GreenThumb 2014
Fall Program Guide  September • October • November

Tanyth Berkely and members of the Keap Fourth Community Garden are joined by GreenThumb Deputy Director Rasheed Hislop, Director Nancy Kohn, and Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach Larry Scott Blackmon for their ribbon cutting event on June 4, 2014. Photo by Phillip Kester | GreenThumb

Does your garden need any of the following supplies? Look inside for details...

Soil Testing Kits • Row Cover • Hoop Wire • Canning Supplies • Rain Water Harvesting Barrels • Tool Cleaning Supplies • Rose Plants and Soil / Compost / Mulch (for spring delivery)

Please note that garden members must attend workshops to receive supplies. All workshops are free and open to the public, with no pre-registration (unless otherwise noted). Workshops are rain or shine, canceled only in the event of lightning or other dangerous conditions. All supplies are for registered gardens only and are available first-come, first-served, while supplies last.

WWW.GREENTHUMBNYC.ORG
**EVENT CALENDAR**

**GreenThumb Workshops & Events**

- **Bronx Green-Up Harvest Festival**
  Saturday, Sept. 6 / 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Bronx Urban Farms Trolley Tour**
  Saturday, Sept. 6 / 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **GreenThumb Annual Harvest Fair**
  Saturday, Sept. 13 / 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  BROOKLYN

- **Cover Crops**
  Thursday, Sept. 18 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  BROOKLYN

- **Canning & Preserving the Harvest**
  Saturday, Sept. 27 / 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  MANHATTAN

- **Building a Compost Bench**
  Wednesday, Oct. 1 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Pruning Certificate Series**
  Wednesday, Oct. 1 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  Wednesday, Oct. 8 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  Wednesday, Oct. 15 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  Wednesday, Oct. 22 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **How to Start a Seed Savers Library**
  Saturday, Oct. 11 / 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Rainwater Harvesting Systems**
  Wednesday, Oct. 18 / 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  MANHATTAN

- **How to Care for Your Roses**
  Thursday, Oct. 23 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Soil Health**
  Saturday, Nov. 8 / 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
  BRONX

- **Fall Planting and Season Extension**
  Wednesday, Nov. 5 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  BROOKLYN

- **The Underground: Soil is Alive!**
  Thursday, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  Saturday, Nov. 8 / 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Tool Maintenance**
  Thursday, Nov. 13 / 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  BRONX

- **Essential Listening Skills**
  Wednesday, Nov. 19 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  MANHATTAN
Annual Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 13, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Green Gems Community Garden
947 Glenmore Ave. between Fountain Ave. and Crystal St.,
Brooklyn, NY 11208

Train: A, C to Euclid Ave. Walk north one block to Glenmore Ave., then west three blocks to Crystal St.

Bus: GreenThumb will provide bus service for Bronx gardeners/guests on a first-come first-served basis at two locations:

Garden of Happiness
2160 Prospect Ave., Bronx, NY 10457

Little Green/Rock Garden
422 East 160th St., Bronx, NY 10451

Bus pickup is at 9:30 a.m.

Join GreenThumb for our annual celebration that honors thousands of community gardeners and greening professionals across New York City for their work during the season and gives them the opportunity to show off their harvest! This year we will feature a healthy food demonstration, activities for kids, including face painting, a domino tournament, live music and our annual Harvest Contest! It will be a day filled with fun activities, food samples, performances, gardening demonstrations and raffle prizes, plus a photo contest. It’s a celebration for all ages! To be eligible for garden raffle prizes make sure that you are on the updated garden membership list. For more information, please call 212.788.8070 or email greenthumbinfo@parks.nyc.gov.

Do you think you’ve harvested an award winner? Enter the Harvest Contest in any of the following categories (see page 4 for details): Vegetables, Flowers, Art from Nature, Photo, Culinary and Children’s (for youth 12 and under). Harvest contest registration opens at 11:00 a.m.

REMINDER: REGISTRATION IS ON THE HORIZON!

The time has come again to register your gardens with GreenThumb. In accordance with the law, garden groups on Parks Property (DPR) must register every four years with GreenThumb in order to receive a license. When located on other jurisdictions, such as Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Department of Transportation (DOT) and several others, a license agreement must be renewed every year. Registration and licensing are necessary because they give your group the legal right to use city land for gardening. Only registered gardens are eligible for GreenThumb supplies and services including all plants, tools, lumber and soil. As the primary garden contact of record, it is necessary for you and one other representative from your group to meet with GreenThumb for a registration session which will occur in Winter 2014-15 (December, January and February) at sites in all five boroughs. Be on the look out for registration sessions near you in the upcoming Winter Program Guide.
Harvest Fair Competition Rules and Categories

• All entries must be from members of a community garden in New York City.
• One entry per category per person. Entries must be clean and neatly trimmed for exhibition.
• All entries must be brought to the registration area between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

No late entries will be accepted. And don’t forget to bring your vegetable oddities and strange fruits for our exhibition table!

