

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

GardenSchool



Cultivating Community is excited to announce **GardenSchool**, our season-long program combining organic garden creation and support that will ensure success for the first-time or uncertain home gardener.

Isn't it more fun to read a book when you get to talk about it with your book club? Wasn't childbirth less daunting with birthing classmates and an instructor to lean on? Gardening can be the same way. **Whatever your past experience with gardening, you will have a delicious, home-grown harvest this season!**

GardenSchool/Means Successful Gardening

As part of the First Crop of GardenSchool gardeners you will receive:

- a prepared raised-bed garden at your home.
- all of the seeds and seedlings you'll need to plant your organic vegetable garden.
- five hands-on classes throughout the season that will support you at just the right moments to help you plant, weed, water, manage pests, harvest, and put your garden to bed.
- anytime "Ask the Gardener" support through our on-line resources.
- a supportive community of 8-10 other learning gardeners with whom you can share information and encouragement
- a celebratory harvest potluck of shared garden success with a Portland-area chef.

A Beautiful, Enduring Garden For Your Yard

To ensure a safe and fertile growing space, GardenSchool tuition includes the construction at your home of a raised-bed garden built from rough-hewn, sustainably harvested Maine cedar. We ensure fertility incorporating organic and permaculture principles, and because we install gardens above ground on top of an impermeable barrier, the quality of existing soils is not a factor. Gardens will be installed by Cultivating Community staff during the month of May. Gardeners interested in handicap accessible gardens or other design modifications should inquire about options and pricing.

Choose the Garden Plan For the Harvest You Want

"The Family Table" is a classic kitchen garden. It includes eggplant, kale, peppers, tomatoes, cucumber, summer squash, pole beans, green beans, basil, carrots, lettuce, scallions, chives, parsley, radishes, spinach, winter squash, fennel, violas, nasturtiums.

"The Nor'easter" features New England staples and heirlooms, including broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, pepper, tomato, onion, cucumber, summer squash, lettuce, beans, basil, carrots, scallions, parsley, radish, winter squash, summer squash, beets, rudebeckia, lobelia,

"Set for Sauces" is a delight for canners and flavor savers. It includes eggplant, peppers, tomato, tomatillo, onion, cucumber, basil, cilantro, scallions, chives, parsley, radish, chard, marigolds, nasturtiums.

GardenSchool/Class Schedule

Class 1: Saturday June 6, 9-noon. Garden siting basics. Managing fertility. Planning and planting. Watering.

Class 2: Saturday June 13, 9-noon. Caring for young plants. Weeding. Organic pest control. First harvest.

Class 3: Saturday, July 11, 9- noon. Midsummer care. Warm weather harvest and post-harvest handling.

Class 4: Saturday, August 22, 4-7 pm. Preserving the harvest. Cooking the bounty with one of Portland's talented chefs.

Class 5: Saturday, October 10, 9-noon. Putting your garden to bed and planning next year.

Some workshops will be taught at Cultivating Community's Turkey Hill Farm in Cape Elizabeth, while others will take place in the home gardens of volunteering GardenSchool participants.

Tuition

Participants can choose to install one, two or three garden beds. GardenSchool staff will provide all labor and materials. **Each plan includes garden siting and installation, the five-class series, and ongoing support.**

- One bed (50 s.f.): \$900
- Two beds (100 s.f.): \$1,400
- Three beds (150 s.f.): \$1,900

Up to two gardeners from the same household may attend classes and receive support. Additional household members may attend the workshops for \$100.

Information & Registration

Space is limited. An initial deposit of \$250 will hold your place, with full payment due by June 8, 2009. **Have questions or ready to register?** Contact Craig Lapine at craig@cultivatingcommunity.org or (207) 761.GROW. Payments should be mailed to Cultivating Community, P.O. Box 3792, Portland, ME 04104.

Cultivating Community is committed to strengthening communities by growing food, preparing youth leaders & new farmers, and promoting social and environmental justice. FMI visit www.cultivatingcommunity.org or call (207) 761.GROW

Feeding Our Hungry • Empowering Our Youth • Healing Our Planet