedlings were used and how they contributed to the group's project

Questions about the application process? Contact Danielle Andrews: 617-442-1322 x13, dandrews@thefoodproject.org.



Application

Name of group: _____

Name of applicant: _____

Applicant phone number: _____

Applicant email: _____

Applicant address: _____

Note: Answers to the following questions should be a maximum of 2 pages, double-spaced.

- 1) Please provide a brief description of your gardening project. Be sure to explain how your project meets the criteria listed above (location and educational and / or community-building aspects).
- 2) If you used space in the Dudley Greenhouse last year, please describe how you used the seedlings that you grew there. Do you anticipate any changes in how your seedlings will be used this year?
- 3) Approximately how many trays of seedlings do you anticipate wanting to grow? (Note: We have space for a total of 300 trays and we expect to be supporting multiple projects. There will likely be a cap on the number of trays a single group can grow (dependent on the number of applications received).
- 4) Who will be involved in the process of growing the seedlings (e.g. contact person, a group, students, etc)?

Please email completed applications to Danielle Andrews (dandrews@thefoodproject.org) by 5PM FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2017.

