



THE HAPPY GARDENER WORKSHOP SERIES

The Durham Master Gardeners will lead these four workshops geared to those who want to become successful home gardeners. The workshops will cover a range of topics all designed to provide the home gardener with the confidence and skills to become happy gardeners.

Materials

You will be asked to bring a soil sample from your home garden to test during the workshop. All other materials will be supplied.

Workshop 1 – Introduction to Soils and Starting Seeds

The first half of the workshop will provide you with an introduction to the components of soil. We will teach you some quick tests and techniques that you can do at home to understand and improve your soil.

The second part of this workshop will focus on seeds – how to start your garden from seeds, what equipment you need, when to start seeds and how to get your seedlings ready for planting in the garden. The hands-on component of this workshop will have each participant prepare and plant trays of seedlings for planting in the spring.

Workshop 2 – Introduction to Growing Vegetable and Herbs

This workshop will provide both the novice and the experienced home gardener with the knowledge and tools to make them successful home vegetable growers. We will talk about the various types of vegetables, ways they are classified, and how to grow them. We will then move on to the types of vegetable gardens, garden design and layout, siting and exposure, and selecting what vegetables to grow. We will have several hands-on activities for the participants to do in designing and planting a square-foot garden.

In the second part of this workshop, we will talk about growing culinary herbs. We will introduce you to the many types of herbs you can grow in your home garden and their growing requirements. We will also cover harvesting and preserving your herbs for future use.

Workshop 3 – Container, Balcony and Small Space Gardening

In this hands-on workshop, we will provide you with the basic knowledge to start growing plants in containers or small spaces. From soils and potting mixes, to choosing containers and plants for your balcony or terrace, we will provide you with the know-how to get started in container and small space gardening. We will have a hands-on demonstration of a self-watering planter that you can make yourself from easily found materials. We will also show you how to start your own vegetables and herbs from seeds.

Workshop 4 – Introduction to Composting and Pollinators

This workshop focuses on how easy it is to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich, dark compost right in your own backyard. Learn the benefits of backyard composting; how to get started; and the ingredients you need to make it work. There will be a hands-on demonstration of a vermi-(worm) composter.

The second part of this workshop will talk about the importance of pollinators, why we need them, what the threats to pollinators are and what individual gardeners can do to support pollinators. We will also talk about the native plants that you can plant in your garden that will encourage pollinators to visit and take up residence. There will be a hands-on activity on how to build a mason bee nest.

Course Code: GRDN 1903 | CRN: 34885 (Winter semester) | Fee: \$155 | Dates: April 9 – 30, 2016
Workshops will be held 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Greenhouse at the Whitby Campus.