

Neighborhood Farm Initiative Kitchen Garden Education Program 2017 Schedule and Application

The Neighborhood Farm Initiative's Kitchen Garden Education Program is a 10-month long, comprehensive, program for new and aspiring urban gardeners. We offer hands-on training, and experience in growing a wide variety of food crops, over an extended growing season. The program operates in partnership with the Mamie D Lee Community Garden, which is where we grow. The garden is located near 100 Gallatin St, NE, Washington DC, adjacent to the Fort Totten, Metro Station.

Program participants receive:

- a 100-square foot garden plot for a year of growing
- access to the community tool shed
- all necessary supplies & materials
- seeds and seedlings for transplants throughout the season
- instructions, guidance and individualized support

Program Calendar

*Feb 25	Introduction and Seed Kits
*March 11	Plot Assignments
*March 25	The Living Soil
April 8	Seeds and Direct Sowing
April 22	Garden Planning: Succession, Companion, and inter-Planting
May 6	Weeds: Food or Medicine
May 20	Pest Management
June 3	Troubleshooting and Diagnosis of Disease
June 17	Pruning and Staking
July 8	Composting
Sept 16	Fall crops and seed saving
Oct 14	Cover Crops and extending the growing season
Oct 28	Row Cover workshop

**Mandatory attendance for new and returning students*

Classes are in the format of a 90-minute, informal, in-the-garden lecture, followed by a 90-minute working/mentoring session where students will have to opportunity ask questions and observe simple demonstrations. Information presented in the garden lectures will be reinforced during regular, Wednesday evening garden mentor sessions. Wednesday sessions are optional, but will be offered throughout the growing season (weather permitting). We have learned that partnerships really work in this program and so encourage families and friends to team up on this growth project.

Most classes will be held in the Mamie D Lee Community Garden at Fort Totten, two blocks from the Fort Totten Metro station, in NE Washington, DC, from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The first mandatory, introductory class, on February 25th, will be hosted in the community space at RhizomeDC, in Takoma. Subsequent classes may also be relocated to Rhizome, as dictated by the weather.

In addition to class time, students are expected to spend a minimum of four hours per week, in the garden planting, tending and harvesting their garden plot, throughout the duration of the program. In the first several weeks, during March and April, you should plan to spend even a bit more time getting your plot cleared and readied for planting. There is a direct correlation between time spent in the garden and the degree of success and satisfaction you get from the program; you should plan to visit



the garden multiple times each week. Committed students can expect to gain significant skill, knowledge and confidence in growing a wide variety of food crops, and to take home abundant harvest from their personal plot.

NFI students will become de facto members of the Mamie D Lee Garden community, and so benefit from the wide range of knowledge and skill of over a hundred experienced growers from around the world. You will be provided with a copy of the garden rules and planting guidelines will be expected to maintain your plot according the standards set forth therein. Over the course of the program, students are also required to contribute at least two hours of volunteer community service, to help maintain paths and other community resources. Volunteer hours can be earned either during scheduled community garden workdays, or on students' own time.

The program cost is \$600. There is a \$50 administrative fee for 'plot-sharing'. Full and partial **scholarships are available**, on a sliding scale, for qualifying applicants. For scholarship information or to arrange a payment plan, email us at grow@NeighborhoodFarmInitiative.org

Space can be reserved by submitting this application with a \$50 deposit that will be applied toward tuition. Unless other payment arrangements are made, payment in full is due at the start of the first class. Payments can be made by credit card on our website. Or you can save us the 3% processing fee by mailing a check to:

Neighborhood Farm Initiative
6808 Laurel Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012-2012

Please sign below to affirm that you have read and understood the program information presented here.

Applicant's Signature _____ *date* _____

To apply for the 2017 Kitchen Garden Education Program, complete this application and return it to NFI



Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone (*please specify if text messaging is available*) _____

Emergency Contact (name & phone number) _____

Please answer the following questions:

- 1. How did you hear about the NFI's Kitchen Garden Education Program?**

- 2. Describe your previous gardening experience?**

- 3. Why do you want to learn how to grow food?**

- 4. How do you plan to integrate regular visits to the garden into your weekly schedule?**

Applicant's Signature _____ *date* _____

Submit this application, with payment or automated payment confirmation, by email to:
grow@neighborhoodfarminitiative.org

or by mail to:

Neighborhood Farm Initiative
6808 Laurel Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012-2012

