GreenThumb 2015
Spring Program Guide  March • April • May

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

Seeds • Hydrant Wrenches and Adaptors • Soil/Compost/Mulch Requests (For Fall Delivery) • Soil Testing Kits • Lumber Requests (For Fall Delivery) • Seed Starting Kits • Plant Starts • SIP’s Irrigation Systems • Community Organizing Books • Kids Tools • Compost Sifter Supplies

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**

### MARCH

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**Starting Seeds in a Greenhouse or Indoors**  
Saturday, March 7th / 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.  
BRONX

**31st Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether**  
Saturday, March 21st / 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
BRONX

**Water-Wise Gardening and Hydrants 101**  
Tuesday, March 24th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
MANHATTAN

**SIPs: Sub-Irrigation Planting Systems**  
Saturday, April 4th / 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
BROOKLYN

**Double Raised Bed Building**  
Thursday, April 9th / 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.  
QUEENS

**Square Foot Gardening 101: Companion Planting**  
Saturday, April 11th / 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.  
BRONX

**How to Start a Nonprofit Organization & Fiscal Sponsorship**  
Thursday, April 23rd / 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
BROOKLYN

**Plant Starts Giveaway**  
Saturday, May 2nd / 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
QUEENS

**Soil Health**  
Wednesday, May 13th / 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.  
MANHATTAN

**Teaching in the Garden**  
Thursday, May 14th / 4:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  
STATEN ISLAND

**Butterfly Project NYC Native Plant Share**  
Saturday, May 16th / 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
BRONX

**Worm Composting**  
Wednesday, May 20th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
BROOKLYN

**Compost Workshop**  
Tuesday, May 26th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
BRONX

**Beneficial Insects**  
Saturday, May 23rd / 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
BROOKLYN
31st Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether

You are invited on March 21st to join thousands of community gardeners and greening professionals from all over New York City for a day of learning, sharing, networking and greening inspiration at the 31st Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether! Please pass this information out to the rest of your garden group and anyone else who might be interested. This year’s conference features favorite workshops from past years, as well as exciting new ones, including many hands on workshops for youth gardeners.

Saturday, March 21st
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Hostos Community College
500 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451

Train: 2, 4, 5 to 149th Street
Bus: Bx1 or cross-town Bx19 to 149th Street
(Eugenio María de Hostos Boulevard and the Grand Concourse)

Pre-register by March 13th
$5 = breakfast + workshops + lunch + t-shirt

Register at the Door on March 21st
$7 = breakfast + workshops

Pre-register Online
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/959258

Pre-register by Mail
Fill out the form on page 7 and mail the completed form with a check or money order made payable to “City Parks Foundation/GreenThumb” to:

GrowTogether
49 Chambers Street
Room 1020
New York, NY 10007

Pre-register before March 13th to guarantee breakfast, lunch, conference participation and t-shirt.

*If you do not pre-register, you are not guaranteed lunch or a t-shirt.

For more information or additional forms visit: www.greenthumbnyc.org

GreenThumb and New York Restoration Project (NYRP) are teaming up to bring you free trees!

Please check back to register to reserve a tree to plant in your front or back yards, gardens or commercial property. Registration is typically available approximately two weeks prior to the giveaway. If registration is full, a limited number of trees is available on a first-come, first-served basis at the event.

NYRP’s city-wide tree giveaway program is a part of MillionTreesNYC, the initiative to plant and care for one million new trees in New York City by 2015. It is the largest municipal giveaway in the country, and is generously supported by sponsors TD Bank and Toyota.
Starting Seeds in a Greenhouse or Indoors

New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and GreenThumb

Get gardening early by starting your seeds in a greenhouse or sunny window. We'll walk you through the steps of sowing, go over what healthy seedlings need to grow into mature crops, and document the process by keeping good records.

Supplies: Vegetable, flower and herb seeds and seed starting kits

Saturday, March 7th / 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
BRONX
Padre Plaza Community Garden / 541 East 139th Street
Bus: Bx17, Bx33 to 138th Street/St. Ann's Avenue
Train: 6 to Brook Avenue

Saturday, March 28th / 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Keap Fourth Community Garden / 347 Keap Street
Train: J, M, Z to Marcy Avenue or G to Metropolitan Avenue

Saturday, April 18th / 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
MANHATTAN
Maggie's Magic Garden / 1574 Lexington Avenue
Bus: M101, M102, M103 to 100th Street/Lexington Avenue
Train: 6 to 103rd Street

Water-Wise Gardening and Hydrants 101

GreenThumb

Come to this spring workshop to pick up essential tools for accessing water from the hydrant. GreenThumb gardens are given special permission from the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to access hydrants for garden use. GreenThumb staff will go over permit procedures and any other questions you may have about the process. For groups who have already registered with DEP and obtained their permit for the season, you can bring a copy of it to have laminated for the garden.

