

AMONG THE OAKS HERB FARM

BULK HERB ORDERING SYSTEM

We are super excited to share more info with you about ordering our fresh and dried herbs this year! We have many perennial herbs coming into their peak production and we have almost doubled our production space, so we will be able to get herbs to MANY more of yall this year. We are also changing up our ordering system a bit, in hopes that this will make our lives easier and also allow us to get more herbs to you. There is going to be a lot of info here, I apologize in advance. The system is very simple but I want to make sure that you understand it so you can use it in the way that works best for you! Transparency is also very important to me, so I want to make sure that you are fully informed about our process before participating!

Please don't hesitate to email us with any questions or concerns.

ORDERING SMALL QUANTITIES OF HERBS

The following info only applies to bulk herb sales (orders over 1 lb). If you want smaller quantities of dried herbs for personal use, these will be listed in our online shop alongside our teas and other herbal products as they become available, likely towards the end of the growing season. We will *definitely* have dried herbs for sale in small quantities this year – it just wasn't in the cards last year due to 2020 craziness!

BULK HERB PREORDERS (Orders over 5 lbs fresh or 3 lbs dried)

Pre-orders are available for bulk herb orders of 5+ lbs per plant for fresh herbs and 3+ lbs per plant for dried herbs. Preordering herbs means we prioritize growing herbs just for you and you get first priority of our harvests. We ask for a 50% deposit when you order, and will charge you the remaining 50% plus shipping once your herbs ship. All fresh herb orders ship via USPS Express Shipping (1-2 days) unless we have had a conversation about doing it otherwise. We also offer local pickup in Beattyville, Kentucky. If you need your herbs shipped, you can expect a separate shipment for each herb. If you order multiple herbs and they happen to be ready to harvest at the same time, we will do our best to combine them into one shipment! But you should expect to pay shipping costs for each herb you order in case harvest times do not align. We pride ourselves on growing top quality herbs and that means we need to harvest them at their peak potency. We have very little control of when they will be perfectly ready to harvest, so it is just not feasible for us to try and time it so that all the herbs you order are ready to ship at the same time.

If you pre-order dried herbs, you can let us know whether you want us to ship each herb as it is ready (with much cheaper USPS Priority Shipping) or to wait until all your herbs are ready to ship at once.

If your herb needs do not meet our minimum order requirements but you would like to preorder, consider finding local folks to share an order with you!

To Pre-Order: Download the order form on this page – <https://www.amongtheoaksfarmstead.com/bulk-herbs/> and email it to me once it is filled out. Pre-orders close on March 1st. I will get back to you ASAP to let you know if we can fulfill your order and send you an invoice. Prices on this order form are reflective of 12% off volume discounts. We may offer deeper discounts for especially high volume orders. These prices will not be the same as the “by the pound” price when ordering throughout the growing season. Please note we do offer an additional Reparatons Discount for BIPOC of 5% off all orders.

Want to purchase fresh and dried herbs, but don't need 5+ pounds?

We have a super simple ordering system for you! Every Friday morning during the growing season, we will email you a list of our available fresh and dried herbs and a link to our bulk herb shop. You can add herbs to your cart and checkout, just like any other online shop. You have until Sunday night to do this each week. On Monday and Tuesday of the following week, we will harvest your plants to order and ship them out to you! The weekly email will also contain a list of herbs that are Coming Up Next to help give you an idea of what we will be harvesting soon. Make sure you are signed up for our Herb Availability Updates to get the weekly emails.

Confused about how our ordering system works?

Here are a couple examples of how it would look (dates are made-up and just to illustrate how it works):

Example A: You receive the weekly Herb Availability Update on Friday and add the following to your cart that afternoon: 2 lbs calendula, 1 lb chamomile and 1 lb spilanthes. We harvest and ship everything to you on the following Monday!

Example B: You pre-order 5 lbs of fresh blue vervain and 5 lbs of skullcap in February. We send you an invoice for 50% deposit. Blue vervain is ready to harvest in June, we email you on a Friday to let you know and send you an invoice for the remaining 50% plus express shipping costs. We harvest it and ship it to you on the following Monday. Skullcap is ready to harvest in mid-July, we email on a Friday to let you know. You saw on the weekly Herb Availability Update that chamomile was also in bloom and ask to add on 1 lb to your skullcap shipment. We send you an invoice, harvest the skullcap and chamomile the following Monday and ship it to you!

Example C: You receive the weekly Herb Availability Update on Friday and see that the calendula you have been waiting for is ready to harvest. You also want chamomile but it isn't on the list this week. You see on the weekly email that chamomile is Coming Up Next. You decide that you really want to make sure you get calendula soon and don't want to miss out if it is sold out by the following week, so you go ahead and order 1 lb.

OUR SHIPPING POLICY

We prefer to ship herbs using USPS Express Shipping. This method guarantees 1-2 day arrival (depending on your distance from the farm). It is costly and can range from \$50-\$120. The price varies by the day and by your distance. When shipping fresh herbs with Express Shipping, we

guarantee that the herbs will arrive to you in useable condition and will replace them at no cost if they are not.

