

Life in the Valley

Pick-your-own in Mid-Willamette Valley

Take in this handy guide to see some of the best U-Pick farms in the area

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USA TODAY NETWORK

The Willamette Valley: a beacon of wine, a haven of hazelnuts, and a veritable paradise of fruit. It would be a crime to let summer slip by without submitting oneself to the heady pleasures of tree-ripened plums or sun-warmed berries. By far the most immediate and economical way of doing so is by visiting a farm and picking some fruit to take home and stash in the freezer for the gray days to come.

Fortunately, there are an abundance of area farms ready to welcome visitors for a day in the field. Though we couldn't possibly capture a list of all of them, what follows is an attempt at a thorough list to represent an abundance of u-pick farmstand and pick-your-own destinations.

Why go through the trouble of picking your own? Because it's a memorable experience and a great activity for families. Because it's virtually impossible to get one's hands on food that could be any fresher. And because the pick-your-own price point is often a vastly better deal than you'll find anywhere else.

Regardless of the scale of the farm you visit, it's always best to call ahead (or check a farm's Facebook page) to confirm what's available for picking that day. Remember to be courteous with the hours you call—at many of the numbers listed below you'll be speaking directly to a farmer on his or her cell phone—so keep calls between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m..

Pack your car (see below for a list of what to bring), fill a water bottle, call a farm to confirm, and get out there. Happy picking!

What to bring:

■ **Containers** - While many farms will have buckets to pick into and containers to buy, you'll save money if you remember to bring your own. Kitchen containers (like Tupperware) are great for berries because they're lightweight, easy to carry and, once you get home, they can go straight into the fridge. Bring larger cardboard boxes for tree fruit—shallow is better than deep to prevent bruising. Remember to have them weighed before you start picking and bring more than you think you need—you'll often use them.

■ **Sunscreen & Hat** - There may be some shade if you're picking tree fruit, but picking berries often means standing in full sun. Prepare accordingly and your picking experience will be much more comfortable.

■ **Water & Snacks** - Few farmers would begrudge someone snacking on a few berries in the field, but it's rude to treat a u-pick excursion as though it's a snack bar. Bring snacks, especially for kiddos, and plenty of water for everyone.

■ **Bug Spray** - In case the flies or mosquitoes are biting.

■ **Long Sleeves** - Having sleeves on is particularly helpful if you're picking strawberries, the leaves of which are covered in micro hairs that irritate some peoples' skin. They also protect against scratches from thorns on blackberries, raspberries, tayberries, etc.



Picking berries can be a fun and memorable family experience. FILE PHOTO

■ **Sturdy Shoes** - Farms can be muddy places. Skip the sandals and opt for closed-toed shoes.

■ **Cooler & Ice** - If you're picking berries and you've got a bit of a drive home, having a cooler at the ready will help keep your berries from starting to turn to jam on the way.

■ **Cash** - Some farms take credit/debit cards, but many, especially smaller ones, do not. Bring cash and/or a checkbook.

What not to bring:

■ **Pets** - It's tempting to bring your pup along with you, but many farms have livestock who might be perturbed by canine visitors. Always call ahead to check with a specific farm on what their policy is on dog visitors.

Albany

Adair's Orchards

www.facebook.com/AdairsOrchards/
36452 Highway 226 SE Albany (541) 928-6606
2018 Picks: peaches, nectarines, Asian pears, Bartlett pears, triple crown blackberries, blueberries, apples (many varieties)

Corvallis

Blueberry Meadows

www.blueberrymeadowsoregon.com
3860 NE Hwy. 20 Corvallis (541)753-2614
blueberries

Dayton

Hildebrandt Cherry Orchards

<https://www.facebook.com/hildebrandtcherryorchards/>
18905 SE Wallace Rd Dayton

503-871-9411
sweet cherries

Jeff and Jen's U-Pick

<https://www.facebook.com/JeffandJens/>
18265 SE Neck Road Dayton
503-560-9275
strawberries, raspberries, blueberries

Hillsboro

Smith Berry Barn

smithberrybarn.com/
24500 SW Scholls Ferry Rd, Hillsboro
503-628-2172
blueberries, blackberries, currants, tayberries, boysenberries, marionberries, loganberries, raspberries

Salem

Fordyce Farm

fordycefarm.com
7023 Sunnyview Rd NE Salem (503) 362-5105
strawberries, blueberries, black currants, gooseberries

MelRose Farm

<http://melrosebbfarm.com/>
5586 72nd Ave SE Salem
503-779-6536
blueberries

Minto Island Growers

<http://www.mintogrowers.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/mintogrowers/>
3394 Brown Island Rd S Salem
503-931-6840
Certified Organic - strawberries, blueberries, raspberries

Stuart Olson Farms

<https://www.olsonfarms.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/olson-farmsinc/>
6925 Joseph St SE Salem
503-362-5942
peaches, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries

Rick Johnson Farm

<https://www.facebook.com/Rick-Johnson-Farm-226568897377674/>
3310 Perkins St NE Salem
503-393-0859
strawberries, cherries, blueberries

Sunnyview Blueberry Farm

<http://www.sunnyviewblueberries.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/sunnyviewblueberryfarm/>
5233 Sunnyview Rd NE Salem
971-304-6755
blueberries

Sunnyview Vegetable Garden

<https://www.facebook.com/SunnyviewFARMS/>
5670 Sunnyview Rd NE Salem (503) 580-5802
vegetables: beans, lettuce, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, pumpkins

Vaughan Cherry Farm

<https://www.facebook.com/vaughancherries/>
6875 Hazelgreen Road NE Salem (503) 304-2015
Sweetheart cherries, Starletta cherries, pie cherries

Three Cedars Farm

<https://www.facebook.com/Three-CedarsFarmSalem/>
5751 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
909-851-4877
plums, pears, apples

Thank You Berry Much Farms

thankyouberrymuchfarms.com
<https://www.facebook.com/thankyouberrymuchfarms>
5975 Culver Dr SE Salem
503-393-2758
Blueberries

Vince Woods Farm

<http://www.vincewoodsfarm.com/>
6435 62nd Ave NE, Salem
503-393-0120
Pumpkins

Scio

Queener Farm

<https://www.queenerfarm.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/queenerfarm/>
40385 Queener Dr, Scio
503-689-2784
apples

Silverton

Forster's Blueberry Hill

17950 Hazelnut Ridge Rd, Silverton
503-873-7524
certified organic blueberries



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Michael Wooters FINANCIAL ADVISOR South 503-362-5439	Chip Hutchings FINANCIAL ADVISOR Lancaster 503-585-4689
Caitlin Davis FINANCIAL ADVISOR West 503-585-1464	Tim Sparks FINANCIAL ADVISOR Commercial 503-370-6159
Jeff Davis FINANCIAL ADVISOR Liberty 503-581-8580	

Keizer Area

Sheryl Resner FINANCIAL ADVISOR Keizer 503-304-8641	Mario Montiel FINANCIAL ADVISOR Keizer 503-393-8166
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Surrounding Area

Bridgette Justis FINANCIAL ADVISOR Sublimity 503-769-3180	Kelly Denney FINANCIAL ADVISOR Dallas 503-623-2146
Tim Yount FINANCIAL ADVISOR Silverton 503-873-2454	David Eder FINANCIAL ADVISOR Stayton 503-769-4902

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