



Organic Intensives

Thursday, March 12, 2015

We invite you to join us for a one-day in-depth learning experience designed to make you a quick return on your investment. *Organic Intensives* are an opportunity to acquire practical, detailed information from experts and practitioners over the course of a day with fellow Michigan farmers and gardeners. You can also spend the evening continuing to learn by debriefing with people who are as fired-up about farming and gardening as you are. Our first-ever event of this kind offers farmers and serious gardeners an intensive foray into one of three topics: Compost, Cut Flowers, or Edible Landscaping.

Compost, Vermicompost, & Compost Extracts/Teas

Compost is at the foundation and cutting edge of soil health. Presenters Dane Terrill, John Biernbaum, Brooke Comer and Donny Comer will provide a mix of on-farm and research experience and recent developments that are sure to increase the quality and productivity of your transplants and crops. Topics include purchased and on-farm compost, compost site planning, analysis to amend composts for transplants and tunnels, and the latest on methods for food scraps, vermicomposting and teas to increase the impact of limited high quality compost.

Cut Flowers for Profit and Diversification

Flowers contribute wonderfully to the ecological and economic diversity of the farm. Lynn Byczynski, author of *The Flower Farmer* and editor of *Growing For Market*, with Michigan flower farmers Pooh Stevenson of Owosso Organics and Jen Tutlis of Meadowlark Farm, will discuss seed starting, field and high tunnel production, physiological considerations, harvesting and post-harvest handling, top ten flowers for each season, new varieties, marketing, bouquets and arrangements and more! A unique opportunity to learn from truly experienced flower farmers.

Edible Landscaping & Permaculture Design

We can build the long-term resiliency of our local food supply by using limited space to provide a reliable harvest through the effective integration of annual and perennial crops in the farmscape and in the home landscape. Permaculture principles focus on soil, water, sunlight, ecology and efficiency. Join Michigan's Mark Angelini, Trevor Newman, and Linda Jackson to discuss foundational principles and practices as well as some front yard examples of crops and methods that will make you the envy of your neighborhood.

The event will take place during MSU Spring Break at Brody Hall on the MSU campus in East Lansing as part of Agriculture and Natural Resources Week. The day begins with registration at 8:30 am and sessions end at 5:00 pm. That evening, we'll gather to share knowledge and experiences in a social setting. Stick around for the Organic Reporting Session on Friday.

The registration fee includes six hours of learning, all-you-can-eat lunch, continental breakfast in the morning plus two breaks, printed materials, and a voucher good for all-day parking at the Kellogg Center (across Harrison Road from Brody Hall). Rooms have been reserved at the Kellogg Center for the evening of March 12th for those who wish to stay for the Organic Reporting Session on Friday, March 13th. To take advantage of the discounted room rate for this event, you must reserve your room with the Kellogg Center at 800-875-5090 or kelloggcenter.com before Thursday, February 12th.

For more information and to register, please visit www.moffa.net/OI-2015.html or call 248-262-6826 and leave a message and we'll return the call as soon as we can. Class size is limited so register today to reserve your space, and to take advantage of the early registration fee of \$75 for MOFFA members and \$85 for non-members. The fee will increase to \$95 for everyone after February 28. A limited number of fee scholarships are available; see the website for more information.