Organic Backyard Farm and Gardening Series

Each class is $20. To register, call (719) 846-5724 or email donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu. The deadline to register is three working days before the class.

Instructor Garrett Watson: Good Food Project and Trinidad Community Gardens manager, Garrett Watson, has been growing food and gaining experience in the garden for over 20 years. Having grown up on a small farm and ranch, he has worked as a city horticultural assistant, a dairy farm herd manager, and a sales associate and volunteer for the largest organic farm in Louisiana. With a strong passion for good, quality food and a diverse background in sustainable gardening and land management, Garrett combines techniques learned along the way to deliver helpful, applicable, and fresh approaches to the home kitchen garden to help save time, money, and the world.

Different classes covering various gardening topics are being offered March through July 2018 in Trinidad

March

From paper to plant - How to design and execute your ideal garden Saturday, March 17, 2-5 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Discover the secrets of a successful backyard vegetable garden through self-evaluation, planning and thoughtful execution. With the proper plan, all gardeners, beginner and adept, will save time and money allowing for more time to enjoy the garden and it’s bounty!

Getting a head-start on the season - How to grow and transplant seedlings using a greenhouse Saturday, March 24, 2-5 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Learn how to grow healthy seedlings using a greenhouse and other methods as well as how to successfully transplant them into the garden. Gain hands-on experience as we discuss greenhouse maintenance and growing outdoors during the cool season.

April

From the ground up - Improving the soil for a healthy, resilient garden using compost Tuesday, April 10, 6-8 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

We often fail to realize how complicated and mysterious our soils really are and how much they contribute to a gardener’s success. This class will shed some light on the connection between soil life and plant vitality while also showing the many methods of composting and several ways of getting it to good use.

Urban permaculture - Building self-sufficient, regenerative home and garden systems that mimic nature Tuesday, April 19, 6-8 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Permaculture, on one hand an abbreviation of permanent agriculture, on the other, permanent culture, is a design science for creating and implementing enduring food and cultural systems. The principles of permaculture have been used not only on farms, but in the planning of businesses, school curriculum, and state policies to improve efficiency and reduce ecological impacts.

May

Catching the rain - Methods for harvesting, storing, and using rain Saturday, May 5, 3-5 p.m., The Good Food Project Organic Farm

Make the most of the rainy season by saving it and gain hands on experience planting seeds, transplanting, installing row covers, and more.

Starting a small organic farm business - Strategies and resources to ensure success Saturday, March 19, 2-6 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Many individuals today are enjoying the benefits of self-employment on small farms across America with the growing number of health conscious food buyers. With imagination, a plan, and a few good business skills, having a farm can be rewarding and a lot of fun. Learn how to build a business plan, gain funds, perform marketing research, brand development, ongoing management and more.

June

Organic disease & pest control - Using nature as an ally Thursday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Why fight a losing battle to nature when working with it can be cheaper, easier and better for the environment? When gardening organically, we often overlook the many convenient, inexpensive, and harmless plant-based pesticides/herbicides out there. What’s more, we often overlook nature’s answer to an abundance of something; something bigger that will eat it. Learn how to use biology to keep your garden in check from harmful pests and diseases as well as methods to keep your plants healthy, increasing resilience.

Composting 101 - The science and art of decay Saturday, June 23, 3-5 p.m. Trinidad State - Berg 401

Building the soil, as a gardener, is the most important part of growing good, nutrient packed, fast growing food. There are many ways of turning food wastes and other organic materials into wholesome, living compost from making a pile, to using worms and chickens. Learn how to build a simple compost bin and the multiple ways the finished product can be used for happy veggies.

Preventing the fall - Extending the season with selective succession planting Saturday, July 21, 3-6 p.m. The Good Food Project

While the warm weather and abundant growth may make a gardener want to rest on their laurels, with a little extra input of planning and work, we can grow a second round of quite a few cool season crops. Enjoy time on an organic farm and gain hands on experience planting seeds, transplanting, installing row covers, and more.

July

From field to plate - Wholesome cooking with ingredients fresh from the garden Thursday, July 12, 6-8 p.m., TBD

Biting into the first carrot or cabbage of the season is a gardener’s greatest reward. Using produce creatively in the kitchen is a fantastic way to stay connected to your food and healthy. Learn about the nutritional benefits of growing vegetables and how you can combine and cook them for a delicious, nutrient rich diet.