



ORGANIC GARDENING: FALL 2009 SERIES

A workshop series introducing practical gardening skills through hands-on learning and small group instruction at Zenger Farm's six-acre field and garden sites.

Saturday, August 15, Cultivating Vegetables: The range of crop habits, preferences, and natural histories is so extensive, learning common vegetable family names and their characteristics can help us organize our relationships to those plants we choose to cultivate. Bring your questions about how care for specific vegetables from planting until harvest.

Saturday, August 22, Hot Composting & Sheet Mulching: Most of the organic matter you already generate at home can contribute to an ultra-fertile soil environment through a well-managed compost pile or sheet-mulching effort.. We'll consider the key elements that make up a healthy pile and sheet mulch, common ingredients, and the peculiar world of carbon-to-nitrogen ratios; we'll also build and troubleshoot a few farm compost piles and examine a worm composting system.

Saturday, August 29, Cover Crops: Triticale, vetch, or rapeseed may not be the first crops on your mind, but these plantings – among many other Oregon cover crops – can provide the essential roles of fixing nitrogen, capturing nutrients, smothering weeds, suppressing pests, and disease, and protecting soil surface and structure. We'll examine considerations when selecting a cover crop and seed the first of them.

Saturday, September 5, Planning a Winter Garden: Which veggies can tolerate the outdoors during our cold, rainy winters? What techniques might we use to keep the others from becoming decaying dregs? Planning an active winter garden requires the right balance of variety choice, protection, and appropriate planting dates - adjustments to the typical rhythm of your cultivation practices are necessary. We'll study each of these routines and seed the last of the season's veggies.

Saturday, September 12, Fruit Trees: In our growing area, we can reliably choose from nearly fifty varieties of apples, cherries, figs, nectarines, peaches, pears, persimmons, and plums. A number of other little known or tricky-to-grow fruits complete my sense of abundant supply here. Do your time, backyard space, and interest in managing fruit trees justify planting a few? We'll go over the many questions to consider before planting and a collection of basic management strategies. Propagation, grafting, and other advanced techniques *will not* be covered.

Saturday, September 19, Seed Saving: Historically, humans have benefited from an extraordinary diversity of about 7,000 plant species for food, each further expressed by thousands of varieties. We owe tremendous thanks to the farmers and gardeners before us, who have promoted this diversity through the ritual of seed saving. We'll discuss the essential skills needed toward that end: familiarity with plant reproduction, maintaining varietal integrity, and seed cleaning/storage. Bring your seeds to swap and share with other local gardeners!

Cost: \$105 (All 6 classes) or \$20 per class. Advanced registration is required
Please contact Ryan Hofrichter at ryanlee.hofrichter@gmail.com or 786-972-1333!

Dates: Saturdays,
August 15 - September 19, 2009

Time: 10:00-12:30 PM

Zenger Farm
11741 SE Foster Road
Portland, OR 97266

Contact: Ryan Hofrichter
ryanlee.hofrichter@gmail.com
786-972-1333

ORGANIC GARDENING: FALL 2009 SERIES