

2016-17 DETROIT FARM TRAIN

A peer-led farm planning course facilitated by Keep Growing Detroit

Farm Train is a comprehensive 6-week course designed to provide market gardeners with the tools they need to create their ideal farm plans and set realistic goals for the upcoming growing season. Sessions are interactive and peer-led with the understanding that farmers know the most about what they need in order to be successful. This year, participants will meet for three core Class Sessions and three hands-on Working Sessions where they'll be led through the basics of creating a farm plan, goal-setting, and marketing. There will also be time between sessions for participants to meet with mentor farmers to work on their plans.

The course ends with a series of Kitchen Table discussions where Farm Train attendees and established market growers will have an opportunity to discuss advanced topics. Throughout the course, all are encouraged to share their experiences growing and selling in the city.

Farm Train is open to residents of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck who are current GRP members. This year's core curriculum has been designed for growers who are already confident in their growing skills but are looking for support with their planning process and goal setting. All applications will be considered.



Name: _____ Farm/GRP Garden Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____ City/ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____ Website/FB: _____

Are you a GRP member (circle one)? * YES NO Do you own the land you're farming on? YES NO

Describe the size and location of your farm: _____

How long have you been farming in the city? Have you participated in any other farm training programs? _____

Do you currently specialize in any areas of production (vegetables, flowers, fruit, transplants etc.)? _____

Please list any sales experience that you have (Grown in Detroit, farmers markets, direct sales, wholesale, etc.): _____

What do you hope to gain from taking this course? _____

**If you haven't joined the Garden Resource Program, you can download a copy of the application online at detroitagriculture.net or fill one out at KGD's main office. As of September 1st, the membership fee is waived for 2016 and costs only \$5 to renew in 2017 at the community partner level (no seeds or transplants).*

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Selection Criteria and Requirements

We will consider all applications; however, class size is limited. Participants will be selected from applicants who meet all or most of the following criteria:

- Resides in Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck or is associated with a market garden in one of those cities
- Interested in building their farm business
- Past or current participation in Grown In Detroit retail or wholesale program
- Enjoys working with diverse groups of people

Farm Train Participant Agreement

I meet all or most of the criteria for becoming a Farm Train participant (see above) and wish to enroll in the Farm Train program. I understand that if accepted into this program I must attend all Core Classes(3), Working Sessions(3), participate in the Kitchen Table discussions, and submit for review portions of my farm plan including including: farm map, planting detail, and harvest projections in order to receive the incentives offered.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Schedule

All **Core Classes** will take place at the **MSU Detroit Center at 3408 Woodward Ave. from 5:30-8PM.**

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|----------------|---|
| Tues. 11/15/16 | Core Class #1: Farm Vision and Basic Business planning. This class will focus on setting realistic productions and marketing goals based on your resources. |
| Tues. 11/29/16 | Core Class #2: Market Readiness, Market Options and Outlets. Use your new productions goals to select marketing options that work for you--Spotlight on Grown In Detroit! |
| Tues. 12/13/16 | Core Class #3: Crop Planning and Harvest Projections. Hear how fellow farmers use crop planning tools to keep them on track throughout the busy growing season. |

All Working Lessons will take place at Keep Growing Detroit's Main Office at 76 E. Forest Avenue.

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|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------|------|--------------|-------|
| Working Session #1: | CHOOSE ONE | TUES. 11/22 | 4-6pm | -OR- | THURS. 11/24 | 5-7pm |
| Working Session #2: | CHOOSE ONE | TUES. 12/06 | 4-6pm | -OR- | THURS. 12/08 | 5-7pm |
| Working Session #3: | CHOOSE ONE | TUES. 01/24 | 4-6pm | -OR- | THURS. 01/26 | 5-7pm |

Kitchen Table discussion details will be shared with program participants at a later date.

Course Incentives

In addition to info and time to build relationships with other farmers, participants that complete requirements will be eligible for bulk seed discounts, reduced rates on KGD Grown-To-Order transplants, and access to monthly farmers market and wholesale sales data from Grown In Detroit.

Application Deadline

Completed applications are due no later than NOVEMBER 8TH, 2016. Applications may be sent by mail to Keep Growing Detroit, 76 Forest Detroit, MI 48201 or by e-mail to keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com. Completion of application does not guarantee a spot in the class. All applicants will be contacted by November 11th.

If you have questions about Farm Train please contact Molly Hubbell at 313-757-2635.