

The Urban Farm in Winter

Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Winter 2015
LA 390 CRN 23383
Monday/Wednesday 10:00 - 11:50
222 Lawrence 4 Credits
Harper Keeler - hkeeler@uoregon.edu

“A person who undertakes to grow a garden at home, by practices that will preserve rather than exploit the economy of the soil, has his mind precisely against what is wrong with us.... What I am saying is that if we apply our minds directly and competently to the needs of the earth, then we will have begun to make fundamental and necessary changes in our minds. We will begin to understand and to mistrust and to change our wasteful economy, which markets not just the produce of the earth, but also the earth’s ability to produce.”

-Wendell Berry, Think Little from A Continuous Harmony: Essays Cultural & Agricultural

At the Urban Farm we also like to quote Berry when we say that eating is an agricultural act. As we become more aware of this intrinsic connection, the necessity of understanding where our food comes from becomes extremely vital. Eating Local has joined Organic as an important criterion for learning how to behave responsibly and sustainably. Consequently, the necessity to preserve vanishing prime agricultural land has become equally important and has the potential to shape how we reassess our Urban Spaces.

The Urban Farm is a model for alternative urban land use where people grow food, work together, take care of the land, and build community. Throughout its 37-year history, the Urban Farm has been a place and a process, integrating biological, ecological, economic and social concerns. To compliment working in the soil, students will be afforded opportunities to consider urban agricultural design, contemporary agrarian philosophy and interactive community activism.

The Winter term will focus on overwintering gardening techniques as well as greenhouse food production. Other winter activities include, seed propagation, mushroom cultivation, fruit tree pruning and stewardship, tool repair and lots of seasonal eating.

For further course information, email Harper Keeler: hkeeler@uoregon.edu

