

Resources to Help You Go Gleaning



CVSan organizes Independent Tree Fruit Gleaning events each February during Zero Waste Week. It's easy to join the event on your own or to organize a group to go gleaning together. Go to CVSan's [Zero Waste Week](#) page for details on the next event.

To go gleaning on your own, there are some things that you'll want to do to prepare. Knowing when the best time is to go gleaning and what fruits and vegetables are available to pick during that time is all part of the planning you will need to do. Remember to also think about safety to avoid injuries. Research where you can donate the gleaned fruits and vegetables to and be sure to check what dates and times food donations will be accepted. If you need tools and other information, [CVSan can help](#).

When you go gleaning on your own, make sure to **pick fruit with care**:

- If you can reach for the fruit by hand, twist the fruit off the stem. This can save the top of the fruit from ripping off while pulling.
- Start picking from the tops of trees first and leave some fruit lower on the tree that will be easy to pick later on. This is a nice service to the tree owner that is allowing us to glean from their tree.
- Use fruit pickers to pick from tall trees.
- Clean up leaves and branches that may fall to the ground while picking and put the debris in the green organics cart.
- Leave unripe fruit (usually the much smaller ones) on the tree so they can fully mature later.
- Try to place fruit into boxes or bins since tossing can cause bruising.