Thanks for Making Our Get Growing Class Series a Success!

Get Growing!

With the help of the great folks at Jubilee!, our Get Growing Home Gardening Class Series was a resounding success. Thanks to everyone who brought their questions and enthusiasm!

Didn't get a chance to come out? Well, we had such a good time that we want to do it again! A follow-up, eight-week series is in the works now! Stay tuned to the OGS Homepage our Facebook page and the OGS Blog for details!

Farmer's Corner

Ask Tom

Dear Tom –

I need to get a tractor across a small stream on our property. What

Gardener's Corner

Ask Ruth

Dear Ruth,

Hi. I bought some Black Hen compost. The smell is pretty
Dear Stranded –

I faced a similar situation a year or so ago. We had just installed a wood furnace to heat our greenhouse and a corner of our woodlot was across a stream that we did not want to drive through repeatedly. A medium-sized locust tree fell into our orchard during a wind storm and we decided to put that asset to use in solving our firewood problem.

Locust is amazingly rot resistant – an important feature for a bridge, particularly for the parts that will be in contact with the soil. Treated wood is the standard approach to this problem but many of us would rather not be around those chemicals. We have locust fence posts on our land that appear to have lasted close to 100 years.

I searched the internet for ideas on designs and one of the first hits was an article originally written in your community of Horseshoe NC at the Mother Earth News Ecovillage. Mother Earth News changed ownership since its founding in Western North Carolina but in the late 70s and early 80s it hosted an Ecovillage that offered classes and demonstrations. Many of our early organic leaders are veterans of that facility and their work continues to be helpful...

Read more at our Blog

Farmers: Got a question for Tom? Email it to us at enews@organicgrowersschool.org

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Dear Jeannie,

Because **Black Hen is bagged compost**, the composting company should have met certain composting regulations prior to bagging – including reaching a prescribed minimum temperature for a prescribed length of time. The heat will kill weed seeds and pathogens such as E. coli or salmonella. Assuming the composting company is in compliance with regulations (I consider Black Hen/Black Cow a reputable company), the compost you bought should have been thoroughly composted and would be fine to use on your garden right away. Our farmer expert, Tom Elmore, does not recommend using septic compost for seeds and starts, since they are more sensitive. Your greens should be safe to eat because what you applied was composted manure. It is not considered safe to eat raw greens from gardens that have recently added raw (uncomposted) manure. When raw manure has been applied to your garden, you should wait at least 120 days before harvesting raw greens. Raw manure is best applied in the fall prior to spring planting...

Read more at our Blog

Gardeners: Got a question for Ruth? Email it to us at enews@organicgrowersschool.org

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July 13 The Real Story of Johnny Appleseed
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November 16 Growing Mushrooms

Get in touch with Justin Holt for more details!

jholt@ymcawnc.or

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Follow Us!
It's CRAFT Season, Y'all!

Kicking It Off with Imladris Farms

For our first WNC CRAFT tour of the 2013 season, we were hosted by Walter, Wendy, and Andy Harrill of *Imladris Farm* in beautiful Fairview, NC. While Imladris is best known for their **delectable jams and preserves**, our tour topic was an

“Introduction to Biochar.” The tour was a great kick-off to the CRAFT season as we learned about this innovative soil preparation technique and the potential benefits it has for mediating the affects of climate change via responsible farming! Our thanks again to the Harrill family for sharing their Biochar secrets and their warm welcome to their farm...


Mark Your Calendars!

The Asheville Herb Festival comes to the WNC Farmers Market
Organic Bridge Building & What to do with Smelly Compost :: Organic Growers School

Friday, May 3
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 5
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Located @
WNC Farmers Market
Asheville, North Carolina

Largest selection of herb plants and products anywhere: herbs for cooking, gardening, and medicinal use; herbal soaps, lotions, tinctures, teas, & herbal baked goods, dried herbs & flowers, and herb-related crafts, gifts & books.

www.ashevilleherbfestival.com