

What will we grow in the FF?

To begin, we will grow our signature IGI greenhouse lettuce mix. This new system will allow us to grow more seasonally optimal crops. We will also mix in a wide selection of other greens, herbs, and flowers. Although the visual appearance is vastly different between greenhouse systems and greenery systems (FF) the basics of hydroponics and plant biology are the same vertically or horizontally. We can grow anything from lettuce to cabbage, rosemary to basil, strawberries to watermelons. For this season greenery greens will be available where all IGI products are sold: Cronig's, our Mobile Market, in our summer and winter CSA's, and at select restaurants.

What is Freight Farm (FF)?

FF is a Boston based company that constructs CEA [controlled environment agriculture] hydroponic systems inside of shipping containers. This is different from IGI's existing greenhouse because it's entirely enclosed. This means that light needed for the plants to grow is set to a timer which powers a wide spectrum LED array. The pumps which carry water are timed. The temperature, humidity and air flow is controlled by a computer and all of this is commanded from an app on a cellphone.

The growing systems are vertical as opposed to horizontal which allows for larger production on a smaller footprint. The whole unit will have about 3,200 large plant growing sites with space for an equal number of seedlings. This allows for a seamless and self-contained seed-to-harvest grow cycle in an 8'x40' container. In comparison, one of our existing systems contains 2,100 large plant grow sites, each of these systems is 15'x40'.





What's good about the Greenery?

One of the biggest benefits to a self-contained hydroponic system like this is the location. The greenery has such a small footprint that they can go almost anywhere including structurally stable roofs, schools, hospitals and care facilities, restaurants, isolated communities, and even in the middle of a diversified farm like IGI. It brings another tool to the table in year-round growing under meticulously controlled conditions. It allows for farmers to grow high-value crops in a small unused piece of land while leaving their fields free for bulk production. It can be an excellent teaching tool for students in growing hydroponically and also in system maintenance, business planning, marketing, and management. A self-contained system such as this can easily be taken to a food desert and provide year round, fresh produce to those who might not otherwise have access.