

Keeping It Fresh With Brooklyn's Bounty



Interns selling produce at East NY Farms!

markets in Brooklyn. Support them by visiting their farm stands this summer:

Urban Oasis farmers' market is located just inside the gate of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center at Clarkson and Troy Avenues, where a wonderful minifarm produces vegetables, herbs, and houseplants for sale. Sue Braverman, coordinator for Urban Oasis, says, "The most valuable aspect of our farmers' market is the way it bridges the gap between our hospital and the community." The market is open from 3 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday, July 5–October 25.

East NY Farms!, the oldest community-operated farmers' market in the city, is now in its seventh season. The market is open on Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., June 24–November 11, at New Lots Avenue and Barbey Street in East New York. The market sells organic produce grown by East New York community gardens and provides paid internships to local youth. "I like the farmers' market because it feels good to know we are helping people by not feeding them foods with herbicides and pesticides," says 15-year-old Tashaun.

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director Phil Forsyth, "Our goal for the Wyckoff Garden is to help reconnect Brooklyn to an era when it was a vital part of the food system." The Wyckoff Farmers' Market, located at Clarendon Road and Ralph Avenue, is open on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., June–October.

The Red Hook Farmers' Market, established by Added Value, a youth development program, has two locations in Red Hook. For more information, call 718-855-5531.

To meet these local farmers and learn more about how to grow food in the city, be sure to come to this year's Making Brooklyn Bloom on March 11 (see box below). And for more information on how your community garden can join Brooklyn's Bounty, call Kathleen McTigue at Just Food at 212-645-9880, ext. 229.

—Robin Simmen, Community Horticulture Program Manager

Keeping It Fresh! City Gardeners Grow Food The 25th Annual Making Brooklyn Bloom

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Palm House, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Kick-off the gardening season with free workshops, exhibits, and tours.
Free, but you must register at 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN CONTEST 2006

- Applications available in March. Contest is open to all residential and business blocks in Brooklyn. Get your block or business association to join in!
- First-place prize is \$300! Deadline to enter is June 5.
- For information and applications, call 718-623-7250.
- Sponsored by Brooklyn GreenBridge in cooperation with Borough President Marty Markowitz and with generous support from Independence Community Foundation.

PLEASE POST!

GreenBridge Workshops

Preregistration is required at least one week in advance for these workshops: call 718-623-7220 to register. For info on January workshops, call 718-623-7250. Workshops are free, but space is limited. Para clases en español, por favor llamar a Karla Osorio-Pérez: 718-623-7368.

Composting in the City Monday, February 6 ● 6–8 p.m., OR Tuesday, June 13 ● 6–8 p.m., OR Thursday, July 20 ● 6–8 p.m.

El Arte del Compostaje jueves, 26 de enero ● 6–8 pm, O lunes, 27 de febrero ● 6–8 p.m., O lunes, 26 de junio ● 6–8 p.m.

Master Composter Certificate Program
7 Wednesdays: March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 26; May 3, 10 ● 6-9 p.m. Call 718-623-7290 for application form, due February 24.

Greening Up Your Storefront Tuesday, March 21 ● 6-8 p.m.

Greening Up Your Street Tuesday, March 28 ● 5-7 p.m.

Introduction to Horticulture Therapy Thursday, March 30 ● 6-8 p.m.

Window Box and Container Gardening Tuesday, April 4 ● 6-8 p.m.

How to Start a Children's Garden Program (for adults) Tuesday, April 11 ● 5-7 p.m.

Introduction to Permaculture Thursday, May 18 ● 6-8 p.m.

Creating a Rain Garden Tuesday, May 23 ● 6-8 p.m.

Street Tree Pit Gardening Tuesday, June 20 ● 6-8 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For information, call 718-623-7250 unless otherwise noted.

March 1 to 31. **Photo Exhibit of Winners from 2005 Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest**, at BBG Visitor Center.

March 11. **25th Annual Making Brooklyn Bloom**. 10 am-3:30 p.m. at BBG.

March 18. **Green Thumb "Grow Together."** For info, call 212-788-8070.

April 24. **Deadline for ordering Window Box Kits**. \$17 each; pick up at BBG May 13.

May 3 and 4. **BBG Annual Plant Sale**. Free with Garden admission. For info, call 718-623-7200. Members' Only Preview Sale, May 2.

June 5. **Deadline for entering the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest**. Applications available in March. For info, call 718-623-7250.

Listings are free unless otherwise noted.



Spotlight on... Create an Herb Spiral

Have you ever noticed the curves of a river or the spirals in a sunflower or pinecone? These are just a few examples of the infinite patterns found in nature. **Permaculture, a design approach that models nature's patterns for efficiency,** joins together the words *permanent* and *agriculture* in a term coined by Australian biologist Bill Mollison.

A fun way to pattern nature in your garden is to create an herb spiral. Begin with a 3-by-5-foot mound of soil in a sunny spot. Wet the soil and allow it to settle, so it doesn't sink with the first rain. Next, nestle stones, rocks, bricks, or branches around the mound in a spiral design that winds from the bottom inward to the top. Leave about one foot of planting space between the tiers.

Note that the top of the spiral will receive the most sun and dry out quickest; the bottom will generally be wetter. **Plant herbs on the spiral mound according to the best location for the requirements of each species.** For example, herbs that like full sun will do well on the south side, and shade-loving herbs will thrive on the north.

Watch your spiral grow into a luscious miniature mountain of culinary and medicinal herbs! To learn more, **sign up for our Introduction to Permaculture** workshop, taught by community gardener Claudia Joseph (see GreenBridge Workshops).

—Emily Neustrom, Outreach Assistant

**Got Questions?
Get Help!**
About gardening,
houseplants, and much more.
Call the BBG Gardener's
Help Line at 718-623-7270,
Tuesday–Friday,
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
and 2 to 4 p.m.

From the Heap... Urban Composting Project Is Going Full Steam

You can join the Brooklyn network of BBG Master Composters by enrolling in our very popular six-week Master Composter Program. This program is designed to promote the practice of urban composting and the reduction of solid waste in our city; it consists of 25 hours of classroom training (including two field trips) and 30 hours of volunteer outreach service in compost education and promotion. The course will be held on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and will begin on March 15. **An application is required; contact us to request one (due February 24).** In addition to this program, several composting workshops are offered in both English and Spanish (see GreenBridge Workshops).



Two happy gardeners at a Compost Giveback last summer.

In April, come to the Spring Creek Composting Facility in Brooklyn and collect free unlimited amounts of compost at our **Compost Giveback**, sponsored by Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY). The compost is made from leaves collected by DSNY each fall. **The Givebacks will take place every weekend in April 2006**, at sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Staten Island. Subsidized compost bins will also be for sale on these weekends. Stay tuned for specific dates and locations for all of these events.

To inquire about any of our projects or workshops, to schedule a workshop at your school or community garden, or to ask questions about composting, please contact us at the Compost Help Line at 718-623-7290, or e-mail us at compost@bbg.org. If you are interested in citywide compost activities, check out the NYC Compost Project's website: www.nyccompost.org.

—Joshua Cohen, Urban Composting Project Manager

Every garden needs a compost pile. The Urban Composting Project offers subsidized compost bins at different times throughout the year (we don't necessarily have bins in stock all year). Please note that we are unable to accommodate walk-ins. Contact us at 718-623-7290 for more information.

GREENBRIDGE STAFF

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Don't forget! June 5 is the deadline to enter the 2006 Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest!

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