

GARDENING & COMPOSTING EDUCATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Fall 2010 Course Outline: September – December 2010

Classes meet on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and seven 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 2011.

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| Session 1
Saturday 9/11 | Welcome to GCETP & Introduction to Organic Gardening
Course philosophy/overview, participants' intro, garden tour and overall concepts of organic gardening. |
| Session 2
Saturday 9/18 | Tracking Trash Tour (FIELD TRIP)
Tour the SF Transfer Station |
| Session 3
Wednesday 9/22 | Worm Composting
City living food composting - how to establish, maintain and harvest a worm bin. |
| Session 4
Saturday 10/2 | Soil Fertility
Soils, cover crops, organic fertilizers and watering basics. |
| Session 5
Saturday 10/9 | Basics of Backyard Composting
Learn the basics of composting, the benefits of compost, and how to build a compost pile! |
| Session 6
Wednesday 10/13 | Pest and Disease Management
A slideshow of common pests and diseases of the Bay Area / introduction to IPM (Integrated Pest Management). |
| Session 7
Saturday 10/16 | Propagation (Seed Starting, Planting, Transplanting)
Starting plants from seeds, cuttings, divisions and transplanting. |
| Session 8
Saturday 10/23 | Pruning
Learn the basics of pruning for a variety of shrubs, vines and fruit trees. |
| Session 9
Wednesday 10/27 | Project Planning
Learn about different project sites for your volunteer service project and begin to develop plans with class members. |
| Session 10
Saturday 10/30 | Workshop on workshops
Basics of respectful and effective organizing / project building around urban gardens and participatory community partnerships and leading effective workshops. |
| Session 11
Saturday 11/6 | Hardscaping with Recycled Materials
Techniques for building pathways, beds, and containers with recycled materials. |

- Session 12**
Wednesday 11/10 **Food Security**
Learn about food security issues including sustainable agriculture, food deserts, GMOs and CSAs from a panel of local experts.
- Session 13**
Saturday 11/13 **Introduction to Permaculture (FIELD TRIP)**
Visit local permaculture sites and learn about designing sustainable environments.
- Session 14**
Saturday 11/20 **Project Workday**
Dig-in at your project sites!
- Session 15**
Wednesday 12/4 **Film Night: Films and Discussion on Sustainable Agriculture**
View recent films highlighting challenges and success in sustainable agriculture.
- Session 16**
Saturday 12/11 **Intro to Small Scale Urban Agriculture**
We discuss small scale agriculture, including crop rotations, harvesting, and crop selection.
- Session 17**
Wednesday 12/15 **Ecological Garden Design**
Sustainable and resource efficient garden design from concept to layout to planting.
- Session 18**
Friday 12/17 **GCETP GRADUATION!!!**
Invite your friends to our Potluck graduation celebrating the GCETP grads.