

Dig In! 2024 TUESDAY Class Schedule

***Full completion of the course is required for new Garden Leaders as part of the Summer Sprout Program.**

Classes take place Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. This class will take a **hybrid format**. This means that some classes will be **virtual via zoom** and as the weather warms some classes will be **in person at our office and to be determined gardens**. To ensure your full class participation, please consider the following:

- This class will be held in part ONLINE via Zoom. If you have concerns about your ability to participate in a virtual class, please get in touch with Morning Robinson at Robinson.2024@osu.edu 216-429-8203 as soon as you can.
- You will have to arrange transportation for in-person classes. The default location for the class is the OSU Extension Office at 12200 Fairhill Rd, Cleveland OH 44120. Any additional location will be communicated at least 2 weeks in advance. If you have concerns about your ability to secure transportation, please get in touch with Morning Robinson at Robinson.2024@osu.edu or 216-429-8203 as soon as you can.
- Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you need accommodations, please get in touch with Morning Robinson at Robinson.2024@osu.edu or 216-429-8203 as soon as you can. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

Class 1 (April 9): Let's Dig In!

In this class, we will discuss site selection and development. Vacant land is abundant, but not all of it is created equal! In this class, we will discuss the criteria for selecting a site that suits both plants and people. Also, learn how to create a layout for your garden that takes water access, sun, amount of space, and your garden's mission into account.

Class 2 (April 16): Soil Basics for Garden Success

Urban soils are full of challenges. In this session, we'll learn about soil basics, why and how to test your soil, and ways to prepare your soil for the planting season. We'll also cover techniques to help you improve soil health over time including mulching, cover crops, green manures, and composting.

Class 3 (April 23): Gardening Basics

This class will give you all the gardening knowledge you need to get through your first growing season! From seed to harvest. Topics will include the Ohio growing season, warm vs. cold season crops, reading a seed pack, and a seed catalog.

Class 4 (April 30): Garden Planning and Crop Selection

Learn about techniques such as the use of space, succession planting, and frost protection that will get your garden growing by March and continuing through November. This is the class where we will discuss season extension.

Class 5 (May 7) Garden Design and Planning Lab

Bring all your potential sites, garden sketches, ideas for collaboration. We will work on designing and planning your garden, outlining garden processes and rules, or thinking through neighborhood outreach strategies. No grant applications worked on at this time.

Class 6 (May 14): Asset Mapping, Grant Seeking, and Grant Writing

From shovels to neighborhood support, we will map out the garden's needs. We will explore the many layers of community, from individual skill-sets and talents to grant-making institutions. Learn how to identify and connect your garden's needs to these multiple sources of support while developing basic grant writing skills.

Class 7 (May 21): Growing Goodwill: Fostering Good Relationships

Community gardens are as much about relationships as they are gardening. How decisions are made among members is important and can be critical to the longevity of a garden. Learn how to build consensus among members, identify individuals' talents, delegate responsibilities, and be a good neighbor. By building a strong foundation, you'll be ready to face any challenges that may arise!

Class 8 (May 28): Reducing Pests and Disease in the Vegetable Garden

A community garden can be an oasis of biodiversity. This session will introduce you to Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a way of keeping unwanted pests at a minimum without jeopardizing the health of you or your garden. Learn how to identify good bugs vs. bad bugs, spot diseases, and use chemicals only as a last resort. Other topics related to low-impact gardening will be covered.

Class 9 (June 4): Garden Portfolio Presentations and Celebration

Class participants will have an opportunity to share their garden projects as they have developed throughout the Dig In! program. This is a great chance for participants to get feedback and share challenges and lessons learned.