



The Class Produce Group LLC

8477 Dorsey Run Road

Jessup MD 20794

Phone 410-799-5700

www.classproduce.com

The background features a bright sunburst at the top, with rays of light in shades of yellow and white. Below the sun, a vast agricultural landscape is depicted with long, straight rows of green crops stretching towards the horizon. In the foreground, a variety of fresh fruits are shown, including a bunch of purple grapes, a large red tomato, a yellow banana, a red strawberry, an orange, a pear, and a red bell pepper. The overall scene is bright and colorful, representing a healthy and productive local food system.

Local Sourcing Program

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Our Mission

The Class Produce Group is a family-owned business in food distribution that strives to fill its customers' needs while maintaining excellent relationships with all shippers, associates, and customers. Our flexibility to customize to our customer needs is one of the hallmarks of our reputation for customer service.

The Class Produce Group has been in business for over 80 years distributing fresh fruits and vegetables up and down the east coast. We have built our business on reputation, quality, dependability and service. We only source our product from the best growers and shippers nationwide, worldwide and of course, locally. We are a family run business that takes pride in our service to customers and our relationships with our suppliers.



Class Produce History

The Class Produce Group started in the early 1930s by William Deemer Class at the Baltimore Marsh Produce Market selling only “local produce”. As the business grew William Class, known to everyone as “Deemer”, expanded and moved to the Pulaski Highway Produce Terminal in the mid 1960s. Business expanded even more and he moved to the newly built Maryland Wholesale Produce Terminal in Jessup Maryland in the 1970s. Deemer was committed to understanding his customers’ needs while at the same time wanted the best local farmers in the area. He was dedicated to providing the highest quality produce and service while conducting all his business with a handshake and his word.



Class Produce History

Deemer brought his son Pete into the business in the 1960s and the company became W.D Class and Son. Deemer passed all of his principles on to Pete and as time went on Pete expanded the business into six different companies. Each company had its niche specializing in the market place resulting in one of the largest produce companies on the east coast. In the mid 1980s Pete brought his three sons into the businesses who have maintained their Grandfather's practices and beliefs. On November 1, 2004 the three sons announced a significant change in its operating structure. They wanted to provide additional services and superior products to their customers and merged several of the companies into a single operating entity known as The Class Produce Group. By combining these units Class has enhanced it's customer access to a larger product line, additional distribution services and a full talent of a professional staff. Each member of our team is committed to customer satisfaction and is passionate about delivering the best possible product.



Local Produce Program

We have developed a very comprehensive locally grown program that includes both conventional and organic produce. Our mission is to create long term commitments with our current growers, and to actively recruit the best local growers across a range of states adjacent to Maryland.



Local Sourcing Overview

The Class Produce Group is continuing its ongoing commitment to source more local fruits and vegetables to keep produce prices down and provide affordable selections that are fresh and healthful. This is one example of the company's efforts to support local economies, cut shipping costs, provide fresh food offerings, and lessen our carbon footprint.

W.D. Class started by only selling local produce over 80 years ago. Class Produce has been working with local farmers since the day we opened our doors. We have many long-standing relationships that have passed down through the generations making us one of the largest buyers of local produce on the East Coast. During the summer months, fruits and vegetables that are grown in the Mid-Atlantic states can make up a fifth of the produce available.



Local Sourcing Overview

Offering local produce has been a natural fit for The Class Produce Group. Local farmers know they have a close alliance with Class Produce. Along with our Organic program, and our recycling and environmental efforts, we are taking collaboration with local farmers and business to a new level with a pledge to grow these alliances. We are committed to purchasing locally grown produce whenever possible.



So Why Source Locally?

Shortening the Distance from Farm to Fork

Beyond the benefits to consumers and economic opportunities for farmers, The Class Produce Group's commitment to locally grown produce is helping to reduce "food miles" – the distance food travels from farm to fork. It is estimated that in the United States, produce travels an average of 1,500 miles from farms to the homes of consumers. Through better logistics planning, better packing of trucks and local sourcing, distributors moving locally grown produce can expect to save millions of food miles each year.



Benefits To Sourcing Local Produce from Class Produce

Class Produce Group is fully compliant with the latest Food Safety and Traceability standards. Our HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) certification and other existing food safety procedures are second to none. We take great pride in the recent SUPERIOR rating we received in December 2012 on our Packinghouse Global Food Safety Initiative audit conducted by the respected independent auditor, Primus GFS. We are a Certified Organic Handler by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture. In February of 2012, we became a certified Tomato Metrics distributor under the guidelines set forth by United Fresh in the “Food Safety and Auditing Protocol for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain.”

Class has added a complete traceability program and a Country of Origin labeling program to our extensive safety policies. You can be assured that products purchased from Class Produce have been handled and graded according to strict standards and can be tracked all the way back to the farm!

What You Can Expect from Our Program

- All cartons of locally grown produce can be labeled "Locally Grown" (USA).
- We work closely with all our local growers to keep them up to date with all food safety regulations. We conduct our own inspections at the farms to ensure proper food handling procedures are in place for growing, harvesting and transport.
- Every carton of locally grown produce that enters our distribution system will have the benefit of being handled in compliance with our independent HACCP and traceability systems.
- Included in this publication is an entire seasonal calendar showing product availability across a wide range of fresh fruits and vegetables.



What You Can Expect from Our Program

- Sales support material that can be customized to a given customer's needs, including sales support sheets, and retail shelf POS materials.
- Grower profiles and the story of their farm along with photos of the growers that can be used in promotional material/programs.
- Promotional and ad pricing of local grown items over the course of the season.
- All local grown products have the benefit of being consolidated on orders with our wide range of produce, and delivered via our transportation/distribution system.



Local Crop Schedule

CROP	APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST			SEPT.			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End
Apple Cider																X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Fuji													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Gala													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Ginger Gold													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Gold Del.													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Mutsu													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Red Del.													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Rome													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Apple Stayman													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arugula								X	X	X	X	X	X														
Asparagus		X	X	X	X	X																					
Bean Green									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Bean Lima										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Bean Long									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Beet Bunched								X	X	X	X	X	X														
Bell Peppers										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Bitter melon									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Blackberries										X	X	X	X	X	X												
Blueberry								X	X	X	X	X	X														
Bok Choy								X	X	X	X	X	X														
Broccoli							X	X	X	X	X	X															
Cabbage Chinese								X	X	X	X	X	X														
Cabbage Green							X	X	X	X	X	X															
Cabbage Red							X	X	X	X	X	X															
Cabbage Savoy							X	X	X	X	X	X															
Cantaloupes										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Cauliflower						X	X											X	X	X	X	X	X				

Local Crop Schedule

CROP	APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST			SEPT.			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER					
	Mid	End		Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End	Early	Mid	End			
Strawberry					X	X	X																							
Sugarbabies												X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Sweet Potato White																						X	X	X						
Tomatillo									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Tomato Cherry										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Tomato Grape										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Tomato Plum											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Tomato yellow										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Tomatoes										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Turnips																				X	X	X	X	X						
Watermelon											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Yams																						X	X	X						





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