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PHOTO FROM PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET WEBSITE

The Portland Farmers Market's spring season officially kicked off on Sunday with the opening of the King Farmers Market on Northeast 7th and Wygant. Buying groceries outdoors is a family-friendly, Covid-safe activity that supports local farmers and food producers, and increases access to farm-fresh food.

# Season *for* Locally Grown

## King Farmers Market ushers in spring

Backyard gardens are springing to life, blossoms fill the air, and farmers markets are returning in full bloom, including the King Farmers Market in inner northeast Portland which kicked off a brand new season Sunday.

As part of four neighborhood markets opening this month and next, King joins the flagship, year-round PSU Portland Farmers Market in the South Park Blocks.

"We are so excited to welcome shoppers to our neighborhood markets as vendors prepare to set up their stands full of the region's bounty this spring," said Katy Kolker, the newly hired executive director of Portland Farmers Market. "There is nothing quite like purchasing fresh food right from the person who grew or made it."

It's an honor to provide vibrant marketplaces where folks can connect with the community, support local food and farm businesses, and enjoy the outdoors all at the same time."

Operating under COVID-19 safety protocols, which have continued to be adapted and improved throughout the PSU market's fall and winter seasons, shop-

pers will find convenient hand-washing stations, six-foot markers for distancing, frequent sanitization of high-touch surfaces, and market staff and vendors utilizing personal protective equipment.

As per state mandates, everyone in the market must wear masks and observe six-foot distancing, and shoppers are asked not to eat in the market or linger in the walkways.

"We have been so appreciative of our visitors and vendors taking extra measures to keep the entire market community safe," said Kolker. "Shopping for groceries in the open air of a farmers market is one of the safest ways to access fresh food and support the local economy. We can ensure that everyone feels safe and

welcome if we all do our part."

The King Portland Farmers Market at Northeast 7th and Wygant will be open each Sunday through spring and summer, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Shemanski Park Portland Farmers Market in the South Park Blocks opens Wednesday, May 5 and will also be held each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Kenton Portland Farmers Market at North McLellan and Denver starts its seasonal schedule on Wednesday, June 2, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and then will take place each Wednesday during the same times; and the Lents International Portland Farmers Market will begin its seasonal schedule on Sunday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.