



***edible flint* Garden Starters Training Program 2018**

The 2018 *edible flint* Garden Starters Training Program is an 11-wk series focused on growing organic and sustainable food gardens. The program is open to all Genesee County residents who want to grow food in an urban setting. There is a **\$65 fee for participation**, payment plans and scholarships are available. Space is limited so please complete the paper application or register online at edibleflint.org by February 5, 2018.

Weekly Classes Occur:

Monday, February 19- April 30, 6-8 pm
at GCCARD Main Auditorium, 601 N. Saginaw St., Flint

Course Descriptions:

Feb 19- Introduction to Urban Food Gardening and Local Food Systems

In the introductory class learn more about edible flint and the Garden Starters Program. You will also be learning about the local food system and how distribution, processing and retail function in a community food system.

February 26- Understanding Soil

Successful gardening starts with fertile soil. Urban soil can pose particular challenges, in this session learn about the science behind it all and how to work with and improve the soil you have!

March 5- Seed Starting

Starting plants from seed can save you money, give you more variety and be a lot of fun. In this session learn how to start plants from seeds, watering, seed selection and seedling preparation.

March 12 Basic Vegetable Culture part 1: Starting an Urban Food Garden

Site selection, bed prep and water access are all important considerations for a successful urban food garden. In this session hear from an experienced urban farmer who will share their tips and tricks.



March 19- Talking Across Differences and Working Together

We live, work and garden in communities that include people whose race, gender, economic status, beliefs and experiences may be very different from our own. This workshop will focus on working within and across communities in ways that foster mutual respect, build relationships and advance shared goals

March 26- Basic Vegetable Culture part 2: Vegetable Garden Design

You have all these plants and seeds...now what? In this session learn about different garden designs as well as explore techniques for companion planting, crop planning and crop rotation.

April 2- Food Preservation-

Now what is to be done with the bounty you grew. Learn about safe ways to preserve your harvest , what foods to preserve and tools of the trade. This will be a demonstration style class of how to correctly freeze garden produce.

April 9- Organic Pest and Weed Control

One of the hardest parts of gardening is protecting the garden from harmful pests and diseases. In this session learn about alternatives to synthetic fertilizers as well as cultural, mechanical and biological practices to promote biodiversity and plant health.

April 16- Backyard Fruit Production

In this session learn how to successfully grow small fruits by considering fruit selection and planting. Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and grapes will be the focus of this class.

April 23- Composting

Compost is key to building healthy soil and ensuring a successful garden. In this session learn how to compost at home or at your garden with hands on composting activities

April 30- Harvesting and Storage

Plants, fruits and vegetables can be damaged if they are not properly harvested. In this session learn how to harvest and store your produce to keep it table ready as long as possible.

**For more information or to apply:
810.244.8527 or edibleflint.org**

“edible flint programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status or family status.”