We know that some of you have more experience shipping and receiving fresh herbs and feel comfortable working with herbs that may have been in the mail a bit longer. If that is the case, we can talk about shipping your herbs using USPS Priority Shipping to save on shipping costs. If we ship using this method, we cannot guarantee the herbs will be in useable condition when they arrive to you. If you live pretty close, it is possible that your herbs could arrive in 2-3 days. But it is also very possible that there are shipping delays and your herbs completely rot into a disgusting stinky mess before they get to you. It is your decision whether or not you would like to take this risk!

MORE ABOUT OUR SHIPPING PROCESS

When shipping fresh herbs, we wrap them in kraft paper or put them into paper bags. We do not use ice packs or anything, because this can make the herbs wet. This means that the herbs will likely start to wilt by the time they get to you, but the paper helps to keep them dry and prevent mold and decomposition. Wilted herbs are perfectly okay to use, in fact, some folks prefer to wilt their herbs before tincturing, for example. It is still possible that some of your herbs may spoil to the point that you do not want to use them, but this is usually a small percentage. If that happens, you can usually pick through them and remove the bad stuff (the same way you would if you bought a bag of spinach from the grocery store).

We do not wash fresh herbs before sending them to you. It is possible that they could have a little dirt on them, and it's pretty common to find a cute little crab spider or flower beetle hitching a ride in your package. Some folks prefer to wash their herbs on arrival, and then lay them out to dry a little before processing.

A DISCLAIMER

Though we put a lot of effort into planning, much of growing herbs is in the hands of Mother Nature. This means that we can lose entire crops due to extreme weather or disease. It also means herbs may mature earlier or later than we expected. We try our very best to get you the herbs you want when you want them, but please be understanding if it doesn't work out perfectly.

OUR PRICES

Our prices are based on what it actually costs to grow high quality herbs following ethics of stewardship and reciprocity, while paying us a living wage. It includes all the costs of production: from buying seeds and tending to seedlings for months in our greenhouse; organic soil amendments like quality compost and mulch; and lots of human labor that is required to grow herbs using no-till methods like hand-weeding, hand-harvesting and genuine care for each plant. We also choose to use low-waste and low-fossil fuel options as much as possible and this tends to cost more. We buy recycled paper boxes, compostable packing tape, and compostable plant-based plastic bags for dried herbs (though we also use salvaged shipping materials when

we have them). We are investing in solar power, so that we can power our electric field equipment like the mower and weed eater, as well as our drying facility without the use of fossil fuels.

We know that you can buy dried herbs for much cheaper than ours. We honestly appreciate that this is an option so that herbs can be more accessible to folks. But those herbs do come at a cost – mostly in quality. See the picture below for an example. Cheap dried herbs are also very fossil fuel intensive, as they are grown using lots of mechanization and shipped across the world. It is also quite likely that the farm workers growing them are not paid fairly.

We are developing our farm so that it can pay a living wage to everyone involved – and quite honestly this is the hardest part! Many farmers have off-farm jobs (us included) to make ends meet and go on like this for a very long time or indefinitely. We do not intend on having a hobby farm, but a fully supportive, profitable business. If I could spend all my time tending to plants and not have to worry about making money to support my basic needs, I would. But in our current economic system, I cannot do that! I share this for those of you who are not very familiar with farming or the realities of running an ethical small business. It's expensive and we have to ask these prices to cover our costs.

LOCAL PICKUP AND HERB MARKETS

If you are local, you are always welcome to come and pick up your herbs. You should purchase them using the same weekly Friday ordering system but select pick-up at checkout. Please leave a detailed note on your order about when you can come to the farm. If you would like to harvest them yourself, you can also make a note about that.

Depending on how things go this year, we are also planning on hosting some Herbal Markets at the farm or at neighboring farms in the region. These markets will allow you to come and shop herbs in person from Among the Oaks, as well as other herb and mushroom growers. We hope that some of you will take advantage of driving a bit to come to these events, so you can shop herbs in person and save on shipping costs. The events will also be much more than an herb market! There will be classes and plant walks hosted by a variety of folks, herbal product vendors, meet and greets with clinical herbalists and fun, community hangs with other plant nerds. This is all still in the works and a collaborative project, so don't hesitate to reach out if you are interested in participating, organizing, or have general suggestions!

THANK YOU

If you made it all the way through this, from the bottom of my heart, thank you! Please let us know if you have any questions. If our herb ordering system does not work with your business model or schedule, don't hesitate to reach out and we can see if there is something we can do to make it work for you. I seriously cannot wait to tend to the plants and see what magic you all make of them. I couldn't do this without you and am beyond grateful for your support!

If you know other folks who may be interested in bioregional, beyond organic medicinal herbs, please forward them this email and have them sign up for our Herb Availability Updates!

The following plants are available for preorder: California poppy, calendula, chamomile, tulsi, milky oat tops, spilanthes, ashwagandha, ginger, turmeric, hibiscus, lemonbalm, catnip, true peppermint, anise hyssop, motherwort, skullcap, echinacea root, echinacea flowers/leaves, yarrow, bee balm/monarda, blue vervain, stinging nettles, wormwood

The following plants will also be available this year but not for pre-order: st johns wort, elder flowers and berries*, rose petals and rosehips*, marshmallow flowering tops and root, elecampane root, hoary mountain mint, garlic, lemongrass, wildcrafted violet leaf/flower, wildcrafted plantain leaf, various culinary herbs (oregano, thyme, rosemary, lavender, and sage), oatstraw, red clover, comfrey leaf

*likely only in low quantities this year