

Gardening in the East Bay: A Quick Guide to Local Resources

UC BERKELEY

Campus Gardens: UC Berkeley has over 10 gardens across Berkeley that welcome visitors and volunteers (students and community) during weekly open hours. Learn more and find contact info at food.berkeley.edu/programs/community-engagement-edu/campus-gardens/

Research projects:

- Urban Agriculture: for project information, visit <https://food.berkeley.edu/priorities/agroecology/urban-agriculture/>
- Good Food Access: for project information see <https://food.berkeley.edu/priorities/good-food-access/>
- See recommended and in process research projects on the gardens website

Courses

- UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources has a Food Systems Minor. More information: <https://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/minors/food-systems>
- Edible Education 101 brings speakers on food and food systems to the community. <https://edibleschoolyard.org/edible-education-101-2018>
- Student-led decals
 - Sustainable Campus Decal
 - [SOGA Fall: Berkeley Urban Gardening Internship \(BUGI\)](#)
 - [SOGA Fall: Garden Leadership and Management](#)
 - [SOGA Spring: Food Justice through Urban Gardening](#)

Internships

- Berkeley Unified School District Gardens and Cooking Internship
- Basic Needs Gardens Internship
- Food Systems Minor

Paid Positions: Apply for paid positions at the campus gardens at SOGA, UCGTCF, Clark Kerr (through Cal Dining) and Basic Needs. Follow the student opportunities newsletter and garden specific social media.

Events: The gardens and Berkeley Food Institute put on regular events for students and the public

- Follow the Gardens Calendar: events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar/sn/gardens.html
- Sign up for the BFI newsletter and student opportunities newsletter: food.berkeley.edu/contact-us/

Bay Area Urban Agriculture Organizations (starter list)

BERKELEY/ALBANY

UC Gill Tract Community Farm: ucgilltractfarm.wixsite.com/gilltract, 510-292-3418

Collaborative project between UC Berkeley and the community, focused on food justice and urban farming. Workshops, events, farm, farmstand. Volunteer or visit during open hours, Sunday - Thursday.

Spiral Gardens Community Food Security Project: spiralgardens.org, 510-843-1307

Work to improve community health and sustainability by providing access to nutritious and affordable produce and promoting local food systems and soil health. Community farm and plant nursery. Volunteer during open hours.

OAKLAND

Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project: anvfarm.org, (510) 878-7235

ANV elevates life in the inner city by challenging oppressive dynamics and environments through urban farming. Visit their website for specific and general volunteer positions.

City Slicker Farms: cityslickerfarms.org/, (510) 763-4241

Empowers West Oakland community to meet the basic need for healthy food for themselves and their families by creating organic, sustainable, and high-yield urban farms and backyard gardens. See website for volunteer needs.

Farms to Grow: www.farmstogrow.com

Works with Black farmers and underserved sustainable farmers nationwide. Committed to sustainable farming and innovative agriculture practices which preserve the cultural and biological diversity and agroecological balance.

Oakland Unified School District School Gardens Program: Grey Kolevzon, Garden Education Coordinator (510) 776-5556, Grey.kolevzon@ousd.org, ousd.org/domain/100

OUSD Garden Education's goal is to establish and maintain a garden in every school to reflect child's inherent right to healthy, locally-produced food and teach about food systems and justice.

Planting Justice: plantingjustice.org/, (510) 290-4049

Design-build company for edible permaculture gardens. Worked with five high-schools to develop a food justice curriculum and created 20 green jobs for men transitioning from prison. Volunteer opportunities and work days.

Top Leaf Farms: topleftaffarms.com/index.html, (831) 667-2376, farmtheroof@gmail.com

Offers consultation, design, installation, project management and operational services for highly productive, ecological agriculture systems for rural and urban.

