

## **Garden State Flower Cooperative**

### **New Grower Member Process**

1) Fill out and submit the New Member Interest Form [here](#). Applications for the 2024 season are due by December 31, 2023.

2) Market Manager gathers Board of Directors to review Grower Member Application and the Market Manager will get in touch with viable grower to schedule a phone interview in January with all board members to learn more about their operation, experience, crops, and interest in the market.

3) Growers will be notified by mid-January if the GSFC board members vote to approve grower to take the next step. If so, the grower will sign a Trial Period Agreement, pay \$200 (due by March 1st), and the trial period begins.

1. This period can last as long as the board deems appropriate for the grower, but no less than 1 entire growing season. A grower may never be tapped for applying.
2. During this growing season, the board members will arrange a farm visit with the trial grower if deemed necessary.
3. During this trial period the grower will be allowed to sell through the pre order sheet after a minimum of 3 markets of selling on the market floor, and then at the discretion of and with guidance from the Market Manager.
4. During the trial period the grower must bring product to at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  (20 out of 30 market weeks) of all 30 weekly markets which is required of all grower members.
5. During trial period/first season, growers must complete three (3) Market Assistant shifts. More details on Market Assistant shifts will be included in the Trial Period Agreement.
6. During this period the Market Manager has the right to reject any product based on quality, or market saturation.
7. During this period the grower will be actively creating their reputation at GSFC for the board to review at the end of the season.
8. During this time, we welcome the trial grower into the GSFC community. You're invited to participate in all meetings, workshops, events, farm tours, etc. sponsored by GSFC.

4) The Board of Directors meets to review new growers after completion of a trial season. If both the board and the grower are interested in pursuing membership after the trial period, then the grower may be asked to schedule another interview by the board, and coop members, staff, and customers are solicited for feedback. After the interview, trial season performance, and trial membership application has been considered, the board will meet for a final vote no later than January 31, 2024.

6) If grower is approved for membership by the board of directors, the grower will receive full member rights upon signing the Member Agreement.

\*At any point the grower or coop reserves the right to disengage partnership and the original payment of \$200 will not be refunded.