I. VEGETABLES: All entries must be free of soil, spots, cracks, splits, sores, insects, and disease. Entries must be fresh, firm, and mature or ripe. Extra credit will be given for entries specifying variety. Entries will be judged on condition and quality.

A. Beans (bush or pole): 2 pods, ½” stems
B. Cucumbers: 3 fruits, 6-8” long
C. Eggplants: 2 fruits, 1” stems
D. Greens (collards, kale, chard, etc.): whole stalk
E. Okra: 3 pods
F. Onions: 3 bulbs, 2” stems
G. Peppers (sweet bell): 3 fruits, 1” stems
H. Peppers (hot): 3 fruits, 1” stems
I. Peppers (frying): 3 fruits, 1” stems
J. Squash (summer): 3 fruits, 1” stems
K. Squash (zucchini): 2 fruits, 8-10” long
L. Squash (largest by weight): 1 fruit, 2” stem
M. Squash (largest by length): 1 fruit
N. Sunflower (largest): 1 flower
O. Tomato (standard): 3 fruits, no stems
P. Tomato (cherry): 8 fruits, no stems
Q. Tomato (plum): 5 fruits, no stems
R. Tomato (largest by weight): 1 fruit, no stem
S. Tomato (best tasting): 1 fruit, no stem

II. FLOWERS: All entries must be free of soil, insects, and disease damage. Foliage must be left on display table and will be considered by judges. Containers will not be judged.

T. Dahlia: Single bloom or cluster
U. Marigold: Single bloom or cluster
V. Zinnia: Single bloom or cluster
W. Rose: Single bloom or cluster
X. Bountiful basket: At least 5 varieties of home-grown veggies.
Y. Garden bouquet: At least 5 varieties of home-grown flowers.
Z. Herb bouquet: At least 5 varieties of home-grown herbs.

III. ART FROM NATURE: All entries must be free of soil and disease damage. Entries will be judged on creativity and imaginative use of vegetables, herbs, or flowers to achieve overall artistic effect.

A. Bountiful basket: At least 5 varieties of home-grown veggies.
B. Garden bouquet: At least 5 varieties of home-grown flowers.
C. Herb bouquet: At least 5 varieties of home-grown herbs.

IV. CULINARY CATEGORY: All entries must be made with ingredients from your garden.

AA. Pie: Any savory or sweet pie prepared with ingredients from your garden.
BB. Herb recipe: Any herb recipe prepared with ingredients from your garden.
CC. Pickles: Savory or sweet pickled fruit or vegetable.
DD. Jam: Best sweet jam.
EE. Honey: Honey from a hive in your garden.

V. CHILDREN’S CATEGORIES: Open to kids under 12

FF. Creepy critters: Creatures or objects made of plant materials, cut-up or whole.
GG. Pint-size posies: At least 5 varieties of home-grown flowers in a pint milk or juice container.
HH. Bountiful basket Jr.: At least 5 varieties of fruits or veggies.

VI. PHOTO CONTEST: Entries must be in poster or photo collage format, highlighting garden events, produce, or other harvest-related moments and will be kept at the GT office for future prizes and awards.

Cover Crops
Lillian Reyes, GreenThumb

Cover crops are grown to replenish the soil and prevent erosion. Plant a fall cover crop to put your garden to bed for the season. In the spring, till under the plants to rejuvenate the soil. We will discuss the role of cover crops in enhancing soil health, talk about recommended crop choices and practice sowing seed.

Thursday, Sept. 18 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Bed-Stuy Farm, 404 Decatur St., Brooklyn, NY 11233
Between Malcolm X Blvd. and Patchen Ave.
Train: A, C to Utica Ave.
Canning & Preserving the Harvest
Taíreina Gilbert, Just Food Trainer

Enjoy the bounty of the growing season and learn to preserve your harvest! This workshop will demonstrate how to preserve your vegetables, create fruit jams and enjoy the harvest all year long. This workshop is offered in partnership with Just Food.