WOW Produce Farm / WOW Flower Farm: (510) 858-5068, gametheoryacademy.org/wow-farm/

The WOW Farm Youth Program uses urban farm spaces in West Oakland as production sites and classrooms for a business run by youth under the mentorship of experienced entrepreneurs, educators, and farmers. The business produces and delivers organically-produced root vegetables, leaf vegetables, herbs and flowers to local restaurants.

RICHMOND

Urban Tilth: urbantilth.org/, (510)232-0911

Urban Tilth cultivates agriculture in west Contra Costa County to help our community build a more sustainable, healthy, and just food system. We hire and train residents to work with schools, community-based organizations,

government agencies, businesses, and individuals to develop the capacity to produce 5% of our own food supply. Holds volunteer work days, visit website for more info.

Resources for Supplies & Materials

Compost/soil:

- City of Berkeley Free Compost program - monthly at the Berkeley Marina. Details: cityofberkeley.info/Parks_Rec_Waterfront/Marina/Free_Compost_for_Berkeley_Residents.aspx
- Check Craigslist for occasional free soil giveaways.
- American Soil

Seeds/plants:

- Bay Area Seed Interchange Library (BASIL) at the Berkeley Ecology Center has free seeds to grow in exchange for saving seed: <https://ecologycenter.org/basil/>
- UC Gill Tract Community Farm in Albany has plant starts at Sunday farm stand
- Spiral Gardens Nursery specializes in food plants and has soil: <http://www.spiralgardens.org/>
- Commercial full-service nurseries in Berkeley with plants, soil, amendments include Berkeley Horticultural <http://berkeleyhort.com/> and East Bay Nursery <http://www.eastbaynursery.com/>

Online Informational Resources

- **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Urban Agriculture** pages at ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanAg/ has information on soils, pests, zoning, chickens, goats, water, and more.
- **Berkeley Ecology Center** has fact sheets on using graywater, saving seed, building raised beds, and more at <https://ecologycenter.org/factsheets/>. The Ecology Center also holds workshops and classes at their West Berkeley office/store.
- **California Master Gardener Program:** mg.ucanr.edu/
- **Cropmobster:** sfbay.cropmobster.com/. CropMobster is an online community-based exchange system for within the food and agricultural space. CropMobster SF Bay is focused on providing a local community for hunger relievers, tackle food waste and build our “farm-to-fork” economy in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Co-Garden:** Sunil Nair, (415) 915-GROW, Rsunil.nair@gmail.com. The Cogarden Platform promotes social interactions with food growing communities that inspires a transparent, equitable, and cooperative food economy.

Trainings

- **Bay Friendly Landscaping:** rescapeca.org/, info@ReScapeCA.org, (510) 859-8026. Advocate and expert in sustainable landscapes. Hub for sustainable landscape training, technical data and resources
- **East Bay Urban Farmer Field School:** eastbayurbanfarmers.com/; Monthly workshops at different farms address technical skills, community building, and leadership development.
- **Green Thumb Works:** greenthumbworks.com, Sandra Neval-Lee, (510) 502-0992, focus on residential landscape horticulture in the San Francisco East Bay Area.
- **MESA Bay Area Farmer Training Program:** mesaprogram.org, (510) 654-8858. MESA’s Bay Area Farmer Training Program, provides the education, training and tools for a new generation of farmers to create socially-just, ecologically sustainable and economically viable urban and peri-urban businesses.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA):** sustainableaged.org/. SAEA promotes and supports the development, application, research, and exchange of teaching and learning practices in sustainable agriculture education and curricula.

- **The Plant Exchange:** theplantexchange.com/, info@theplantexchange.com, (510) 866-8482, twice-a-year free community event that encourages neighborliness, reuse, recycling, organic living, resource sharing, and information exchange. For all gardeners, landscapers, urban farmers, and outdoor fans.
- **eOrganic Webinars:** <http://articles.extension.org/pages/25242/webinars-by-eorganic>. Learn the latest in organic farming practices and research by attending or watching and sign up for upcoming webinars.