

2020 Schedule & Class Descriptions



Creating a successful community garden takes more than just a “green thumb.” In addition to horticultural skills, it also takes time, dedication, leadership and organization. These trainings provide skills, resources and ideas to overcome the organizational and logistical challenges to build and maintain successful, productive and sustainable community gardens. Classes are interactive and a combination of lecture, panel discussions, and group activities. In addition, individuals will present to the class on topics that frequently arise in community gardens.

NO partial attendance.

- Wednesday, 2/12 *History of Community Gardens and How to Start a New Community Garden*
6:00-8:15pm Ever wondered how community gardens are started? Learn about the history and benefits of community gardens, DUG, and the growing movement of local small-scale agriculture.
- Wednesday, 2/19 *Communication Skills*
6:00-8:15pm This training includes skills and resources on conflict resolution, effective methods of communicating with gardeners, and interacting with diverse populations including multilingual and multicultural gardeners.
- Wednesday, 2/26 *Community Organizing Basics (In the Garden and Out In the Neighborhood)*
6:00-8:15pm Learn effective methods of growing your community within the garden and out into the surrounding community, including developing a gardener skills bank and encouraging partnerships in the community garden.
- Wednesday, 3/4 *Garden Management/Administration*
6:00-8:15pm The “how-to” class of managing a community garden, including “nuts and bolts” on garden leadership, committees, budgeting, fundraising, soliciting donations, and plot assignments.
- Wednesday, 3/11 *Community Garden Design Principles*
6:00-8:15pm Principles and guidelines for garden design including physical parameters, building permanent features (e.g. raised beds and pathways), planning thematic beds, and applying appropriate design for specific sites.
- Wednesday, 3/18 *Soil and Water Conservation*
6:00-8:15pm Learn basic fundamentals of plant biology and water conservation techniques and issues.
- Saturday, 3/21 *Basic Organic Growing of Edibles in Colorado - Part I*
9:00am-3:00pm The two-part series of horticulture classes provides a well-rounded approach to organic growing. Topics include soil health and improvement techniques; composting methods and demonstration; spacing and thinning; companion planting; weed and pest management; and seasonal planting techniques. This first class will focus primarily on spring gardening, including bed preparation and seed starting. There will be an outdoor, hands-on component to this class if weather permits.
- Wednesday, 4/1 *Basic Organic Growing of Edibles in Colorado - Part II*
6:00-8:45pm This class will build upon the previous week’s lessons with specific emphasis on warm and hot season crops, summer and fall gardening, and putting the garden to rest for the winter.

- Wednesday, 4/8
6:00-8:15pm
- What To Do With All the Produce*
Identify and share community and online resources for nutrition information, healthy recipes, and preservation. Class includes how to hold a cooking demonstration and an opportunity to try your hand at fermentation.
- Dates TBA
(plan for weekends in April 9:00am-11:00am; may be weekday options)
- Hands-On Group Activity: Organizing a Work Day*
Choose one of the available dates to work with DUG's Construction Volunteer Coordinator to learn how to work with a community and organize a work day. This opportunity guides participants in the organizational requirements, practical tools, and knowledge required to pull everything together and make the day a productive success! (Participants must commit to one of the dates).
- Dates TBA
In class presentations
- Hands-On Group Activity: Education, Outreach & Community Engagement*
Throughout the program, participants will work toward designing and implementing the components of a community activity. This hands-on group activity will utilize the new skills gained through the program, enabling participants to apply these skills in a new or existing community garden.
- Wednesday, 4/15
6:00-8:45pm
- Troubleshooting – Where To Find the Resources You Need*
This session will cover ideas to overcome common difficulties that frequently arise in a community garden. In addition, this session will include where to go for more resources and a discussion of volunteer opportunities for Give Back hours.