Organic Growers School is the premiere provider of practical and affordable organic education in the Southern Appalachians. Since 1993 we have been building a vibrant food & farming community by boosting the success of organic growers. A 501c3 non-profit, our hands-on training, workshops, conferences and partnerships inspire, educate, and support people to farm, garden, and live organically.
Thank you to our Sponsors

Farm Credit Carolina
Loans for land, homes & living.

Biltmore®

Living Web Farms

Earth Tools

Buchi

Chelsea Green Publishing

LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY
Tuesday, March 9, 2020
Classroom session
Lenoir-Rhyne University
36 Montford Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
7:00–9:00pm

Tuesday, March 16, 2020
Garden session
Dr. John Wilson Community Garden
99 White Pine Dr.
Black Mountain 28711
6:00–7:30pm (sunset at 7:39pm)

Tuesday, March 23, 2020
Classroom session
Lenoir-Rhyne University
36 Montford Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
7:00–9:00pm

Tuesday, March 30, 2020
Garden session
Dr. John Wilson Community Garden
99 White Pine Dr.
Black Mountain 28711
6:00–7:30pm (sunset at 7:51pm)

Tuesday, April 13, 2020
Classroom session
Lenoir-Rhyne University
36 Montford Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
7:00–9:00pm

Tuesday, April 20, 2020
Garden session
Dr. John Wilson Community Garden
99 White Pine Dr.
Black Mountain 28711
6:00–7:30pm (sunset at 8:08 pm)

Please Note: April 6th is Spring Break. We will take that week off of classes!
Upcoming Education....

October 3, 2020
Learn about land-based living and incorporating self-sufficiency and sustainability into your life.
Offering Land Buying Support

Organic Growers School | SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING

Site Design & Planning • Land-Based Assessments
WHY BECOME A GARDENER?

• Cost effective
• Quality control
• Your health
• Your choices matter

“Garden as though you will live forever” - William Kent
What's in a name?

Organic
Biodynamic
Biointensive
Naturally grown
Locally grown
Permaculture
Regenerative
No Till
Where to Grow?
How much time do you have for gardening...really and truly?

“Begin with one bed and tend it well!
Then expand your growing area.”
Alan Chadwick

San Francisco Victory Garden
Design For Success

• Encourage diversity
• Interplanting & companions
• Plant what you have time & space for
• Make it beautiful

Images and design by: shawnacoronado.com
Design Details

• Site, size, dimensions
• Orientation
• Access and maintenance
• What’s your style?
Site Considerations

- Sunshine
- Size
- Proximity to House (or work)
- Proximity to Water
- Shelter From Wind
- Microclimates
- Quality of Native Soil
Close to your Kitchen
Right to your Table

Photos by tailgatemarketfanclub.wordpress.com
Grow Vertically

Kiwi

Hops
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>STRAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPENT HOPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEAF MULCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRASS CLIPPINGS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STRAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANURE</td>
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<td>FOOD SCRAPS</td>
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<td>CARDBOARD/NEWSPAPER</td>
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Lasagna Garden
Square Foot Garden
Hugelkultur

Building Raised Beds

Sun throughout the course of the day

Turf (with the grass face down)

Humus layer

Different kinds of bulky organic material (tree trunks, branches, roots, shrubs etc)

Stone path

Fruit trees as an additional windbreak

Wind direction
Cottage Garden
Permaculture
Soil Fertility

FEED THE SOIL and the SOIL will feed YOUR PLANT.
Principles of Maintaining Healthy Soil

• Top on the top, bottom on the bottom
• Keep it covered
• Don’t disturb it
• Maintain living roots at all times
• Diversity and architecture
Soil structure

- Clay versus Sand
- Compost improves soil structure
- Good soil is drought resistant
Just ONE TEASPOON of soil contains between 100 MILLION and 1 BILLION bacteria.

Good Soil Is Brimming With Life!

Build it & they will come.
Add ORGANIC MATTER to Your Soil...routinely & regularly
In one square meter of soil:

- **Bacteria and actinomycetes**: (10,000,000,000,000) 1 million times mite layer
- **Protozoa**: (10,000,000,000)
- **Nematodes**: (5,000,000)
- **Mites**: (100,000)
- **Rotifers and tardigrades**: (10,000)
- **Insects, myriapods, spiders, dipluranos**: (5000)
- **Potworms and earthworms**: (3000)
- **Snails and slugs**: (100)
- **Vertebrates**: (1)

Organisms decrease in size and increase in number.
Nutrients Basics

What is N-P-K?

**Nitrogen (N)** makes for healthy green growth & rapid vegetative growth.

Too much N = Fewer flowers, poor root growth, succulent foliage that is susceptible to disease.

**Phosphorus (P)** promotes root growth, promotes flowering & fruit set, and disease resistance. Moves slowly.

Too much P = Extensive roots, fewer shoots, stunted growth

**Potassium (K)** promotes overall vigor, fruit ripening, and disease resistance.

Too much K = Reduced Calcium & Magnesium uptake, low disease resistance, scorching of leaves
Other Nutrients

**Magnesium (Mg)** = Green leaves, vegetative growth, sugar formation. *Too much Mg = Plant toxicity.*

**Calcium (Ca)** = Plant structure and strength, new cells, growth, disease resistance. *Too much Ca = Interference with other nutrients.*

**Sulfur (S)** = Fruit & seed maturity, green leaves. *Too much S = Plant cells destroyed. Sulfur is very acidic.*

**Iron (Fe)** = Green leaf color. *Too much Fe = Plant toxicity.*
"Organics is not a fad. It has been a long-established practice - much more firmly grounded than the current chemical flair. Present agricultural practices are leading us downhill."

- J.I Rodale, 1954
Hypha mycelium network increases active root surface for nutrient acquisition up to 700 times.
## ORGANIC VS CONVENTIONAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetables</th>
<th>Minerals (in milliequivalents)</th>
<th>Calcium</th>
<th>Magnesium</th>
<th>Potassium</th>
<th>Sodium</th>
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</table>

Research conducted by Firman E. Bear at Rutgers University in the Natural Gardener’s Catalog (1995)
**pH matters!**

- pH affects the availability of ALL nutrients
- Test your soil’s pH!
- 6.5 to 7 is ideal for gardens

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Useful Tools

- Garden Spade
- Garden Fork
- Standard hoe, ‘stirrup hoe’
Becoming a Master Gardener
Our daily actions can remake the world.

Rachel Kaplan and Ruby K. Blume
More Education...

Organic Growers School | FALL GARDENING
Mondays: July 27 & August 3, 2020

Prepare your garden for winter: A wide range of vegetables can overwinter without much fuss, and winter months are perfect for planning your spring garden. Taught by Diana Schmitt McCall.

Garden Sessions: Mondays Jul. 27 & Aug. 3, 6:00 — 8:00 pm
Dr. John Wilson Community Garden, Black Mountain, NC
$25 each class, $40 for both classes
Please help us understand our impact by completing the evaluation.

Thank you!!!