



Soil health bus tours: sustaining the soil and growing profitable fruit & vegetable farms

Join UMN Extension and partners to visit urban, suburban, and rural farms growing fruits and vegetables at various scales. Learn about soil health practices, unique growing challenges, and conservation support programs.

TOUR 1: Urban farming and gardening

Discover the challenges of city growing—compaction, soil health, water management, and more. Learn from growers using no-till, cover crops, compost, and more. Explore support programs for urban agriculture!

Monday, September 22
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

TOUR 2: Intensive small-scale market gardening

Explore profitable small-scale farming (1–5 acres) and soil care. Visit a cooperative incubator farm and a thriving suburban market garden. Learn about cover crops, reduced tillage, high tunnel soil health, and support for growers.

Friday, October 10
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

TOUR 3: Scaling up soil health strategies

Visit three farms near Northfield, MN to explore soil health at a larger scale. Learn about mechanized cover cropping, reduced tillage, erosion control, and using perennials and pollinator strips.

Friday, November 14
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Who are these tours for?

These tours are for:

- Farmers who want to improve their soil health
- Aspiring farmers who want to see successful farms at different scales
- Conservation professionals (NRCS, SWCD, etc.) who want to support specialty crop farmers.

Bus tour details:

- All bus tours will leave from St. Paul, MN.
- Cost \$15 (flat fee covers 1, 2, or all 3 tours)
 - Join all 3 tours and enter the soil health raffle!
- Limited scholarships/stipends available.
- Tours include lunch
- Interpretation is available.

Register at z.umn.edu/vegetablebustours or scan the QR code!

Funding for these tours was provided by the Minnesota Office for Soil Health. Please reach out to Natalie Hoidal at hoida016@umn.edu with questions.

