



May | June | July | August

Healthy Garden Series

Your Guide to Youth and Adult Programs at The People's Garden



WE'RE GROWING HEALTHY FOOD, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES!



Photo: USDA

VISIT US ONLINE

You can follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/peoplesgarden, visit our Website at www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden, check out our section on the USDA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USDA, or search for People's Garden photos on flickr at www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN

Public transportation is the easiest way to reach us. Take the Metro orange or blue line to the Smithsonian Metro Station. Take the Mall exit. When you reach the top of the escalator, USDA Headquarters, the Jamie L. Whitten Building, will be on your right.

We are also accessible by car from several major routes; however, there is limited street parking.

EXPERIENCE THE LANDSCAPE

The People's Garden at USDA Headquarters is a living exhibit of what USDA does every day. Like all People's Gardens around the world, this garden incorporates sustainable practices, is a collaborative effort, and benefits the community. It is open to the public year-round and free for all to enjoy. Visit us on the National Mall at 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW, in Washington, DC 20250.

All programs and activities listed in this guide are free of charge and open to the public.

Self-Guided Tours



Bring your cell phone to The People's Garden and explore the unique features of each garden area and hear what green practices are being implemented to ensure that this landscape is a healthy place for food to grow, animals to dwell, and people to experience.



Learn about the VanRose benches on the cell phone tour. Photo: USDA

The cell phone audio tour has no cost, except your minutes. And it's easy to use. Look for numbered signs in the landscape, dial (202) 595-1185 on your cell phone and enter the item number displayed followed by the # key.

Guided Tours

Have a group of 20 or more? Enjoy a 60-minute tour of The People's Garden led by trained Executive Master Gardeners. You'll see things you'd miss on your own. The tour highlights how our maintenance practices, plant selections, garden features, and overall design are rooted in USDA's mission of sustainability. Call (202) 708-0082 to make a reservation.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Growing Healthy Kids

Hands-on, garden-based learning programs based on the Junior Master Gardener curriculum are being offered on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m., from May through October in The People's Garden. Each program – Plant Pals, Tops or Bottoms and U-B the Judge – is 60 minutes long and held outdoors. Youth Programs are canceled if it rains. Space is limited to 30 youth per program, and participating children must be at least 5 years old.

Register your group for one of the three programs by calling (202) 708-0082.

PLANT PALS

This program is an opportunity for curious-minded kids to discover why certain plants are better neighbors in the garden than others. Learn about diversity in the garden and its benefits.



Young green thumbs are introduced to gardening. Photo: USDA

TOPS OR BOTTOMS

This fun, hands-on program encourages young gardeners to use their knowledge of plant structures to identify which part of the plant – root, stem, leaf, flower, fruit, or seed – is consumed.

U-B THE JUDGE

This program gives youth a chance to evaluate fruits and vegetables based on color, texture, taste and smell. It will encourage children to be more willing to try new and different foods grown in the garden.



Strawberries are a rewarding plant for kids to grow. Photo: USDA

ADULT PROGRAMS

Healthy Gardens Workshop Series

Workshops will take place on Fridays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the garden or under a tent on the north lawn of the Whitten Building. Workshops are open to 50 people and pre-registration is required. Please call (202) 690-3898 to register between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Adult Programs are not canceled if it rains.

MAY: FROM THE GROUND UP

Friday, May 7 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

SOIL QUALITY; HARD TO DEFINE, EASY TO SEE, AND CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO YOUR GARDEN!

After working for a few seasons in a garden or on a farm, one can usually grab a handful of soil and say whether or not the soil is "good." What does this mean? How can you tell? This workshop will deal with what gardeners or farmers mean by soil quality, how agricultural scientists assess soil quality and what you can do as a gardener to improve soil quality.

Instructor: Dr. Jude Maul is a research ecologist in the Sustainable Agriculture Systems Laboratory at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland.

Friday, May 14 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

GREEN ROOFS - TAKING GARDENING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Green roofs are in the news, but what's really going on? This talk will show the different options on green roofs, from veggies to storm water management to providing habitat. Projects from the Washington, DC area and other areas in the United States will be used to highlight the design options available.

Instructor: Edmund C. Snodgrass, a fifth generation farmer and nurseryman, is president and founder of Emory Knoll Farms, Inc. and Green Roof Plants, North America's first nursery specializing in green roof plants and horticultural consulting.

Friday, May 21 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR GARDEN: GARDENING TIPS FOR A SMALL, HEALTHY PLOT

This workshop covers some gardening basics to get you started. The tips include essential garden tools, healthy soil practices, square-foot gardening, and vertical gardening techniques.

Instructor: Eric Thomann teaches Community Gardening at The New School in New York City, America's first undergraduate course in community gardening.

Friday, May 28 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

COMPOST: A GARDENER'S BASIC ALLY

This presentation will describe the basics of what compost is, how it benefits your garden, how you can make your own, and how to use it beneficially. See how bin composting and worm composting are done. You will learn how you too can easily become an organics recycler and use the compost for your house plants and in your garden.

Instructor: Pat Millner has conducted research on composting and compost utilization, food safety, and organic production in high tunnels at USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland.

JUNE: CELEBRATING POLLINATORS

Friday, June 4 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

THE NATIVE BEES IN YOUR GARDEN

We'll be wandering around The People's Garden identifying the bees that live there, answering questions about local native bees and talking about how to enhance your properties' attractiveness to bees. We also will bring examples of common species for you to view in case we have a rainy day.

Instructor: Sam Droege has spent most of his career at The U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Currently, he is developing an inventory and monitoring program of native bees and online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org.

