Hi there, we are delighted that you are thinking of applying to be part of our community fruit forest.

We are planning to make fruit trees and bushes available over the winter of 2020, along with flower bulbs and native hedging, for groups to distribute to their neighbours, to encourage growing at home, and through encouraging people to take cuttings to expand into a forest across your neighbourhood. We’d like to target people who are first time growers, or don’t have much experience of growing, and would love to hear your ideas on how to do that.

This is a new initiative that has arisen out of the COVID19 crisis and the revelation of both the food insecurity that exists within our communities, and the great desire and capacity of people to share what they produce with their neighbours.

The idea of the fruit forest is to provide your community with a range of fruit bushes, trees, herbs, and bulbs that will not only produce food for you, your family, your neighbours, and local wildlife on an ongoing basis, but will be a living resource for propagation and distribution of cuttings, offsets, and sets for years to come – greening your neighbourhood and providing true resilience against the stormy times ahead.

We would envisage the people who accept these plants as community guardians of that variety, accepting to grow it on and join in propagating fresh plants yearly so that in time the neighbourhood will be producing a valuable surplus for distribution or community processing.

There are lots of opportunities for artistic and creative events around harvest and propagation time, we would love to hear how you incorporate these into your local fruit forest!

If your community group would like to participate, and would be willing to advertise, risk assess, distribute the plants, and carry out any follow-up to make sure people are supported to grow and propagate we want to hear from you! We will include a fuel allowance for each group, and depending on which kind of plant, we will also make an allowance for compost/soil improver/stakes. Distribution will take place in November 2020. We’ll let you know if you are successful by the first week in October.

Thanks again for your interest, and we hope that this helps explains the overall vision or concept we have for the fruit forest, and good luck in your application.
Expression of interest to join our Fruit Forest project.

Your name __________________
Your community garden _________________
Address ________________________________
Phone number _________________
Email _________________
Would you like to participate in the Fruit Forest programme?
This involves safely distributing trees and sourcing and distributing any extra garden materials, to distribute to households in your neighbourhood that want to grow at home, and carrying out any follow up. Would you be interested to continue to propagate these plants, every year sharing extra plants in the community, and creating a local fruit forest? ☐ Yes

Are you willing to abide by safe working practices, and fill out a risk assessment for each activity? ☐ Yes

How many households do you estimate you could distribute to in your area (up to 20)? ______________

Would you have a preference for: (tick any or all)
☐ Fruit trees
☐ Fruit bushes
☐ Bee friendly flower bulbs
☐ Native hedging trees

Would you have any capacity to propagate fruit bush cuttings at your garden now, for distribution in the late winter? For example, have you raspberry or black currant bushes you could take cuttings from now to distribute later? If so would you like support with this?
___________________________________________
____________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Do you have a place in mind where you could store plants while waiting for distribution? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be added to a facebook or whatsapp group with other participating groups for mutual support? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which? Whatsapp ☐ Facebook ☐

Will you take pictures of what you have done, and ask recipients? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you want help finding suppliers in your area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you need your expenses in advance, or would you be able to claim your expenses back? ________________

Is there any other support you would like?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please complete this form and return to ni@farmgarden.org.uk