Supplies: Canning Kit, Book
Saturday, Sept. 27 / 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
MANHATTAN
Maggie’s Garden, 1574 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10029
Train: 6 to 103rd St.

Building a Compost Bench
GreenThumb Staff

Learn how to construct a garden compost bench and the basics of composting food waste to make the soil in your garden burst with healthy fruits and vegetables.

Supplies: Soil/Compost/Cleanfill (for spring delivery), Bench kit* (lumber and screws)
Wednesday, Oct. 1 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
BRONX
Garden of Life and Health, 762 Melrose Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451
Train: 2 or 5 to 3rd Ave.–149th St.
Saturday, Oct. 4 / 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
QUEENS
George Eagle Carr Community Garden
89–23 148th St., Jamaica, NY 11435
Train: F, E, J, Z to Sutphin Blvd.

*Bench kit is 30 pounds; please bring a cart or vehicle to receive this supply

Bronx Green-Up Harvest Festival
Co-sponsored by Bronx Green-Up of The New York Botanical Garden, International Rescue Committee and NYC Parks GreenThumb

New Roots Community Farm
Corner of E. 153rd St. and Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Saturday, Sept. 6 / 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Train: 2 or 5 to 149th St. B,D, or 4 train to Bedford Park Blvd.
Bus: Bx41, Bx55 or Bx26 to Webster and Bedford Park Blvd.

Join us for our annual celebration that honors community gardeners for their work during the season and gives them the opportunity to show off their harvests. Activities include hands-on gardening and food-themed demonstrations, food, and fun for children. There will be a seed-saving exchange, so bring seeds to share! Do you think you’ve harvested an award winner? Enter the Harvest Contest in any of the following categories: Vegetables, Flowers, Garden Photo Display (no contest entries accepted after 2:30 p.m.).

Building a Rainwater Harvesting System
GrowNYC

Rainwater harvesting is the practice of catching and holding rain for later use. Since 2002, community gardens have been leading the charge to conserve water and redirect storm water runoff by collecting rainwater. This workshop will be an opportunity to learn more about these efforts and how you can build a simple 2-barrel system using materials that are readily available and at little to no cost.

Supplies: DEP Rainwater Harvesting Barrel
Wednesday, Oct. 15 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
MANHATTAN
William B. Washington Memorial Garden
325 West 126th St., New York, NY 10035
Train: A, B, C, D to 125th St.
How to Care for Your Roses

GreenThumb Staff and New York Botanical Garden

We will share organic growing techniques for cultivating healthy, beautiful roses. The workshop will include annual pruning methods for roses and how to feed them safely and effectively. Fall is a great time to mulch your roses!

**Supplies:** Rose Plants
**Thursday, Oct. 23 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
**BRONX**
Garden of Life and Health
757 Melrose Ave., Bronx, NY 10451
**Train:** 2 or 5 to 3rd Ave./149th St. Walk to East 157th St. and Melrose Ave.

Soil Health

GreenThumb Staff

Did you have trouble keeping your plants growing strong this season? Plant health is usually directly linked to the health of the soil it’s growing in. We will cover soil health basics. Included in this will be different ways of checking to see how your soil is doing based upon special indicators. We will also cover the ways you can amend or prepare your soil differently in order to improve the health of your soil, thereby getting your plants well-nourished and viable.

**Supplies:** pH test kits, soil, compost mulch, cleanfill request forms (for spring delivery)
**Saturday, Nov. 8 / 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
**BROOKLYN**
Hands & Heart Community Garden
290 New Lots Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11207
**Train:** L to New Lots Ave.
**Wednesday, Nov. 12 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
**MANHATTAN**
GreenThumb Office
49 Chambers St., 10th Floor, Room 1020
New York, NY 10007
**Train:** R, 4, 5, 6 to City Hall

Pruning Certificate Series

**The New York Botanical Garden**
Watson Education Building
2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10458
**Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22**
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Train:** B, D, or 4 train to Bedford Park Blvd.
**Bus:** Bx41, Bx55 or Bx26 to Webster and Bedford Park Blvd.

The Pruning Certificate course has been designed to help you learn to prune properly and improve your community garden. The focus of the class will be on pruning small trees and shrubs, with a full class devoted to fruit tree pruning. To receive a pruning certificate you must attend the four classes listed above and demonstrate your pruning skills through 8 hours of practice at community garden workdays. Pre-registration is required. Priority will be given to Bronx community gardeners. To register or for more information, call 718.817.8026 or e-mail skatz@nybg.org.

