

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SUSAG 131      Title: ORG GARDENING BASICS  
Full Title: Organic Gardening Basics  
Last Reviewed: 3/22/2004

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	1.00	Lecture Scheduled	4.50	6	Lecture Scheduled	27.00
Minimum	0.50	Lab Scheduled	0	3	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	4.50		Contact Total	27.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 54.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 81.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable  
Grading: Grade or P/NP  
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP  
Also Listed As:  
Formerly: AG 297.53F

Catalog Description:  
An introduction to small-scale home gardening using organic production standards.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:  
Description: An introduction to small-scale home gardening using organic production standards.  
(Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:  
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit:  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain organic certification procedures.
2. Identify appropriate crops for the Sonoma County climate.
3. Discuss basic principles of irrigation and water management.
4. Distinguish between soil texture and structure.
5. Select appropriate organic fertilizers for specific applications.
6. Distinguish between organic and inorganic fertilizers.
7. Plan and design a garden appropriate to a specific site and crop selection.
8. Construct a compost pile according to principles of composting.
9. Compare the effects of various types of mulches.
10. Identify pests and apply appropriate integrated pest management treatments.
11. Identify local marketing outlets.

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. Overview of Organic Gardening
  - A. Current status and statistics
  - B. Organic certification procedures
- II. Sonoma County Climate
  - A. General climate / microclimates
  - B. Growing season
  - C. Frost dates
- III. Soils and Irrigation
  - A. Physical properties of soil
  - B. Effects on plant growth
  - C. Basic concepts of soil water
    1. Effect of soil type on water management practices
    2. Water holding capacities
  - D. Soil fertility
    1. Essential elements

- 2. Nutrient function
- 3. Nutrient deficiencies
- IV. Planning and Designing the Garden
  - A. Site selection
  - B. Layout
  - C. Crop selection
    - 1. Cover crops
    - 2. Crop rotation
- V. Compost and Mulch
  - A. Compost
    - 1. Definition
    - 2. Purpose of composting
    - 3. Key ingredients in compost
    - 4. Factors influencing decomposition
    - 5. Constructing a compost pile
    - 6. Compost application
  - B. Mulch
    - 1. Types
    - 2. Effects of various types of mulches
    - 3. Selecting appropriate mulch
- VI. Fertilization of Garden Soils
  - A. Types of fertilizers
    - 1. Organic
    - 2. Synthetic
  - B. Selecting appropriate fertilizer
- VII. Managing Pests Organically
  - A. Pest ID
    - 1. Weeds
    - 2. Insects
    - 3. Diseases
    - 4. Vertebrates
  - B. Integrated pest management methods
    - 1. Prevention
    - 2. Cultural
    - 3. Mechanical/physical
    - 4. Chemical
- VIII. Harvest and Post-harvest Handling
- IX. Marketing

**Assignment:**

Assignments may include:

- 1. Crop report: select a particular crop and write a 2-page report.
- 2. Home garden design.
- 3. Reading: 10 - 30 pages per week.

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Crop report.

Writing  
30 - 40%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Home garden design.

Problem solving  
30 - 40%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams  
0 - 0%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation.

Other Category  
30 - 40%

### **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

THE GARDENER'S TABLE. Richard Merrill and Joe Ortiz. Ten Speed Press, 2000.

CALIFORNIA MASTER GARDENER'S HANDBOOK. Dennis R. Pittenger, ed. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3382, 2002.

THE SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE GARDEN: A BACKYARD GUIDE TO HEALTHY SOIL AND

HIGHER YIELDS. John Jeavons and Carol Cox, Ten Speed Press, 1999.