



Statement about Theft of Plants at Newton Community Farm June 9, 2023

Dear Farm Friends,

Newton Community Farm was the victim of theft sometime between 7:30 pm last night and 7 am this morning. Please help us find whomever did this and help us protect this Farm.

What you can do:

- Be on the lookout for anyone who suddenly has hundreds of plants going into gardens or is offering lots of plants for sale who hasn't done this before.
- Call the police if you see vehicles parked near the Farm perimeter on Nahanton or Winchester Streets late at night or early in the morning. The Farm is closed from dusk to dawn.
- Call us at 617-916-9655 to report suspicious activity. You can leave an anonymous tip or speak to someone directly. Or you can call the police.

We came in this morning to discover many plants missing from the Farm. Someone, or multiple people, took hundreds of basil, scallions, eggplant, and cucumbers planted in the field and trays of cucumber, tomato, kale, corn, and other seedlings from the greenhouse. Whomever took these plants knew what they were doing and targeted certain crops. They tried to find the scallions by first picking some leeks and then onions before they found what they were looking for. They took other plants by digging them out from the roots so they could be re-planted. They removed cloth that was over plants in the field and took them.

These plants were being grown for our community: for our CSA sharers, farm stand and farmers' market customers, and for donation to the Newton Food Pantry and Freedge. We are devastated and angered by what happened and the impact to our community.

We have notified the police and they have seen the footprints and knee-prints in the soil. There will be increased patrolling of the Farm area and we are installing security cameras.

Farming is a difficult, stressful job. Weather, animals, insects, and all the rest pose huge challenges. Our farm manager and his family live onsite and have had their safety and security violated. We have been here going on 18 years and have never before had theft like this. Please help us find the person or persons who did this and help make sure this does not happen again.

Thanks for your support as we address this situation.

Sue Bottino, Executive Director