



OSU Extension Service Community and Urban Horticulture

Weston Miller- Metro Community and Urban Horticulture Faculty

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Organic Gardening Certificate Program- 2010 Course Syllabus

Primary Instructors and Course Contacts

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Course Description

The Organic Gardening Certificate Program utilizes a hands-on and active-learning format to teach participants about all aspects of growing and caring for plants without synthesized chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This 66-hour training was created by OSU Extension Service, Oregon Tilth Organic Education Center, and other program partners to support the groundswell of interest in organic gardening, ecological landscaping, and food security in the Portland metro area.

Course includes: research-based and best-practice information on soils and organic fertilizers, compost and mulches, plant propagation, garden planning/design, intensive vegetable production, small fruits, home orchards, ornamental plants, rain gardens, weed control techniques, entomology (insects) and plant pathology, plant problem diagnosis, community resources and more.

Participants will also give student presentations as a culminating project.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Create management plan for organic gardens and landscapes with detailed analysis of benefits and drawbacks of various garden management practices
- Create a design for an edible landscape with intensive vegetable production
- Practice important gardening skills and safe tool use

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- Apply principles of healthy soil for healthy plants to gardens and landscape management
- Practice biorational approach to pest control and land management
- Understand methods and products for organic Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Analyze social aspects of urban organic gardening and landscaping
- Share learning with peers and the community.

Certificate Requirements:

- **Attendance:** Students must attend 80% of class time (54 of 66 hours) in order to receive the official certificate of completion. Attendance and participation are critical for you learning in this program. Please make sure to sign-in in the attendance book each day that you attend class. Please make a note if you miss part of a day.
- **Final Project:** Students are required to complete a final project/presentation on the last day of class (see description below).

Class Format

The OGCP is an 11-week course held on Saturdays from 9am -4pm. It utilizes a community approach to horticulture education. Through readings, assignments, interactive presentations, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and social networking, participants will learn the knowledge and skills of organic gardening and ecological landscaping and about the social landscape of community and urban agriculture. Participants will also make mini-presentations in small groups as the culminating project of the OGCP.

Class Dates, Times and Locations

Saturdays April 10 – June 26, 2010 (except 5/29). See attached course schedule for details.

Daily Schedule

Morning Session- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Lunch- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (bring a lunch if possible to allow for community building)

Afternoon Session- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Please note: we start on time and end on time. Please be ready to learn at the start times!

Training Locations and Addresses

- Brentwood-Darlington Community Center- 7211 SE 62nd Ave, Portland, OR 97206
- Learning Gardens Laboratory- 6801 SE 60th Ave. Portland, OR 97206
- Luscher Farm- 135 Rosemont Rd. West Linn, OR 97068 (4/17 only)

Assigned and Supplemental Readings

There are reading assignments for each class (see the Detailed Course Schedule). Please read in advance of each class as the assigned reading should provide a good background for the many topics that will be discussed in class. The assigned readings come from several sources:

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- *The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide* by Seattle Tilth
- *The Home Orchard*- University of California ANR
- Many publications and handouts
- Supplemental reading list: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/organic-content>
- Other materials are accessible through the OGCP web portal <http://ogcp2009.ning.com/>
 - This site will serve as a portal to all class materials, discussions, etc.
 - You will receive an invitation to join this network before the class begins.

Program Guidelines

- Arrive on time. We start teaching at the designated start times. You should arrive early so that you are ready to go when class starts.
- Sign-in at the beginning of each day. Please make a note if you come late or leave early.
- This is your course. You will learn the most if you actively participate in discussions by sharing your experiences and asking questions. At the same time, respect other students' desire to learn: listen attentively and appreciate other points of view.
- Wear your name tag! Learn the names of the classmates.
- Keep it positive and help one another learn.
- Take responsibility for training facilities by cleaning up after yourself and others and by offering to help with the set-up/break-down and clean-up of our facilities. Class coordinators welcome your help and support.
- Turn off your cell phone. Please keep electronic devices from being a distraction.
- Know basic safety rules. Report any accidents, injuries, or problems immediately.
- Security is a primary concern at training locations. Be responsible for your things and considerate of other students' belongings.
- Please inform course instructors if there are any issues that need attention.

Spring Weather and Your Comfort

Due to the hands-on nature of this training and the potential for inclement weather, we encourage you come prepared to get a little wet on most training days. Bring rain gear, close-toed shoes, and layered clothing to ensure that you will be comfortable during both indoor and outdoor activities.

Recommended Volunteer Service

We encourage garden-based volunteerism! There are countless educational and community gardens in the Portland metro area. Many of these projects are looking for people to help them with their projects. Many OGCP participants also come to the training wanting to apply their learning to a specific community project.

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Through the coursework and final project associated with the OGCP, we encourage YOU to use the knowledge, skills, and confidence that you have gained to give back to the community.

Final Projects- Due June 26, 2010 at 9:00 am

All participants in the program should complete one project from the options below. Please be practical about the project and apply the work of this project toward something useful in your life. Make it fun!

Option A- 7-minute Presentation.

Prepare an engaging and short presentation on a gardening topic and share it to small groups in class. Choose a gardening topic in which you are confident (or want to learn more about).

- Identify an audience that you anticipate working with as a garden educator.
- Briefly describe the educational scenario to your cohort.
- Prepare a brief presentation about the topic (no more than 7 minutes including time for questions).
- Your goal is to share your knowledge (information) in an engaging way.
- The format of the session is up to you and include:
 - Lecture-style
 - Activity or game
 - Slide show
 - Video
 - Poster board and explanation
 - Role-play
 - Write a paper and share what you have learned.
 - Etc.
- Prepare a visual aid (or several) to support your presentation.
- Have Fun! Remember, you are sharing information on a topic that you are passionate about and want others to know about too

Option B- Crop and/or Landscape Plan

Prepare a crop plan for 2010 for a garden space that interests you. The space you choose to plan for is up to you and can range from a small container garden on a patio to a large garden in your yard or at another location. Here are some important elements to include:

- What are your goals for the space and what is the timeline?
- Create a functional map of site Zone and Sector Analysis including: sun, water, utilities, flow of people and materials, and other factors which influence the site.
- Soil Preparation.
- What plants will you plant? Where? When? (Crop rotation if using annual plants).
- What techniques/skills will you use to accomplish your goals?
- References.
- Share your plan with your peers