

GARDENING & COMPOSTING EDUCATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Fall 2009 Course Outline: September – December 2009

Classes meet on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and six Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. In addition to attending these classes, participants must also complete 50 hours of volunteer service as part of a community outreach project involving gardening and composting. Volunteer hours are to be completed by June 2010.

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| Session 1
Saturday 9/19 | Welcome to GCETP & Introduction to Organic Gardening
Course philosophy/overview, participants' intro, garden tour and overall concepts of organic gardening. |
| Session 2
Saturday 9/26 | Basics of Composting
Learn the basics of composting, the benefits of compost, and how to build a compost pile! |
| Session 3
Wednesday 9/30 | Worm Composting
City living food composting - how to establish, maintain and harvest a worm bin. |
| Session 4
Saturday 10/3 | Soil and Soil Fertility
Soils, cover crops, organic fertilizers and watering basics. |
| Session 5
Saturday 10/10 | Intro to Propagation (Seed Starting, Planting, Transplanting)
Starting plants from seeds, cuttings, divisions and transplanting. |
| Session 6
Wednesday 10/14 | Pest and Disease Management
A slideshow of common pests and diseases of the Bay Area / introduction to IPM (Integrated Pest Management). |
| Session 7
Saturday 10/17 | Tracking Trash / SF Natural History and Native Plants (FIELD TRIP)
Tour the SF Transfer Station and discover the beauty and later, learn about SF Natural History and SF native plants. |
| Session 8
Saturday 10/24 | Pruning
Learn the basics of pruning for a variety of shrubs, vines and fruit trees. |
| Session 9
Wednesday 10/28 | Project Planning
Learn about different project sites for your volunteer service project and begin to develop plans with class members. |
| Session 10
Saturday 10/31 | Hardscaping with Recycled Materials
Techniques for building pathways, beds, and containers with recycled materials. |
| Session 11
Saturday 11/7 | Community Organizing / Workshop on workshops
Basics of respectful and effective organizing / project building around urban gardens and participatory community partnerships and leading effective workshops. |
| Session 12
Wednesday 11/11 | Food Security
Learn about food security issues including sustainable agriculture, food deserts, GMOs and CSAs from a panel of local experts. |
| Session 13
Saturday 11/14 | Permaculture Fieldtrip (FIELD TRIP)
Visit local permaculture sites and learn about designing sustainable environments. |
| Session 14
Saturday 11/21 | Project Workday
Dig-in at your project sites! |
| Session 15
Wednesday 12/2 | Film Night: Films and Discussion on Sustainable Agriculture
View recent films highlighting challenges and success in sustainable agriculture. |

Session 16

Saturday 12/5

Intro to Small Scale Agriculture

We discuss small scale agriculture, including crop rotations, harvesting, and crop selection.

Session 17

Saturday 12/12

Sustainable Garden Design

Sustainable and resource efficient garden design from concept to layout to planting.

Session 18

Wednesday 12/16

GCETP GRADUATION!!!

Invite your friends to our Potluck graduation celebrating the GCETP grads.