

Organic Gardening Series: Learn, Grow, Harvest and Eat

6 session gardening class series with master gardener Debbie Kong

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon March 3, 10, 17 and April 14, 21, 28 2012



Debbie Kong is a Master Gardener, Master Composter, and Junior Master Gardener educator. She has worked on an organic farm, a sustainable aquaponics farm, and has taught gardening in the Chicago Public Schools and to youth and adult groups throughout the Chicago area. She blogs at greenroofgrowers.blogspot.com.



Garden in the winter?
Get a jump on spring?
Yes!

Register online www.rfparks.org (The River Forest Parks website.)

Sign -up soon! Registration deadline is February 29th.

Cost: \$120.00 per person

Location March 3, 10, 17 Keystone Center, 7920 Central Avenue, River Forest

Location April 14, 21, 28 outdoors at the River Forest United Methodist Church, 7970 Lake Street, River Forest

March 3: Sowing Seeds: Winter Sowing and Starting Seeds Indoors

Get a head start on your garden by winter sowing or starting seeds indoors with grow lights. This workshop will teach you how to sow seeds step by step. You'll learn which seeds to winter sow, how to care for your seedlings, and when to transplant them in to your garden. We'll also cover Seed 101, learn about the various types of seeds: heirloom, organic, non-gmo, and hybrids. This is a hands-on workshop. Each participant will take home a winter sown container with seeds ready to grow.

March 10: Planning and Maintaining an Edible Organic Garden

This workshop focuses on Square Foot Garden methodology which can yields up to 5 times more produce over traditional gardening methods, uses 80% less space, and saves maintenance time. We'll also cover how to care and maintain your garden bed and learn how to deal with insects and pest organically without using harmful chemical. You'll learn how to choose the right seeds or seedlings to grow in your garden and when to plant and harvest.

March 17: Composting

We'll take the mystery out of backyard composting and you'll learn how to take make great compost to grow a healthier garden. Composting is simple and maintaining a compost bin is easy. By making your own compost you'll enrich the fertility of your soil, save money by not having to buy compost, and keep waste out of the landfills.

Three week spring break. No classes March 24, March 31, April 7

April 14: Grow More Food in Less Space

Learn how to double and even triple the produce you can grow in a small garden space. We'll discuss the various growing methods, which plants produce the largest yields, how to plant your seeds or seedlings, and when to plant and harvest. We'll be in the learning garden showing you planting techniques and you'll get some hands on experience on sowing seeds.

April 21: Edible Container Gardening

Container gardening is the easiest and fastest way to grow food. If you don't have a garden, have limited gardening space, or poor soil, you can still grow an organic garden. Learn how to grow your favorite foods including strawberries, tomatoes, watermelons, peas, cucumbers and beans. Each CAN be grown in 5 gallon bucket! This hands-on workshop will show you how to make a basic SIP (Sub-Irrigated-Planters) aka Earthbox® out of common recycled materials.

April 28: Extending the Growing Season: Growing a Spring and Winter Garden

Learn how to extend the growing season and grow food during the spring and winter season. In this hands-on workshop and you'll learn various methods to build inexpensive low tunnel hoops to grow cold weather crop such as kale, chard, a wide variety of lettuces, and more. Low tunnels are like having your own greenhouse but at far less the cost of building one.

Organic Gardening Series: Learn, Grow, Harvest and Eat is a Thoughtful Living Series class sponsored by the River Forest Parks Foundation Board and Green Community Connections.

