

**South Seeds’ Croft adopt-a-raised bed scheme 2020**

If you are interested in adopting a raised bed at the Croft, near Queen’s Park recreation ground, for this growing season (April – November 2020), please read through the information below to check that the scheme is right for you. To apply, please complete the form starting on page 2 and email it to croft@southseeds.org by **9am on Monday 13th of April**.

Please note due to the current circumstances in regards to COVID-19 we are doing all we can to ensure that this project goes on in compliance with the governments guidelines to keep us all safe.

**HOW THE ADOPT A RAISED BED SCHEME WORKS**

**South Seeds will provide to crofters:**

* A means of accessing the Croft anytime
* A raised bed including soil for your own use for the 2020 growing season (April to November)
* Size may vary but raised beds will be a minimum of 1x1m. You will be able to keep all the produce that you grow
* Hand tools and gloves for working the raised bed.
* Seedlings ready to be planted (an assortment including: beans, peas, lettuce) & potatoes to plant
* Regular vegetable growing support throughout the season (via a WhatsApp group if we are unable to hold group sessions)

**Crofters must:**

* Live no more than 20-minutes’ walk away from the Croft (which is by Queen’s Park recreation ground) to be considered by the applications panel
* Attend a croft induction session. These will be one-to-one or groups of no more than three depending on the latest COVID-19 guidelines.
* Apply the knowledge gained from the induction sessions to improve your growing success (this includes making time to plan the layout of your plot, what you are going to grow and starting off seedlings after the first induction session)
* Make every effort to grow using organic methods, with no use of herbicides, pesticides or fertilisers (careful use of slug pellets will be ok)
* Make every effort to maintain soil fertility using only organic, sustainably-sourced products
* Help to maintain the garden as a whole, and keep it tidy
* Use any tools and materials provided by South Seeds correctly and do not take these away from the site
* Not give out access codes to anyone else, and be responsible for anyone you bring in or allow to enter the garden.
* Use the garden in a safe and responsible manner at all times including keeping social distances where necessary.
* Report any incidents, maintenance issues or potential dangers to South Seeds
* Hand your raised bed back to South Seeds at the end of the season (November 2020). Clear the bed and leave it in the same condition that it was handed over to you in April

**The Croft adopt-a-raised bed – application form**

Please fill in the form below to apply for a raised bed. Decisions on allocation of the raised beds are made by South Seeds’ board and are based on the information you give below.

We have a few larger raised beds which may suit small groups, however please note the person completing this form will be accountable for ensuring that all group members receive information and communications about the Croft sent out by South Seeds. Due to COVID-19 restrictions currently in place groups can only be people of the same household.

The raised beds require regular attention such as watering, weeding and pest control. Crofters should attend their raised beds at least once per week and more often in dry weather. Please let people know if you are to be away for a period of time e.g. on holiday so someone can water and keep an eye on the plants.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Home telephone |  |
| Mobile telephone  |  |
| Tick this box if you want to join the ¨ WhatsApp group support, where your number will be visible to the rest of the group. Note we can only add those who have given a correct mobile number to the remote support group. |
| Email |

1. Why do you want a raised bed?

(no more than 300 words)

2. Please tell us about your previous experience of growing veg (if any)? Also what access do you have to any other growing space?

(no more than 300 words)

3. Do you have any ideas of what you want to grow if you are successful in getting a plot? If so, please let us know your ideas below:

(no more than 300 words)

4. Is there anything else that you think you could bring to the experience or you think it would be useful for us to know about you?

(no more than 300 words)

**To submit your application**

Please return this form to South Seeds by email to croft@southseeds.org. We look forward to hearing from you. Sadly we are unable to consider forms received after **9am on Monday 13th of April 2020**. We aim to have contacted the successful applicants by the following week.

**Still have questions?**

Call Zoe on 07599812285 or email croft@southseeds.org. There’s lots more information about South Seeds on [www.southseeds.org](http://www.southseeds.org) (you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter too!)

Please note that by the 13 April we will know more about the Government’s advice on the coronavirus pandemic. As we are growing the seedlings for you, the raised bed can be given to you at any point over the summer but this is your only chance to apply for one. Obviously the earlier we give the raised bed to you, the more time you get to spend there, this is why we are running applications now.