



For Immediate Release: September 21, 2009
Contact: Kenneth O'Brien 360.882.0936 x 225

Columbia Springs' Earth-friendly Gardening Lectures and Workshops Offered

A series of free lectures and workshops on Earth-friendly gardening techniques is offered this fall by the Naturally Beautiful Backyards program of Columbia Springs.

The lectures and workshops will present the benefits of taking a sustainable approach to gardens and landscapes, which include lower costs and time needed for maintenance, lower impact on water quality, and greater safety for children, pets, and wildlife. Participants can learn how to start a new natural garden or landscape area and how to choose plant varieties that meet human needs while also supporting native wildlife.

Lasagna Gardening Workshop

Sat. Oct. 3, 4:30 to 6 PM Location: 78th St. Community Gardens, Hazel Dell, WA

Learn the simple and inexpensive technique of "lasagna gardening" in this hands-on workshop. This easy no-till, no digging soil-building method will save time, money, and resources as you create a lush garden that is the envy of your neighborhood and friends!

Cover Crops for Feeding Your Garden

Thurs. Oct 8 , 6:30 to 8 PM Location: Clark Public Utilities Electric Center, Vancouver

Cover crops improve your soil and set the stage for a healthy vegetable garden. Learn more about the benefits and techniques of cover crops in this workshop.

Earth-Friendly Garden Party - Topic: Successful Choices for Home-grown Food

Sun. Oct. 18 3:30 - 5:30 PM Camas Roots Garden, Camas, WA

Hankering for some home-grown food? This garden party will introduce you to the economic, environmental, and health benefits of Earth-friendly vegetable gardening practices, and some of the veggie varieties that fare well in the Pacific Northwest climate.

Beneficial Bats and their Homes

Mon. Oct. 26 6:30 to 8:00 PM Columbia Springs (Swift Classroom), Vancouver, WA

Bats are a natural force of control for garden moths as well as other pests. This workshop will include an introduction to bats and their ecological roles, and teach you how to build a bat house to support populations of native bats in your area. Materials will be provided.

How to Manage Invertebrates in Garden Soil

Thurs. Nov. 12, 6:30 to 8 PM Location: TBA

Invertebrates are an important part of soil and a healthy garden. Learn more about how to encourage and host the beneficial ones, and explore some chemical-free ways to deter the ones you'd rather not share your garden with.

Earth-Friendly Gardening for Clean Water

Mon. Nov. 16, 6:30 to 8 PM Location: CASEE Center Rm 206, Brush Prairie, WA

The relationship between gardening and water quality will be explored in this presentation, with consideration of potential impacts of different choices for fertilizers, pesticides, and soil amendments.

Space is limited, and pre-registration is requested. Please call 360-882-0936 x 225, email nbb@columbiasprings.org, or visit www.columbiasprings.org/nbb.

The Naturally Beautiful Backyards program is funded by Clark County Solid Waste Program and administered by Columbia Springs. Columbia Springs provides environmental education opportunities for the community and students of all ages. On the web at www.columbiasprings.org

###