Friday, June 11 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

PESTS AND THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES

There's a whole world of insects in every garden! Some of them want to eat our food, and some (natural enemies) want to eat these pests. We'll describe and see some common pests and their natural enemies and discuss how to encourage beneficial insects, instead of pests, in the garden environment.

Instructor: Don Weber is a research entomologist with USDA Agricultural Research Service's Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. He has worked on developing environmentally friendly pest management for a variety of vegetable and fruit crops in 10 States, Canada, and Europe.

Friday, June 18 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

WHY NOT KEEP HONEYBEES?

Keeping bees is a great hobby and also essential in many urban areas to support the pollination needs of community gardens. Come get an overview of how to get started in beekeeping with an emphasis on keeping honeybees in the city. Once you get the bees going, you also must learn how to keep them alive, an evermore challenging endeavor with Colony Collapse Disorder and parasitic mites. Come find out more about the fascinating world of bees and how they impact our diet with the pollination that they perform. Oh, and yes they even produce that wonderful product honey.

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Pettis is the research leader of the USDA-Agricultural Research Service Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. He leads a team effort to improve colony health by limiting the impact of pests and diseases on honeybee colonies.

JULY: PLANT DISEASES

Friday, July 9 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

PLANT PEST INVESTIGATIVE WALK

Walk through The People's Garden and the Smithsonian Gardens looking at plant pests, diseases, and cultural problems that commonly occur during the growing season. These walks will be valuable hands-on learning exercises for gardeners.

Instructors: Mary Kay Malinoski and David L. Clement are regional specialists in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) from the University of Maryland with specialties in Entomology and Plant Pathology. They will be accompanied by Graham Davis, the IPM Coordinator from the Smithsonian Institution.

Friday, July 16 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

TOMATO SPOTS AND BLIGHTS - I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL THEM, I DON'T WANT EITHER

Home gardeners battle diseases every year. In 2009 late blight was severe in much of the Eastern United States, but other diseases are common every year. Learn how to recognize and manage diseases in your home vegetable garden.

Instructor: Dr. Martin Draper is an avid home gardener and professional plant pathologist. He serves in a national program coordination role with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Friday, July 23 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

WHEN GOOD FLOWERS GO BAD: PLANT DISEASES IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

We grow annuals and perennial flowers for their beauty, but diseases caused by fungi and bacteria can ruin our plans. Learn to recognize the common diseases of popular flowers and the steps you can take to manage diseases for a picture-perfect flower garden.

Instructor: Dr. Karen K. Rane is the director of the University of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. She has been a plant disease diagnostician for over 20 years and has written numerous extension bulletins on plant diseases of numerous crops.

Friday, July 30 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

PLANT PEST INVESTIGATIVE WALK

Walk through The People's Garden and the Smithsonian Gardens looking at plant pests, diseases, and cultural problems that commonly occur during the growing season. These walks will be valuable hands-on learning exercises for gardeners.

Instructors: Mary Kay Malinoski and David L. Clement are regional specialists in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) from the University of Maryland with specialties in Entomology and Plant Pathology. They will be accompanied by Graham Davis, the IPM Coordinator from the Smithsonian Institution.

AUGUST: TYPES OF GARDENS

Friday, August 6 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

URBAN KITCHEN GARDENS

A traditional French kitchen garden - potager - mingles vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs to make the function of providing food for the table aesthetically pleasing. An urban potager uses every inch of available space, growing edibles and ornamentals on balconies, patios, porches, and rooftops. Cindy Brown will eliminate excuses for excluding edibles with suggestions on what edibles to grow, unusual ways to grow them, and how to do it all with style!

Instructor: Cynthia A. Brown, assistant director at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, Virginia.

Friday, August 13 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

SUSTAINING SCHOOL GARDENS

Learn how to support the work of garden-based learning educators who enable our kids to learn where their food comes from.

Instructor: Mud Baron, green policy director for Los Angeles Unified School District in California, the largest geographic school district in the country.

Friday, August 20 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT RAIN GARDENS?

Rain gardens remove pollutants rainwater picks up from parking lots, roofs and other hard impervious surfaces naturally using plants and soil. If we are ever going to see the water quality of our streams improve, homeowners will need to get actively involved by installing rain gardens and other storm water management techniques on their properties. This workshop includes planning, design, implementation, and maintenance of a rain garden.

Instructors: The People's Garden rain garden team includes Ed Murtagh, sustainable operations manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Bob Snieckus, landscape architect, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Leslie Burks, project manager for The People's Garden at USDA Headquarters.

OTHER SITES TO SEE AT USDA HEADQUARTERS

USDA Farmers Market takes place every Friday starting June 4 and ending October 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located in USDA's parking lot, corner of 12th Street & Independence Avenue, SW. Please stop by and meet your local producers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, maple products, baked goods and much more.

USDA Visitor's Center, located inside the Jamie L. Whitten Building, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on Federal holidays. Enter the Visitor's Center from Jefferson Drive. Browse through publications on display and use technology to learn what we do.

The South Building Cafeteria is open to the public Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can enter the USDA South Building at Wing 2 near the corner of 12th and C Street, SW. To access the cafeteria, you will need to present a picture ID to building security. The mix of fresh vegetables, protein, nuts, fruit and cheese available on the menu make for a well-balanced and healthy meal.



Photo: USDA

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Festival exhibits are free, outdoors and open to the public.

Monday, June 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

Join us to kick off National Pollinator Week to raise public awareness, promote conservation, protection and restoration of pollinator habitats.



Friday, June 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AgriCULTURAL FESTIVAL

Join us to learn about the effects agriculture has made on American culture.


Friday, August 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY GARDEN FESTIVAL

Join us in celebrating how gardens build communities in neighborhoods throughout the United States.





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