Fall Planting and Season Extension

GreenThumb Staff

Do you want to get more fresh and healthy vegetables from your garden? If you’ve ever seen your collard green plants last through the winter, surrounded by snow, you know it’s possible! Come to this workshop to learn about ways to lengthen your gardening season. We’ll discuss what to plant and when to plant it in order to get an early start on your fall harvests, as well as how to have a garden that lasts into the cold wintry months. You will learn about techniques like row covering and mulching, low tunneling and the use of greenhouses.

**Supplies:** Row cover, galvanized wire, handouts
**Wednesday, Nov. 5 / 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
**BROOKLYN**
Clara’s Garden, 579 Glenmore Ave., Brooklyn NY 11207
**Train:** C to Van Siclen Ave.
Tool Maintenance
GreenThumb Staff and New York Botanical Garden

Bring your pruning tools for cleaning and sharpening at this hands-on workshop. Maintaining your garden tools will extend their lifetime indefinitely, making gardening easier and safer. Enter via the Mosholu Gate, across the street from Metro North Botanical Garden Station.

Thursday, Nov. 13 / 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
BRONX
The New York Botanical Garden, Harding Lab Room 110
2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10458
Train: B, D, or 4 train to Bedford Park Blvd.
Bus: Bx41, Bx55 or Bx26 to Webster and Bedford Park Blvd.

Essential Listening Skills
New York Peace Institute

This 2.5-hour training will deepen participants’ listening skills and enhance their ability to problem-solve effectively. Through group discussion, individual reflection, and hands-on exercises, participants will have the opportunity to identify their strengths and weaknesses as listeners and learn concrete techniques to strategically enhance their listening and demonstrate understanding for others. Particular emphasis will be placed on the relationship between effective listening and the ability to problem-solve.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
MANHATTAN
GrowNYC Office, 49 Chambers St., 2nd Floor, Room 208
New York, NY 10007
Train: R, 4, 5, 6 to City Hall

How to Start a Seed Savers Library
Michael Rodriguez

Learn the basics of setting up and organizing a seed library, which can range from a small box to a large room. Visit the new seed library at the Weeksville Heritage Center.

Saturday, Oct. 11 / 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Weeksville Heritage Center.
1698 Bergen St. between Rochester and Buffalo Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11213

The Underground: Soil is Alive!

Thursdays, Nov. 6 and 13 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 8 / 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This three-part workshop will focus on maintaining and building healthy soil, vital to any productive garden, whether you grow vegetables or flowers. Learn what soil is, how to enrich it the organic way, and what concerns exist for urban soils. Parts 1 and 2 will take place at The New York Botanical Garden, and Part 3 will be hands-on at a Bronx community garden. Pre-registration is required. Priority will be given to Bronx community gardeners, with room for some gardeners citywide. To register or for more information, call 718.817.8026 or e-mail skatz@nybg.org.

BRONX URBAN FARMS TROLLEY TOUR

Italian Culinary Tour Sept. 6
We will begin at the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden at The New York Botanical Garden, where a longtime volunteer will guide us through the vegetable plots with cultural themes. Next up is historic Arthur Avenue, an Italian culinary gem, where we’ll learn about cheese making at Mike’s Deli. We end the day at the Annual Bronx Green-Up Harvest Festival for community gardeners at the New Roots Community Farm, run and managed by the International Rescue Committee. Tour Guides: Frank Russo and Sara Katz, Bronx Green-Up of The New York Botanical Garden.

Health & Harvest Oct. 11
Our fall tour will feature all things wellness: get outside, eat well, and exercise! Our first stop will be the Garden of Life and Health, a new community garden, where we’ll dance a little Zumba to energize us for the day. We will have lunch at Tremont Community Garden, a Bronx Land Trust garden where seniors grow food for market. Finally, we’ll visit the Garden of Happiness, where chickens roam among the herbs and garden vegetables, all part of a community-run market founded by urban farm activist Karen Washington. Tour Guide: Dior Doward, Activist

Proudly presented by the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx Tourism Council, Bronx Green-Up of the New York Botanical Garden and NYC Parks GreenThumb. For more information please go to www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8026.
Be Greener!

Sign up to get the GreenThumb Program Guide by email instead of postal mail and you’ll save trees AND get it up to a month sooner!

Classie Parker teaches gardeners canning techniques and how to preserve the harvest at this year’s Summer Fest on June 21, 2014. Photo by Phillip Kester | GreenThumb

More than 20,000 people are GreenThumb garden members.