



ANISHINABEK NATION

Year-Round Community Food Project: Promoting Food Sovereignty



GROWCER

Modular Food Solutions

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ABOUT GROWCER



- **Company founded and based in Ottawa, Ontario**
- **Technology was first deployed to food insecure remote communities** and proven in -55°C to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$ weather
- **100% employee-owned social enterprise**; that empowers communities & organizations to sustainably take control of their local food system
- Team has extensive experience in community economic development, commercial greenhouse, food production, agriculture, and working with retailers
- **We offer full support every step of the way**



PROJECT GOAL

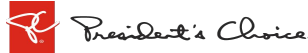
Empower communities to take control of their local food system by sustainably growing fresh nutritious produce year-round with a proven ag-tech solution.



OUR NETWORK OF COMMUNITY GROWERS



Trusted By



WHAT GROWCER OFFERS

TURN-KEY FARMING SOLUTION

Within 4 months, a community will be growing fresh greens.

SELF SUFFICIENT SOCIAL PROJECT

An economically self-sufficient project with predictable revenue and costs.

TRAINING AND LIFETIME SUPPORT

From planning, training, distribution, to ongoing mentoring, Growcer provides support along the way.



HOW IT WORKS

Installation

A farm is delivered and installed by the Growcer team

Launch and ongoing support

From planning, training, distribution, to ongoing mentoring, Growcer provides support every step of the way.

Within 4 months, provide fresh nutritious food every week of the year.



BENEFITS OF A GROWCER PROJECT

SECURE ACCESS TO LOCALLY GROWN, NUTRITIOUS FOOD

SHOWCASE AN INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

PROVIDE LOCAL SOCIAL & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

PROMOTE HEALTH & WELLNESS

OFFER HANDS-ON TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



“There is a need in every community to have food, to have fresh vegetables. It’s about promoting health, community, getting people involved in learning how to grow, and having that community hub.”

- Geena Jackson, director at Nation Build Group



Technology & Training

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FARM

OUTSIDE



INSIDE

95%

Less water use than traditional farming with hydroponic farming.

504

Veggies per week, all year round.

24/7

Remote monitoring and yield tracking.

~20h

per week to operate and maintain.

Electricity: 200A, 240-Volt. Single Phase Power.

Water: 3,975L tank. ~2,500L consumption per month.

THE TECHNOLOGY → GROWCER FARM



40x10' purpose-built steel structure

- Year-round commercial farming **in any climate**. No matter the weather, our vegetables are **always in season!**
- Grows up to **504 mature heads of produce per week**
- **Smart Farm** - with a remote monitoring and production tool management app

HOW THE GROWCER FARM WORKS

Hydroponics provide nutrient-rich water, light, and CO2-rich air to plants

- **No soil**

Automated controls, requiring only 15 hours weekly

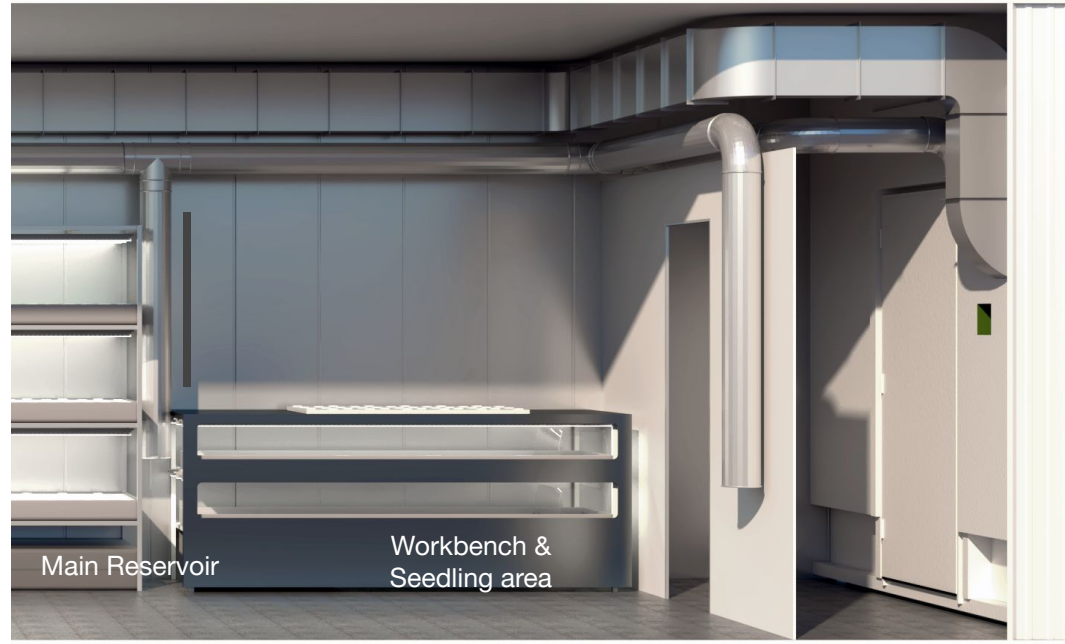
24/7 remote monitoring for peace of mind

