Put Good Fruit to Good Use:

*Fruit Tree Gleaning Program on Denman Island*

The goal of this food security program is to put good fruit, that otherwise would go to waste, to good use on Denman Island. The program is operating in September and October this year as part of our apple fest activities.

**How does it work?** If you have an apple, pear or nut tree that you won’t be able to use, or can’t pick, you register your tree with our organization, and we’ll pick it for you.

**Who does the picking?** The GPA gathers a team of enthusiastic volunteers who spend several days visiting properties and picking the fruit. The team bring their own ladders and boxes with them, and aim to leave the yard as they found it.

**How does the fruit get split:** The fruit is typically split 3 ways: ⅓ shared among the volunteers for their hard work, ⅓ to the GPA, and up to ⅓ stays with the owner if they want it.

**Can I volunteer to help pick?** Yes please! We’d love to hear from you. Drop us a line at [islandagriculture@gmail.com](mailto:islandagriculture@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**What does the GPA do with their share of the harvest?** The GPA have a number of different objectives with this program, including food security. The harvest is donated to community partners, such as the Food Bank, and used in GPA fundraising initiatives like the Apple Fest on October 12th.

**When does the picking happen?** The GPA will be organizing picking parties in three main “harvest weeks” this fall. The weeks are spaced out to make the most of the ripening windows for common apples and pears here on Denman. They are planned for:

SEPT 8-14, SEPT 29-OCT 5, OCT 20-26.

**I’m a tree owner, do I need to be home when the pickers visit?** You don’t have to be there. Once you register your tree(s), we’ll try and do a site visit ahead of time to meet and chat with you. We will try our best to give owners a ballpark time of picking, but keep in mind, there are lots of variables that affect scheduled pick times, such as weather and how fast the previous picks went.

**Will you pick any tree?**

We prioritize picking high quality fruit that is suitable for sharing in our community- think of this as a food security initiative rather than racoon prevention program! The safety of our volunteers is also paramount, so we reserve the right to decline picking a tree that is too tall or too difficult to access.

Please register with us before your tree starts dropping fruit on the ground, as we are not able to use windfalls.

**Have questions? Contact the GPA through e-mail at** [**islandagriculture@gmail.com**](mailto:islandagriculture@gmail.com)**.**

Register your fruit tree for gleaning:

Name:

Preferred method of contact:

Address:

Any special property notes*: For example, is there a dog on site we should be aware of? How is the tree accessed? Is it possible to drive up to it?*

How many fruit trees are you registering: *If you have more than 5 we may want to make special arrangements.*

Tell us what you know about the tree: *If you happen to know the variety, or when if it ripens early or late, tell us here, if not don’t worry.*

Estimate the tree height and size, estimate how much fruit it’s producing: *For example, estimate how many banana boxes it might fill.*

Choose a pick week that works for you. In each week long window we will be planning picking parties with Denman volunteers, each party is led by a board member from the Growers and Producers Alliance, and your address is not given out ahead of time.

SEPT 8-14 - SEPT 29-OCT 5 - OCT 20-26

How much would you like of the pick?

None - one bag - one box - 10% - 15% - 20% - 25% - 30%

**Return this form to the Free Post under “GPA” at Abraxas or e-mail us the answers! Have questions? Contact the GPA through e-mail at** [**islandagriculture@gmail.com**](mailto:islandagriculture@gmail.com)**.**