

SPOTLIGHT FARM



Quansett Gardens Dartmouth, MA



Current Crops:

Tomatoes (50 varieties!)
String Beans
Rhubarb
Cucumber
Blueberries
Peaches
Nectarines
Pears
Potatoes (red, white)
Onions
Garlic
Basil
Parsley
Oregano
Tarragon
Chives
Sage
Lemon Balm
Also:
Farm fresh eggs
Baked goods

The Farm

The Quansett Gardens farm stand is a popular stop at the downtown market, but getting to the farm won't be so easy! The farm is run by Mary Merhi, an entrepreneur and self-proclaimed tomato specialist. Established in 1710, Mary inherited the old family farm from her mother and learned the art of farming.

At the main location where Mary resides, you will find the farm's greenhouses, a few fields of crops, and most importantly the resident chickens. In the greenhouses, the field crops are started early if necessary, but more importantly there are 50 different varieties of tomatoes grown in the greenhouses. Mary, also known as "The Tomato Lady", is known for her prize winning tomatoes and her vast knowledge of the plants. The farm enters contests at local agricultural fairs as well as events at area granges once winning a contest for the largest tomato (a 2.5 pound "stripey" variety!).

If you were to find yourself at Quansett Gardens, you'd be lucky to find Mary because she keeps herself busy running the Main St Café on N. Main St in Fall River. Mary uses much of the produce from the farm to make baked goods to sell at farmers markets and her café. The bakery sold goods out of the Dartmouth Grange for three years, since then the venture has evolved into Mary's own Main Street Café and Bakery in Fall River and has been such for the past 3 years, the café also features products from other local farms.

Since Mary keeps herself quite busy at the café, the products available from Quansett Gardens are often sold by Mary's son at the Westport, Dartmouth, and Fall River Downtown Farmers Markets. If the products aren't sold at market, the café will utilize them on the menu.

The Products

All the products of the Quansett Gardens are raised organically by Mary. When asked if she had any help, Mary replied "only when picking and boxing." There are three greenhouses that are dedicated to raising the famous tomatoes, as well as some of the plants living outside.

The free range chickens are the major way this farm is able to control pests. "They get almost everything" Merhi explained, including her mint crop which proved to be a tasty snack for the hens. There are no pesticides used simply because they are not necessary. The farm also uses the resident chicken and neighboring horse manure, as well as compost, hay, coffee grinds, egg shells, and mulch for fertilizer.

Overview

Looking for more from the Quansett Gardens? You'll have to visit them at the farmers markets in Westport, Dartmouth, or Downtown Fall River, as the farm land is spread out



Quansett Gardens
Dartmouth, MA

And
The Main St. Café and Bakery
60 N. Main St, Fall River, MA

Café hours:
Monday–Friday 7 AM– 3 PM
Serving breakfast and lunch

on various plots in Dartmouth. Two acres are located at Mary's farm, as well as 10 acres leased for planting and 20 more leased for a fruit orchard .

The easiest place to find Mary and some of her products is at the Main St Café and Bakery where she will gladly tell you about her products and specialty tomatoes. The café (just 2 blocks from the Downtown market) serves breakfast and lunch with various items including salads and fresh sandwiches. You might also find some prize winning entries at local agricultural events, so keep your eye out for Quansett Gardens sign and say hi to Mary.