- Ensures optimal growing conditions every 4 seconds, optimizing grow speeds
- From seed to fully mature plant in 6 weeks or less

HVAC



CONTROL SYSTEMS



Growing Room

Control Room

WHAT YOU CAN GROW



Brassicas
5-6 weeks from seed
Ex: Broccoli and
mustard greens



Asian Hearty Greens
6 weeks from seed
Ex: bok choy and
water spinach



Microgreens
2-3 weeks from seed
Ex: red sorrel, chives, and
mizuna



Herbs
8-10 weeks from seed
Ex: mint, dill, basil,
and rosemary



Leafy Greens
4-6 weeks from seed
Ex: lettuce, kale, and
chard

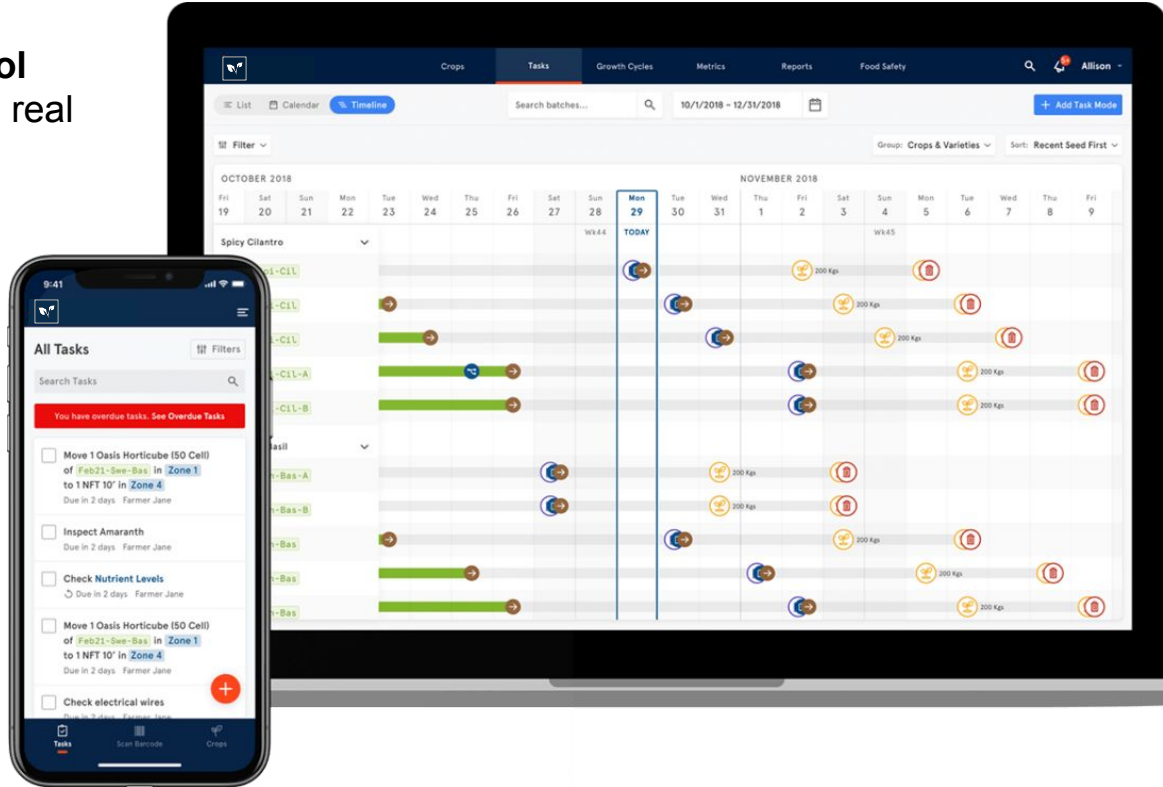
Cultural crops
Ex: Qungulit
(Mountain sorrel)



