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### **Community Supported Agriculture Garden comes to Westlake**

Community Support Agriculture, or CSAs, is a way for area residents to purchase "shares" in a local farmer's garden. Then, over the course of the summer and early fall months, shareholders receive their equal portion of the harvest. The produce shareholders receive every week during the peak of the harvest is consistently the freshest and ripest garden vegetables available because it didn't have to travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to arrive at a grocery store. Instead, produce is picked, put into a box and picked up with hours of being harvested. This provides some of the best vegetables ever tasted and also cuts down tremendously on the natural resources consumed in their production and delivery. In addition, locally grown produce relies more on natural methods of fertilization and pest control, reducing the chemicals that may end up in the vegetables. CSA's also supports the local small business by keeping food dollars in the community.

Dean's Greenhouse, Westlake, Ohio, is inaugurating their own CSA Garden in 2010 and currently signing on shareholders for the 2010 harvest. Vegetables planned for the 2010 garden include tomatoes, peppers, beans, carrots, broccoli, potatoes and much more and the harvested period is expected to last approximately 16 to 18 weeks. Dean's Greenhouse will be operating one of the only CSA's in Northeast Ohio. Many of the established CSA's in Ohio have been operating at capacity and have waiting lists to purchase shares. This means that getting in at the inception of a CSA is often the best way to ensure a share of the fresh vegetables harvested from the CSA garden.

For additional information or to purchase a share in the Dean's 2010 CSA Garden call (440) 871-2050 x4. Details about the 2010 CSA Garden are also available at their website, [www.deansgreenhouse.com](http://www.deansgreenhouse.com).

The CSA concept has been around for about 50 years, having its beginnings in Europe and Asia. In the mid-1980's, the CSA idea was brought to North America and over the past 25 years the concept has been slowly gaining momentum. Ohio boasts a large number of CSA's, most of which are in middle and southern Ohio.

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