

JANUARY-MARCH
Registration opens December 1

- Back to Basics: Edible Gardening 101
- Bad Bugs Begone: Pest Control in Your Garden
- Beyond “Dirt”: Garden Soil and Amendments
- Choosing and Using Edible Native Plants
- Custom Classes
- Garden Invaders: Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants
- Gardening on the Move
- Gardening with Young’ns
- Intensive Gardening Practices: Growing a Lot in a Little Space
- Intro to Building Garden Structures
- Intro to Cooking and Eating In Season
- Let it Rot: Keys to Effective Composting
- Permaculture in YOUR Garden (and Life!)
- Seed-Starting: Dig It, Drill It, Dump It
- Transplanting Starts: The Fine Art of Plant Massage
- WORKSHOP: Building Garden Structures (One Project Per Session)
- WORKSHOP: Cooking and Eating In Season (One Recipe Per Session)

Back to Basics: Edible Gardening 101

This class is for people who may be brand-new to food gardening, returning to it from an extended absence, or starting over in a new climate. It introduces the garden calendar for this region and offers guidelines for what you will need to do and when in order to be an effective grower in the Portland area.
(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Seed-Starting: Dig It, Drill It, Dump It

This class will cover the advantages of starting your own seeds indoors and under cover outdoors. Participants will learn proper seed-starting techniques and find out how to foster the right conditions for growing seedlings to transplant size. Participants will take home seeds that they start in the class.
(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Intensive Gardening Practices: Growing a Lot in a Little Space

Have you heard of SPIN farming? Square foot gardening? Other ways to grow more vegetables on less land than you ever thought possible? Attend this class to become familiar with the highlights of these (and

other) approaches to growing a lot of food in a little bit of space, and how to apply them in your garden.
(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Choosing and Using Edible Native Plants

Many native edibles are easy to grow, easy to prepare, and easy to incorporate into our eating habits. We will cover a short list of some of the most accessible edible and medicinal natives during this class. Please note: *Consulting an experienced herbalist before using most medicinal plants is advised.*

(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Garden Invaders: Recognizing and Removing Invasive Plants

Our gardens are a great place to start identifying and eradicating harmful and invasive weeds. This class covers the most common garden invaders (including pesky weed species) and best practices for making sure they leave, and don't come back.

(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Gardening on the Move

If you have not (yet) settled down, but you still want to grow your own food, this class will offer tips and tricks for gardening on the move. Topics will include practical skills with container gardening, creating movable planting areas, transplanting, and proper plant care, as well as how to address some of the more emotional challenges of caring for a garden that goes with you wherever you go.

(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Gardening with Young'ns

As a parent, grandparent, teacher, mentor, or other caregiver, working together in the garden is one of the best ways to get active and stay healthy while connecting with your younger counterparts. This class will cover basic best practices for gardening across age gaps.

(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Intro to Building Garden Structures

Have you been thinking about building in your garden? This class will cover best practices for outdoor construction and introduce some of the options available for creative and functional garden structures: raised beds, compost bins, season extenders, terracing, chicken coops, goat pens, and more. (**Note:** For more hands-on experience check out our Workshop on this topic. We do recommend taking the intro class first, and often offer them together.)

(February-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

WORKSHOP: Building Garden Structures (One Project Per Session)

These occasional sessions will focus on building one structure that meets a specific garden need. During the workshop, instructors will review tools and techniques for garden construction, and then participants will be guided through building their own structure. Materials and a limited selection of tools will be provided; participants are encouraged to bring their own tools, if available.

(February-March, 2.5 hrs., \$40-\$100 depending on the project)

Beyond “Dirt”: Garden Soil and Amendments

Readying the soil for spring-summer planting is one of the most important tasks gardeners face at this point in the year. But what is soil made of, and what does it need to benefit the plants we want to grow? This class will provide an overview of soil types and basic soil ecology, give gardeners tools for assessing their soils, and provide suggestions on when and how to use various soil amendments.

(February-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Let it Rot: Keys to Effective Composting

Leave it alone long enough, and it will surely decompose. But will it nourish your plants like you want it to? This class, which provides tips for several composting approaches (including pile and sheet/lasagna methods), will cover how and why compost works, and how to make it work for you.

(February-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Bad Bugs Begone: Pest Control in Your Garden

Losing crops to pest damage can be incredibly discouraging for beginning and veteran gardeners alike. In this class, you will learn about the most common garden pests, and best practices for removing them and making sure they stay away.

(March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Transplanting Starts: The Fine Art of Plant Massage

When it's time to start transitioning those starts that you've lovingly nurtured and protected to the great outdoors, it's time for this class! Participants will learn why some plants grow better from starts instead of seeds, and receive guidance on timing; hands-on practice with transplanting techniques will be emphasized. Participants will leave with at least one start to transplant into their own garden space.

(March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Intro to Cooking and Eating In Season

At some point, most gardeners find themselves thinking: “Well, I grew it—now what?!” This classroom session focuses on what to do with the produce you’ve grown, and where to get complementary seasonal ingredients that don’t come from your garden. Recipes and resource guides for what’s in season provided. (**Note:** For more hands-on experience check out our Workshop on this topic. We do recommend taking the intro class first, and often offer them together.)

(March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

WORKSHOP: Cooking and Eating In Season (One Recipe Per Session)

This workshop takes place in the kitchen. Each class will include demonstration, taste-testing, and hands-on practice. Emphasis is placed on creative use of especially bountiful producers (like zucchini)!

(March, 2.5 hrs., \$40)

Permaculture in YOUR Garden (and Life!)

Permaculture is a design philosophy that is commonly applied to gardening, but which can also be applied to larger systems: businesses, educational endeavors, and other life work. In this class, we cover the personalities behind and basic principles of permaculture, introduce resources for learning more in the Portland area, and discuss how permaculture can be applied across disciplines. Folks who have earned or are pursuing the Permaculture Design Certificate or have done self-study in permaculture are welcome; this is a very basic class, but there will be time for all participants to share their experiences with and thoughts about p’culture.

(January-March, 1.5 hrs., \$10)

Custom Classes

If you want to suggest a specific gardening topic and can help us gather a group of five or more folks to attend a class on it, we will likely be able to create one to meet your needs! This is a great option for neighborhood associations, community gardeners, church groups, and businesses interested in learning more about a specific gardening topic. Please get in touch with us at

classes@IndependenceGardensPDX.com if you are interested in this option.

(January-March, Length/cost based on topic & approach)