

Master Gardener Training Classes–2011

Master Gardener Classes are open to the public for \$5. All classes are held on Mondays from 1-4 pm at the Extension Office located at 1808 N. Third Street, Coeur d'Alene. Preregistration and payment required.

February 7- “Starting Plants from Seeds”- presented by Jill Blake, owner and operator of Mother Nature Landscape Design in Hayden. Jill holds an Associate of Horticulture and a Bachelor of Botany from Boise State University, and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Idaho. While studying at U of I, Jill was awarded membership into the Sigma Lambda Alpha Honor Society, and received a Certificate of Merit from the American Society of Landscape Architects for Excellence in the study of Landscape Architecture. Jill worked as a Botanist for the Forest Service where her focus was to survey for rare plants and habitats in proposed areas of activity. She became very familiar with native plants and their habitats, and published a field guide to the “Rare Plants in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests”. She has had years of experience in landscape design and construction methods with a focus on native and drought tolerant species. She is an avid vegetable gardener and with her vast knowledge of plant material, she is well qualified to teach us the benefits of starting plants from seed.

February 14-“Backyard Bio-Control”- taught by Ed Bechinski University of Idaho Entomologist. Ed is a proponent of ‘do no harm’. He promotes bio-control, and the use of the “softer side of pesticides” to control insects in the home landscape. Bio-control is a method of controlling pests by relying on predation (encouraging beneficial insects), parasitism, and other natural mechanisms, including organic and cultural practices to minimize the use of damaging chemicals in the landscape. Come and learn more about this timely topic from an expert.

February 21- President’s Day, office closed

February 28- “Organic Vegetable Gardening”- taught by Sue Bockelman. Sue has a BS in Landscape Horticulture from Colorado State University. She started teaching at the Woodmoor Community Center in Monument, CO in 1990. Through the years she has taught at Palmer Lake Community Center in Palmer Lake, CO, Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, CO, and VanHoff’s Garden Center in Coeur d’ Alene. She has worked at numerous garden centers throughout the years specializing in sales and education to customers. Sue has expertise on all topics related to gardening, landscaping, houseplants and anything horticultural, and is in great demand as a speaker and teacher. She is an avid organic grower and will share her knowledge and experience with us during this class.

March 7- “Growing Fruit Trees Organically”- Sue Bockelman is back, and this time she will be teaching us how to successfully grow fruit trees organically. Come and learn from this expert.

March 14- Understanding Soils- “Gardeners know the best dirt” -Taught by Nina Eckberg of Eckberg Horticultural Consulting Services. Soil is the subject and Nina will help you identify types and textures. She is the former superintendent of the Noxious Weed Control Department, and a former Extension Agent. She has also owned and operated her own landscaping business. Nina has extensive experience teaching the public about plants, trees, bugs and the dirt they live in! Join us and get your hands dirty!

March 21- “Learning to Compost”- This class will be presented by Connie Fry, U of I- Kootenai County Extension Master Gardener, and WSU Master Composter. Connie will be joined by Diana Kienbaum, U of I-Kootenai County Extension Master Gardener who will share her experience with ‘Lasagna Composting’. Connie, a self defined “lazy composter” will share shortcuts, and other ways to take the mystery out of composting. Come and learn how to make ‘gardeners black gold’ from yard and garden waste.

Teaching Kids to Garden- Taught by Anna Rolphe, U of I- Kootenai County Extension Master Gardener. Anna uses wit and imagination to teach children to garden, with tips to keep them interested from seed to harvest. She has been teaching children gardening for many years and will bring teaching programs set up for kids with activities to accentuate the learning objective. So whether you want to learn to help your own children, or teach a class for children, you will get materials for both. Take the grumbling out of getting your kids to help in the garden and replace it with a smile and a rush for the door.