

The Urban Farm in Winter

Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Winter 2016
LA 390 CRN
Monday/Wednesday 10:00 -11:50
Urban Farm / 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.”

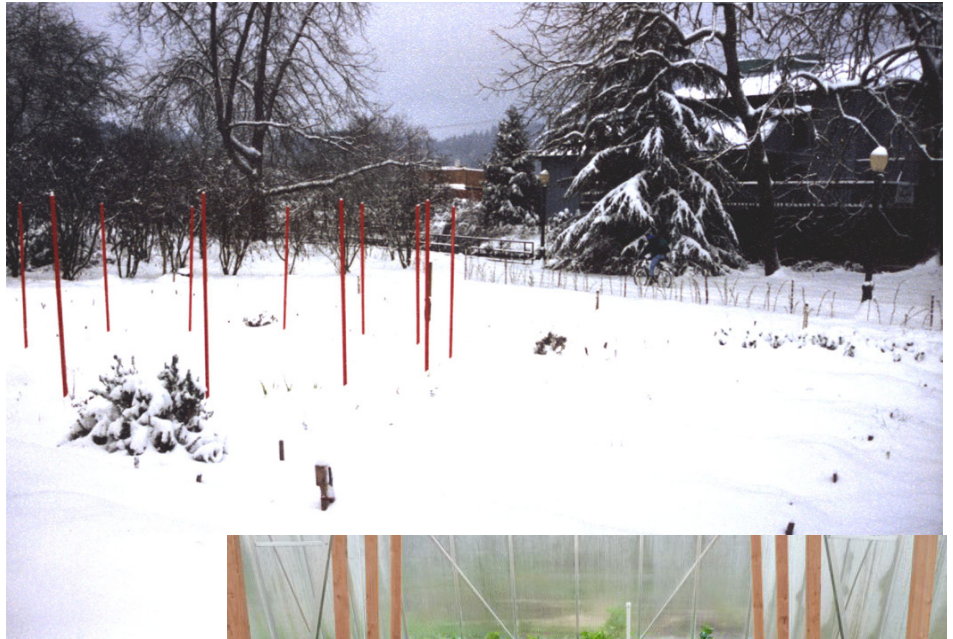
-Wendell Berry, Think Little from A Continuous Harmony: Essays Cultural & Agricultural

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



Week #1

Jan. 4 Introductions / Rules and Regs.
Farm tour
First day group project

Reading: Soil Food Web and Compost (UF Reader)

Jan 6 Break into two teams / Team builder
Assign beds / Turf
Fruit tree identification walk. Bed work, harvest

Reading: Wendell Berry "Home Economics"
Topic: Native Soil / Willamette Valley / Missoula
Assign: "Eat Local Assignment",
"Book Review Assignment"

Jan 9 (Sat.) Composting Workshop

Week #2

Jan. 11 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop
Tool Introduction Workshop
Work in beds, harvest

Reading: Gregory Smith, "Place-Based Education,
Learning to be where we are".
Plant Family #1, Alliums,
NPK (UF Reader)

Jan 13 Travel to Columbia Green
Work in beds

Reading: Michael Pollan, Gardening is War,

Jan 16 (Sat.) Tool Repair

Week #3

Jan. 18 Work in beds

Reading: Selection from Wes Jackson
Plant Family # 2, Brassicaceae (UF Reader)
Assign: Community interaction assignment

Jan 20 Guest Lecture Panel:
TBA

Jan 23(Sat.) Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Week #4

Jan. 25 Greenhouse Work
Plant Field Walk

Reading: Steve Solomon, Carol Deppe
Plant Family # 3, Solonaceae

Jan 27 Field Trip:TBA
Assign:"Precedent Study Assignment"

Jan 30 (Sat.) Compost / Pruning

Week #5

Feb. 1 Midterm Examination
Work in Beds / Harvest
Plant Family #4, Chenopodiaceae
Reading: Selection from Gary Paul Nabham

Feb. 3 Garden Development at Columbia Green

Feb. 6 (Sat.) Fertilize Garlic

Week #6

Feb. 8 Milagro Bean Field War, part 1 Work in beds /
Pruning

Feb. 10 Milagro Bean Field War, part 2
Field Trip: Hummingbird Wholesale / Skinner City
Farm

Feb. 13 (Sat.) Seed Inventory and Workshop

Week #7

Feb. 15 Field Trip: Hummingbird Wholesale / Skinner City
Farm
Plant Family #5, Cucurbitcae
Reading: Tal Alon- Mozes, Landscape Architecture
and Agriculture: Common Seeds and Diverging
Sprigs in Israeli Practice,

Reading: Wright, D.Wynne. "Civic Engagement
Through Civic Agriculture: Using Food to link
Classroom and Community."

Feb. 17 Review / Adjust Community Interaction assignment
Pin-up Review of Projects

Feb. 20 (Sat.) Seed Sowing Workshop / Make Potting Soil

Week #8

Feb. 22 Work in Beds / Seed Sowing / Harvest

Reading: Selection from Barbara Kingsolver

Feb. 24 Field Trip: FFLC

Feb. 27 (Sat.) TBA

Week #9

Mar. 29 Work at Farm(s) as required

Exit Interviews / 'Where to now' discussions, advice

Mar. 2 Project Review

Class Potluck

Mar. 5 (Sat.) Work at Farm, prepare for spring session

Tool acquisition

Week #10

Mar. 7 Optional work / harvesting.

Mar. 9 Optional work / harvesting.