Supplies: Hydrant wrenches, adaptors and laminating hydrant permits

Tuesday, March 24th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
MANHATTAN
GreenThumb Office / 49 Chambers Street, Room 1020
*Please bring ID to enter the building
Bus: M22, M15, M6, B51
Train: R, W, J, M, Z, 4, 5, 6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall
1, 2, 3, A, C, E to Chambers Street

SIP’s: Sub-Irrigation Planting Systems

GreenThumb

Learn how to build your own portable Sub-Irrigation Planting System—also known by the term “self-watering.” SIP’s water from below and allow plants to absorb moisture more efficiently, which saves water and helps plants build strong root systems.

Supplies: SIP’s supplies

Saturday, April 4th / 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Whole Neighborhood Garden / 1001 Bedford Avenue
Bus: B38 to Bedford Avenue/Dekalb Avenue
Train: G to Bedford Avenue/Lafayette Avenue

Double Raised Bed Building

GreenThumb

It’s easy to construct a simple raised bed for your community garden and a double bed provides an easier gardening experience for senior members. We'll share ideas on design and discuss ways to plan your garden plot for maximum production.

Supplies: Lumber request forms

Thursday, April 9th / 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
QUEENS
Block Association #81 Community Garden / 107-29 Inwood Street
Train: J, E, F to Parsons Boulevard and connect to Q40 bus to Inwood Street/Shore Avenue
Square Foot Gardening 101: Companion Planting

Square Foot Gardening is a simple and practical method for planting to maximize your growing space by breaking it down into square foot sections. Learning this method will allow you to strategize in your garden planning and think about space in different ways, for a bountiful and diverse harvest. This growing method is great for young ones and participants are encouraged to bring them along to join in the fun.

**Supplies:** Lumber request forms
**Saturday, April 11th / 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**
**BRONX**
Franklin Memorial Garden / 1062 Cauldwell Avenue
**Bus:** Bx15, Bx21 to Prospect Avenue
**Train:** 5 to Prospect Avenue

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Plant Starts Giveaway

*GreenThumb and GrowNYC*

Get your veggie, herb and flower transplants at our annual giveaway, plus tips on square foot gardening. All supplies are for registered GreenThumb gardens only and are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. No pre-registration necessary. **One site pick-up only.**

**Saturday, May 2nd / 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
**QUEENS**
GreenThumb Compound / Queens Plaza South
at 10th Street
**Train:** F to Queensbridge 21st Street or
7, N, Q to Queensboro Plaza

**Saturday, May 9th / 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
**BRONX**
Melrose New Generation / 377 East 160th Street
**Train:** 4, D to 161st Street or
2, 5 to 3rd Avenue-149th Street and connect to
Bx41 bus or walk to 160th Street/Melrose Avenue

**Saturday, May 16th / 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
**BROOKLYN**
Hattie Carthan Community Garden / 654 Lafayette Avenue
**Bus:** B44 to Nostrand Avenue/Lafayette Avenue
**Train:** A, C to Nostrand Avenue or
G to Bedford-Nostrand Avenues

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How to Start a Nonprofit Organization and Fiscal Sponsorship

*GreenThumb*

Getting a new nonprofit organization off to the right start can mean the difference between success and failure. The experts at the Lawyers Alliance for New York City will teach GreenThumb garden groups the essentials for how to start nonprofit organizations and obtain fiscal sponsorship. The presentation will address what it means to be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation and to be tax exempt. The presentation will also cover fiscal sponsorship and what an organization should consider when deciding whether to engage a fiscal sponsor.

**Supplies:** *Building Powerful Community Organizations* book
**Thursday, April 23rd / 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.**
**BROOKLYN**
Linden-Bushwick Garden / 113 Linden Street
**Bus:** B52 to Gates Avenue/Evergreen Avenue or
B38 to Lafayette Avenue/Patchen Avenue
**Train:** J, Z to Gates Avenue

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Soil Health

*GreenThumb*

Want to learn how to keep your plants growing strong this season? Plant health is usually directly linked to the health of the soil it is 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:** Soil Testing Kits
**Wednesday, May 13th / 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.**
**MANHATTAN**
La Perla Community Garden / 76 West 105th Street
**Train:** 1, A, B, C to 103rd Street
Worm Composting
GreenThumb
We will construct a multi-bin worm composting system and learn the basics of vermiculture, including how to care for your system and worms, what to put in and leave out and how to harvest worm castings.

