



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

The 2017 *edible flint* Garden Starters Training Program is an 11-wk program series focused on growing organic and sustainable food gardens. The program is limited to Genesee County residents who plan on growing food in an urban setting. There is a **\$65 fee for participation**, payment plans and scholarships are available. **Please complete paper application or register online at edibleflint.org by February 6, 2017.**



Weekly classes occur:

Monday, February 20-May 1, 6-8pm
at GCCARD Main Auditorium, 601 N. Saginaw St., Flint

Course Descriptions:

Feb 20 - Introduction to Urban Food Gardening and Local Food Systems *(For this class only please arrive at 5pm to accommodate first day of class business)*

The introduction is where you will learn more about edible flint, the Garden Starters program, and thriving urban gardens in the Flint area. You will also be learning about the local food system and learn how distribution, processing, and retail function in a community food system.

February 27 - Talking Across Differences and Working Together in the Garden

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 6 - 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 gardener. In this session you will hear from an experienced urban farmer who will share their tips and tricks.

March 13 - Seed Starting

Starting plants from seed can save you money and give you more variety. This session will discuss seed starting, watering frequency, seed selection, and seedling preparation.

March 20 - Composting

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

March 27 - Understanding Soil

Successful gardening starts with fertile soil. Urban soil can pose particular challenges, but in this session you will learn about the science behind it all and how to work with your soil. We will also learn how to take and read a soil test.

April 3 - Basic Vegetable Culture Part 2: Vegetable Garden Design

You have all these plants and seeds... now what? This session will describe different garden designs as well as explore techniques for companion planting, crop planning, and crop rotation.

April 10 - Backyard Small Fruit Production

Why should vegetables get all the love? Learn how to successfully grow small fruits in this session by considering fruit selection and planting. Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and grapes will be the focus.

April 17 - Organic Weed and Insect Control

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

April 24 - Food Safety, Food Preservation, and Cottage Foods

Now what is to be done with the pile of vegetables you grew? Learn about safe ways to preserve your harvest, what foods to preserve, and tools of the trade. You will also learn about the cottage food law and about what foods can be produced in your home and sold.

May 1 - Harvesting and Storing Your Bounty

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



For more info or to sign up:

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.