

Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture at the U.S. Botanic Garden

Agriculture is the cornerstone of human survival. The more than 7.8 billion people alive in the world today depend on plants for food, clothing, shelter, energy, and other critical resources. Since the U.S. Botanic Garden's creation 200 years ago, one of the Garden's primary functions has been growing and demonstrating plants for agriculture and economic plants to the public.

Connecting people and agriculture is a critical need given the lack of exposure to agriculture and food production for most Americans today and the great challenge in successfully feeding our growing populations. With ever more people living in urban areas, understanding agriculture through an urban lens can provide a valuable educational opportunity.

Using its urban setting and building on its long history of growing plants and educating people about them, the USBG is working to promote science and education through sustainable agriculture in urban settings; support health and wellbeing in urban communities by increasing food access through local food production and community engagement through meaningful connections with food and agriculture. By building a network of organizations helping with food production and education, the Garden is strengthening people's capacity to transform their lives, institutions, and communities through engagement in urban agriculture.

Read below to learn more about the U.S. Botanic Garden's urban agriculture work.



Urban Agriculture Resilience Program

Community collaborations in urban agriculture are receiving support through a partnership between the United States Botanic Garden (USBG) and the American Horticultural Society Association (Association). Under the third year of the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program, 24 urban agriculture collaborations between public gardens and community organizations across 19 states are receiving \$440,800, the largest amount awarded through the program to date.

Association

* Queens Botanical Garden, in collaboration with Astoria Values

North Carolina

* Cape Fear Botanical Garden, in collaboration with Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and Fayetteville Urban Minis

Pennsylvania

* Grumblethorpe Historic House and Gardens, in collaboration with Awbury Arboretum, Philly Forests, Weavers Way Co-op, and Chef Gail

* Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, in collaboration with Neighborhood Gardens Trust and Furtick Farms

* Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, in collaboration with Operation Better Block

Tennessee

* Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, in collaboration with BattleField Farm & Gardens

Utah

* Utah State University Extension, in collaboration with Utah State University Botanical Center

Virginia

* Downtown Greens, in collaboration with Hazel Hill Healthcare Project

See the 2022 awardees and learn about their collaborations:

[Learn about the 2020 Urban Agriculture Resilience Program >](#)

[Learn about the 2021 Urban Agriculture Resilience Program >](#)



Training Veterans in Urban Farming as a Career

The USBG and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) have partnered to create week-long Armed to Urban Farm sustainable agriculture workshops for their farm partners. Armed to Urban Farm gives military veterans an opportunity to experience sustainable, profitable small-scale farming enterprises and learn about farming as a career. Armed to Urban Farm, which is based on NCAT's popular Armed to Farm program, combines engaging classroom sessions with farm tours and hands-on experience. Participants learn about business planning, budgeting, recordkeeping, marketing, urban soils, land access, vegetable production, and more. Participants gain the basic principles of operating a sustainable farming enterprise. In addition, attendees join a nationwide network of supportive farmer-veterans and agricultural professionals.

Previous workshops

Baltimore, MD - September 2021

Cleveland - September 2019

Washington, D.C. - September 2018

[Learn more about the Armed to Urban Farm program](#)

Building Capacity for Urban Agriculture Programs: Tools from the Windy City Harvest Model



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

Building Urban Ag Capacity at Public Gardens

The U.S. Botanic Garden has partnered with Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest, an established urban agriculture program within the public garden, to develop a train-the-trainer program and urban agriculture toolkit. This collaboration is providing hands-on, practical support for public gardens and their partners interested in developing or expanding urban agriculture programming. Based on feedback from other gardens, the collaboration has designed and offered a series of urban agriculture workshops for public garden professionals and their partners. Information and resources from these workshops is compiled in Building Capacity for Urban Agriculture Programs Toolkit.

The workshops and toolkit incorporate topics such as designing urban agriculture programs, developing community partnerships, selecting and establishing sites, cultivating donors and identifying funding opportunities, and evaluating and communicating program successes.

Upcoming workshops

- 2021 Virtual Workshop: July 2021-December 2021.
- Previous workshops: New Orleans - March 2020, Chicago - August 2019



GREENHOUSE MANUAL

An Introductory Guide for Educators



UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN



NCAAT

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

Greenhouse Manual and Trainings for Educators

The U.S. Botanic Garden, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, and City Blossoms recognized the emerging need for user-friendly guidance on how to use greenhouses and maximizing their potential in the school setting. To that end, the partners developed an introductory manual for educators wanting to better use greenhouses for programming. The manual clearly and concisely lays out a basic understanding of greenhouses, how to integrate them into lessons, and how to use greenhouses in classroom curricula and out-of-school activities.

The manual includes lesson plans as well as basic information on layout and operations of a greenhouse, growing plants (especially during the school year), seedling nutrition, identifying and treating diseases, pest management in greenhouses, basic budgeting, and succession planting.

This useful resource will help facilitate transformative learning experiences in schools nationwide, while cultivating students' appreciation of the importance

[Download the manual as PDF >](#)

[Upcoming trainings](#)

Check back for future trainings

Learn more about this partnership and manual

Report: The Role of Botanic Gardens in Urban Agriculture

The U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) and the American Public Gardens Association undertook this study to identify viable urban agriculture program models that are environmentally, socially, and economically enriching, and to better understand how public gardens could achieve meaningful impact. The Association's research approach to evaluate the state of urban agriculture at community-based nonprofit and for-profit organizations, government agencies, universities, and other institutions. Insights were gained by exploring literature, surveying the community of practice, and interviewing practitioners and experts about urban agriculture initiatives and educational programming.

[Download the report \[PDF\] >](#)



Online Food and Agriculture Programs

As part of our ongoing educational programming, we offer periodic online programs about food and agriculture, including programs specifically focused on

Find upcoming programs at www.USBG.gov/OnlinePrograms

The USBG Kitchen Garden

The USBG Kitchen Garden demonstrates food growing in an urban setting, with tours, tastings, workshops, and children's activities. The fruits and vegetables are used for educational classes and cooking demonstrations, and excess produce is donated to local community-based hunger relief organizations.

Find the Kitchen Garden in Bartholdi Fountain and Gardens

Source URL: <https://www.usbg.gov/urbanagriculture>