Supplies: Soil/compost/mulch requests (for fall delivery)
Wednesday, May 20th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Vinegar Hill Community Garden / 199 York Street
Train: F to York Street

Compost Workshop
GreenThumb
Get ready for hands-on learning! Construct a 3-bin compost sifter and learn the basics of composting garden and food waste to make the soil in your garden burst with healthy fruits and vegetables.

Supplies: Wire and lumber to build your own sifter, soil/compost/mulch requests (for fall delivery)
Tuesday, May 26th / 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
BRONX
Risse Street Community Garden / 10 Risse Street
Train: 4 to Mosholu Parkway

Teaching in the Garden
GreenThumb
Navigate the fun, but often challenging world of teaching kids in the garden. We will go over proper garden behavior and stewardship practices with hands-on demonstrations. We also hope to offer strategies that will allow you to get work done in the garden while still executing a successful lesson plan.

Supplies: Kids’ tools
Thursday, May 14th / 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
STATEN ISLAND
Joe Holzka Community Garden / 1170 Castleton Avenue

PICKING UP SUPPLIES FOR OTHER GARDEN GROUPS
When attending a GreenThumb giveaway, you are only eligible to pick up materials for your garden group, unless arrangements are made with the office. Without prior notice, GreenThumb cannot provide materials to garden members who are there to pick up for other groups.

Butterfly Project NYC
Native Plant Share
Butterfly Project NYC, GreenThumb, Grow to Learn and Bronx Green-Up/New York Botanical Garden
Learn more about the connections between native plants and pollinators and how to encourage them in urban landscapes. This year’s workshop is once again part of NYC Wildflower Week. Plants will be available for pickup, to be used in schoolyards, community gardens, and other public spaces while supplies last.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.butterflyprojectnyc.org by 5:00 p.m. on May 9th.

Many thanks to our partners City Parks Foundation and NYC Wildflower Week.

Supplies: Insect hotels and native plant seeds
Saturday May 16th / 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Grove Hill Community Garden / 797 Eagle Avenue
Train: 2, 5 to Jackson Avenue

Beneficial Insects
GreenThumb
Want to attract native bees, butterflies and other pollinators? Come and learn how to do so with wonderful smelling plants with showy flowers and fragrances that will also welcome your neighbors. We will talk about the different perennial plants that bring in the pollinators and how to care for them and keep them coming for many years. We will also learn about insect hotels, and how to build your own with materials found in the garden.

Supplies: Insect hotels and native plant seeds
Saturday, May 23rd / 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
BROOKLYN
Tranquility Farm / 267 Throop Avenue
Train: G to Myrtle-Willoughby Avenues
31st Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether Mail In Registration

Please print clearly. The cost is $5 per person; kids 12 and under are free. Send check or money order, payable to “City Parks Foundation/GreenThumb.” If you are also signing up for bus service, please return the bus form with the registration.

MAIL TO: GrowTogether, 49 Chambers Street, Room 1020, New York, NY 10007

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For those gardeners from Brooklyn or Queens who would prefer to take a bus, GreenThumb has scheduled bus pickups in several locations throughout Brooklyn. Departure is at 8:00 a.m. Without a reservation, you will not be guaranteed a seat on the bus. To reserve your space on a bus, check off which site you will depart from, and return this form with your GrowTogether registration.

- [ ] Brooklyn Bears Pacific Street Garden, corner of Flatbush Avenue and Pacific Street
- [ ] Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton Street, between Utica Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard
- [ ] Thomas Jefferson High School, 400 Pennsylvania Avenue, between Dumont and Blake Avenues

Your Name: ___________________________________________ Garden Name: ___________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________

Telephone (day): ___________________________ (evening): ___________________________

Number of attendees, including yourself: ______

Questions? Call GreenThumb at 212.788.8070.
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!

Lucia Hernandez from Bryant Hill Community Garden puts on her beekeeping suit from www.nycbeekeeping.org to prepare for another day with the hive.

Photo | Infinitae Hernandez