Strawberries(beta)

SMART FARM

- The **Production Management Tool** collects data across the network in real time:
 - Weekly yield data
 - All tasks completed and reliability statistics
 - All environmental parameters
- Growcer Scientists regularly analyze data and benchmark each customer to the network
- Submit annual financials to their Customer Success Representative in exchange for advice on optimizing profitability



ON-SITE TRAINING & INSTALLATION SUPPORT

Growcer modules include:



Horticultural Training: Plant maintenance, pest and disease management. Learn the ropes of growing commercially!



Employee Training: Maintenance and system operations training, including troubleshooting and access to a library of Quick Reference Manual



Business Manager/Supervisor Training: Tracking success with Key Performance Indicators, managing business and financial objectives





A LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT

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PROJECT GOAL:

Creating a sustainable healthy source of produce and increasing food sovereignty has long been a goal for Squamish Nation's Ayás Méńmen Child and Family Services

Where?

[Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw](#) (Squamish Nation) community of Xwemelch'stn in North Vancouver

Distribution Model:

Produce from the new farm will be shared with families serviced by Ayás Méńmen, the youth centre and the future Smeķw'ú7ts (Food Sharing) Community Kitchen and S7ílhen (Food) Pantry, which is hoped to be up and running by the summertime.

Community Impact:

Community members have access to fresh produce.

Operational model:

Squamish Nation's Ayás Méńmen Child and Family Services department maintains the system



Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw
Squamish Nation

PROJECT GOAL:

Add new jobs, provide better food, and serve as an economic development opportunity.

Where?

Norway House Cree Nation, Treaty 5 Territory

Sales Model:

- 1- Sell to the Northern Store and locally-owned grocery store
- 2- Produce subscription for local residents

Community Impact:

Community members have access to fresh produce. All profits from the project are retained as band revenue, with the goal of adding more units next year.

Operational model:

Two part-time operators share weekly responsibilities and follow checklists to ensure all tasks are completed.



“The biggest impact is at Helen Betty Osborne [Ininiw Education Resource Centre] where 600 to 700 students are consuming our produce every day.”

- Virginia Muswagon, co-manager of Life Water Gardens



PROJECT GOAL:

Feed the community, create employment opportunities, expand local agricultural economy

Where?

Sheshegwaning First Nation, Manitoulin Island, Ontario

Sales Model:

