

NYBG BRONX GREEN-UP

January 2025

Grow More Veggies Certificate Series

The Grow More Vegetables Certificate Series is a comprehensive edible gardening course tailored for community gardeners, and urban residents. This program focuses on teaching the most effective and safe organic gardening techniques, with an emphasis on vegetable cultivation in urban settings. Participants will learn best practices for soil preparation, pest management, planting, and harvesting to ensure healthy and productive gardens. The course aims to empower individuals and communities to grow fresh, organic produce, fostering sustainability and self-reliance in urban environments.



Required for Certification:

- Attend 6 virtual classes (February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 • 6–8 p.m.)
- 8 Hands-on activity hours
- Completion of Final Project

Priority will be given to Bronx community gardeners, but others are welcome if space allows. **Registration is required by February 12, 2024.**

To register, go to <https://www.nybg.org/event/grow-more-vegetables-certificate-series/>

MulchFest!

Saturday, January 11 • 12–4 p.m.

& Sunday, January 12 • 12–4 p.m.

Starlight Park • 1490 Sheridan Boulevard

Wrap up the holiday season by saying good-bye to your Christmas tree! Bring your tree to the parking lot at Bronx River House (near southern entrance of Starlight Park) and they will “Treecycle” it with a woodchipper. The chips from your tree will be used as mulch throughout Starlight Park. Take home a Christmas tree smelling sachet or a bag of NYC finished compost (*while supplies last*). Special raffle entry with each tree brought to the chipping event (**only at this Starlight Park location*).

This event is in partnership with [Bronx River Alliance](https://www.bronxriveralliance.org/). For information about other MulchFest events throughout NYC, go to

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/festivals/mulchfest>

Bronx Green-Up, the community gardening outreach program of the New York Botanical Garden, provides horticultural advice, technical assistance, and training to community gardeners, school groups, and other organizations interested in improving urban neighborhoods through greening projects. Please visit [nybg.org/bronxgreenup](https://www.nybg.org/bronxgreenup) for more information. To sign up for our mailing list or e-list, send your contact information to bronxgreenup@nybg.org.



Garden Tool Care and Maintenance Workshop

Thursday, January 16 • 10–1 p.m.

New York Botanical Garden • 2950 Southern Blvd

Join the Bronx Green-Up team for an interactive afternoon dedicated to garden tool care! This hands-on workshop will teach you how to clean, sharpen, repair, and maintain your garden tools, ensuring they last longer and perform efficiently. You'll also contribute to preparing our shared inventory for the upcoming gardening season.

Bring your own hand tools if they need some care, or simply come ready to learn and help out! This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow gardeners and pick up valuable skills to keep your tools in top condition.

To register, go to <https://www.nybg.org/event/garden-tool-maintenance-workshop/>

Soil Health & Soil Science Workshop

Wednesday, January 22 • 6–8 p.m.

Virtual Event

Discover the fundamentals of soil and its formation, explore how soil health is evaluated, and dive into the essential role of soil ecosystems. Also, we'll discuss how composting can contribute to building healthier, more sustainable soils. This workshop is one of six in the Citywide Master Composter Certificate Course.



To register, go to <https://www.nybg.org/event/soil-health-and-science-workshop/>



Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop

Saturday, January 25 • 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Padre Plaza Community Garden • 281-283 St. Ann's Avenue

Dive into the fascinating world of fungi! In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn the essentials of mushroom cultivation, including the life cycle and ecological roles of fungi, how to select wood and prepare logs, techniques for spawn handling, inoculation, and sealing, and best practices for log

storage and care. Join us to gain the skills you need to grow your own mushrooms at home!

To register, email bronxgreenup@nybg.org

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Volunteer Opportunities in January

Join us for hands-on gardening and composting activities at community gardens in the Bronx! For more information or to register, email bronxgreenup@nybg.org.



Volunteer Garden Workday at Karol's Urban Farm
Fridays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Karol's Community Farm • Havemeyer & Lacombe Avenue

Join the Karol's Farm crew and Castle Hill Houses community members for a weekly produce distribution and volunteer workday! Even during the winter, the farm needs care. For more information, email bronxgreenup@nybg.org

Follow us on Instagram!



We're excited to announce our brand-new Instagram account, [@bronxgreenup](https://www.instagram.com/bronxgreenup)! Follow us to stay informed about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, certificate programs, and more. Have an event at your community garden? Send it our way, and we'll share it! You'll also find volunteer and gardener spotlights and get to know our dedicated team. Don't miss out—hit that follow button to stay connected!



Bronx Foodways: Stories of Growth and Community



As a valuable social and historical resource for students and the wider community, the Bronx Foodways Oral Histories Project continues to expand and evolve. Discover the inspiring story of **Desseree Soto and Aaliyah Brown**. They are community leaders and honor their father's legacy at Rincon Criollo, also known as La Casita de Chema. Founded over 40 years ago it is the center of community, Puerto Rican food and musical traditions and a place to grow food and celebrate. Notably, it is registered in the

National Historic Places. To watch Desseree and Aaliyah's interview, go to <https://www.nybg.org/education/humanities-institute/bronx-foodways-oral-histories-project/oral-histories-2023/oral-history-desseree-soto-aaliyah-brown/>

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Events, Grants, and Resources

For more information about other local gardening events, volunteer opportunities, and community trainings, please visit our **Events and Resources Page** at

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/events/>

For a calendar of relevant funding opportunities, please visit our **Grants and Awards Page** at <https://bit.ly/3XdNUFM>

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