



Buying Local Produce from a Box Delivery Program

Several business in the Triangle buy fruits and vegetables from a variety of North Carolina farmers and then, in turn, sell and deliver that produce in a box to families weekly.

The process varies by each particular company, but the basic business model is that customers choose a box of produce with several different fruit and vegetables in it. A box may contain, for example, a couple of peaches, a personal sized watermelon, several tomatoes and two or three zucchinis and a couple of green peppers.

Some companies provide several different box choices, each with different items in them. Other companies have an online list from which customers choose items and quantities they want in a given week. Once the order is placed, a box of produce is delivered once a week (often you have the option to skip a week or two). Deliveries vary by day of the week by different community and company.

Box Delivery is different from distributors. They package smaller amounts of fruits and vegetables into boxes for delivery; they work on a smaller scale than national distributors. Box programs may work best for family child care homes where smaller amounts of a given fruit or vegetable are needed. This type business is designed for families rather than businesses. With most of these companies, you can add additional items (like extra quarts of tomatoes or peaches).

A few things to keep in mind...

- ✓ Typically these companies deliver boxes on a certain day of the week depending on your town, so it is important to learn what day delivery is in your area.
- ✓ A summer box might include, for example, 5 ears of corn, a quart of peaches, a quart of tomatoes and a quart of berries. You may be able to add on for more of an item.
- ✓ Fruit and vegetable box delivery companies may sometimes buy produce from farmers outside of North Carolina. Because our project is all about increasing the amount of NC grown fruits and vegetables, ask a sales representative if you have any doubts about what is local and what may be shipped in from somewhere else.
- ✓ You may wish to tell families at your facility about box delivery so they can order a box of produce and have it delivered directly to their home each week for their families. You may even consider having your facility serve as delivery spot for one of these companies; in this case, families at your facility who sign up for boxes would pick them up from your center on delivery day.



Some questions to ask as you explore different options:

- 1) What is the order process and deadline?
- 2) What is the delivery day and time?
- 3) Can extra food items be ordered?
- 4) Do I have to place an order every week, or can I place orders occasionally?
- 5) Is there a membership or sign-up fee?
- 6) Where are the farmers who supply their business?
- 7) What are payment options?
- 8) Do they deliver year-round?

The following is a list of some Fruit and Vegetable Box Delivery programs that serve the Triangle area. *We share this information not as an endorsement but to help you begin to locate such options.* Please contact them for details and for current price and delivery information.

Backyard Produce

www.byproduce.com

- ✓ Weekly subscription; order options online by 12 pm each Thursday, place order online by 11:59 pm Saturday
- ✓ Deliveries on Tuesdays: Garner, Knightdale, Raleigh, Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon
- ✓ Deliveries on Wednesdays: Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Morrisville

Doorstep Produce

www.doorstepproduce.com

Papa Spuds

www.papaspuds.com

- ✓ Order options online by Friday afternoon, deadline to order: Monday, 12 pm
- ✓ Deliveries on Tuesdays: Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Morrisville
- ✓ Deliveries on Wednesday: Raleigh and Wake Forest

The Produce Box

www.theproducebox.com

- ✓ Box options emailed on Fridays by 3 pm, deadline to place order is 9 pm Sunday
- ✓ Deliveries on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in different towns
- ✓ Contact The Produce Box with your address to determine delivery date—it can vary by neighborhood in some towns