Plan to sell to local businesses

- Restaurants
- Subscription food boxes

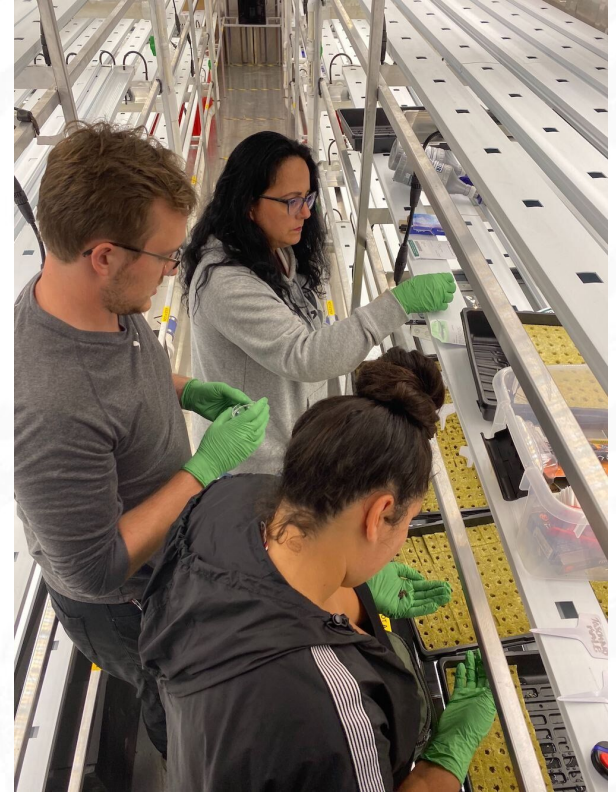
Provide donations to community

Community Impact:

Increasing availability and access to locally grown, nutritious produce, while providing educational/employment opportunities to community members

Operational model:

One operator managing day-to-day activities, Director of Economic Development oversees entire operation.



PROJECT GOAL:

Promote food sovereignty and educate youth.

Where?

Kugluktuk, Nunavut

Sales Model:

1- Subscription model where community members pre-pay \$20 for a bundle and pick up at the container biweekly

Community Impact:

School lunch program is supplied with fresh lettuces for sandwiches and salads on a regular basis.

Operational model:

School youth, supervised by teachers, learn about their greenhouse and perform harvesting tasks. Teachers perform regular maintenance tasks.



PROJECT GOAL:

Help Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society (non-profit) grow produce year-round for their community members.

Where?

Prince Rupert, B.C.

Sales Model:

- 1- Produce subscription for community members
- 2- Donate remaining produce to community members in need

Community Impact:

All proceeds from the project are used for other programs in the community.

Operational model:

One full-time operator managed by the non-profit.



PROJECT GOAL:

Reduce the co-op's reliance on imported produce for the south and create a sustainable supply-chain.

Where?

Yellowknife Co-op in Yellowknife, NWT

Sales Model:

1 - Sell the produce grown on site in the co-op store steps away

Community Impact:

Provides the community with locally grown, high quality produce year-round regardless of the weather.

Operational model:

The farm is operated by employees of the Yellowknife Co-op.



“One of the economic benefits of having Growcer at the store is loyalty. A lot of members and customers are coming to the store and shopping just for locally grown produce.” - Justin Nelson, General Manager, Yellowknife Co-Op



How to get started..

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TO MAKE IT WORK

SPACE:

A 50' by 12' flat landing pad is recommended. Growcer's farms are National Building Code compliant.

WATER:

Options are available to be directly connected to a water source or filled monthly with a garden hose.

POWER:

200A, 240-volt single phase power required.



WAYS TO **DISTRIBUTE** PRODUCE

Weekly Food Boxes



Create an opportunity for the community to subscribe for a weekly box of freshly grown vegetables.

Local Institutions (ex: Hospital & School)



Provide fresh produce to local institutions to use in their cafeteria or food programs.

Local Co-op Store



Partner with local retailers and restaurants to supply a high quality product.

Donations



Donate fresh, nutritious to those in need by partnering with local organizations.



TYPICAL PLANNING STEPS

Growcer pre-delivery services, provided at no cost

- Present concept and discuss objectives; **receive support to explore further**
- Community shares local food prices, electricity cost, and labour cost with Growcer team
- Growcer prepares **customized financial projections** based on actual performance from current customers' farms and distribution channels.
- Schedule call to **review economic case** with Growcer and community leadership. **Discuss community's goals.** Growcer prepares recommendations for the project model to best meet those goals.
- Band Council Resolution (BCR) signed to pursue project.**
- Place deposit on a unit. Identify 1-2 champions in the community to lead project.



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES



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