

Interested in a comprehensive training in organic gardening and ecological landscaping?

Course Description

The Organic Gardening Certificate Program (OGCP) is modeled after the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program...with an organic gardening focus. The OGCP 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 60-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 include: research based information on soils and organic amendments, compost and mulches, plant propagation, garden planning/design, intensive vegetable production, small fruits, home orchards, ornamental plants, rain gardens, weed control techniques, organic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and community resources.

Participants also will give student presentations as a culminating project and will have the opportunity to serve as garden educators by connecting with a variety of local gardening projects and organizations through a 30-hour volunteer practicum.

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
- 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.

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 also make mini-presentations in small groups as the culminating project of the OGCP.



Future OGCP Classes

Classes offered spring and fall 2010.

To get on the contact list

email ogcp.register@gmail.com or call 503-705-9748

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/organic-gardening>