



S I N C E 1 9 7 9
NORTH COAST GROWERS ASSOCIATION
FARMERS MARKET

Requirements for Sampling Food at our Certified Farmers' Markets

Sampling is allowed at all of our markets. We pay extra for our health certificates in order to allow sampling at our markets and our customers love it. So, not only do we allow sampling, we encourage it!

Here are the rules for sampling fresh produce at the farmers' markets:

1. Food prep (cutting, peeling, etc) is prohibited - all cutting or slicing of samples must be done at the market site.
2. Produce intended for sampling must be washed and safe for consumption. Produce may be washed prior to transport provided that washed produce is segregated from unwashed produce.
3. Sampling must be done in such a way that prevents customers from touching, coughing, or sneezing on food meant for others.
4. Keep samples in a clean, covered container, such as a clear plastic container with a hinged lid or a plate with a clear dome cover.
5. Hand washing facilities, with soap dispensers and paper towels must be available for use at each stand or stall where samples are offered. Facilities are to consist of a water-dispensing container with a spigot valve that can stay open, leaving hands free for washing. Wastewater is to be collected in a drain bucketed beneath spigot.
6. Waste water may not be dumped into the street, planters or into storm drains! It must be disposed of into the community sewer system.
7. Produce waste/compost shall be contained to minimize odor and insect development. (I.e.: use containers with lids).
8. Utensils and cutting surfaces shall be washed and sanitized (i.e.: chlorine solution of one tablespoon of liquid bleach per gallon of wash water).
9. Cutting surfaces shall be smooth, non-absorbent and easily cleanable.
10. Use toothpicks, disposable utensils, or squeeze bottles to distribute samples. Avoid contact with hands. Bottles should be capped when not in use.
11. The Market Manager and the Board of Directors shall ensure that all participating growers are familiar with these guidelines.
12. The Health Department reserves the right to discontinue sampling.