

## Spring is Near and That Means Gardening Classes By Hattie Braun



Spring brings forth bud-burst in your garden and a plethora of gardening classes and events. Here are some of the many happenings to help you spring into your gardening season.

First, Warner's Nursery is offering Saturday-only Root Camp sessions from March 9 through May 18. These classes are \$10 each at 1101 East Butler Avenue in Flagstaff. Pre-registration is not required, but if you want to be assured of a spot (remember how popular last year's camp was) go to:

<https://warnercompanies.com/warners-root-camp-2024/>. Classes are 10 am to 11 am unless otherwise noted and you'll get a \$10 token to redeem at Warner's when you attend.

**March 9:** Pruning with Mick Henry and Christina Cloer. In this session, we cover all the basics and benefits of pruning your trees from a native Flagstaff arborist.

**March 16:** Seed Starting with Adair Patterson. Seed starting indoors is a cost-effective way that allows you to grow long season crops in short season climates.

**March 23:** Water Conservation with Emily Melhorn. From drip irrigation to rainwater harvesting to the use of native plants, there are lots of ways to grow a lush garden while conserving water.

**March 30 at 2:00 pm.** Berries with Hattie Braun. With the right conditions, berries can be easy to grow. This talk will introduce the requirements for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries to help you decide which berries might grow successfully in your garden.

**April 6:** Crop and Garden Planning with Tina Gustafson. Set yourself up for success in your garden by learning about choosing the right varieties of plants for Flagstaff, succession planting, timing, and season extenders.

**April 13:** Fruit Trees with Hattie Braun. Many fruit trees are easy to grow in Northern Arizona but producing a fruit crop can be challenging. This talk will focus on which types and cultivars do best in the high country.

**April 20:** Composting with Frank Branham. Compost adds organic matter and healthy micro-organisms to your soil for better gardening. This talk is designed to teach you how to turn food waste and other materials into high-quality plant-loving compost.

**April 27:** Vegetable Gardening at High Elevations with Jim Mast. Growing a vegetable garden at high elevation can be very challenging and frustrating. Learn the key concepts of producing a flourishing garden here in Flagstaff.

- May 4: Raised Beds and Container Gardening with Janan Scott. If you're dealing with limited space or poor soil, come learn about the benefits and how-tos of container and raised bed gardening.
- May 11: Landscape Trees for Northern Arizona with Elias Russell. Think beyond the ponderosa and learn about what other trees grow best in the high country,
- May 18: Pollinators and Native Plants with Gina Goegan. Highlighting the unique relationships between a few of our region's native plants and the pollinators that can't get enough of them. From the hypnotic datura and the hawkmoth to the beloved milkweed and monarch, come learn some fun facts about plant adaptations, pollinator obsessions, and ecological interdependence.

Second, Coconino Community College, in collaboration with the Coconino Master Gardeners Association, will offer four classes on vegetable gardening, all for \$10. These are offered from 5:30-7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings, March 20, 27, April 3, 10 at the 4<sup>th</sup> street campus (3000 N Fourth St, Flagstaff, AZ). In-person seats are full but a Zoom option is available. Register at

<https://coconino-community-college.coursetorm.com/ccc-flagstaff/course/vegetable-gardening>.

March 20: Planning Your Garden with Jim Mast. Get some great tips for planning out your edible garden from a local expert.

March 27: Best Vegetable Varieties for Coconino County with Jackee Alston. We'll cover short-season varieties and heirloom cultivars.

April 3: Understanding Garden Soils and Composting with Frank Branham. Learn about what type of soil you have and how to make, amend and build your garden soils with compost.

April 10: Seeds and Starts with Adair Patterson. Propagation will be explained in simple terms for all experience levels, plus tips for caring for seedlings and newly planted starts.

On April 13, head to Viola's Flower Garden, 610 S. State Route 89A in Flagstaff, for the Pansy Party. It's from noon to 2 pm and features music, food and pansies. Check out their website for updates:

<https://www.violasflowergarden.com/>

Finally, mark your calendars for these great garden related events.

May 1: Arboretum Opening Day: We know spring is here when the Arboretum opens. Check their website for more details: <https://thearb.org/>

May 4, 11, 18, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Gardeners Market at Pine Forest Charter School. 8 am to noon. Local vendors will be selling plant starts, gardening supplies, and more. Free workshops happen at 10 am. Email: [flagstafflily@gmail.com](mailto:flagstafflily@gmail.com) for more information.

May 25: Plant Sale and Garden Festival at the Colton Community Garden, Museum of Northern Arizona. 10 am to 2 pm. More than 20 vendors will be there with vegetable starts, native plants, house plants, used gardener tools, tool sharpening, children's activities, garden Q & As, and more.

You can find these and more events on the Coconino Master Gardener Association blog calendar:

<http://coconinomgassociation.blogspot.com/>.

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