



Intensive Gardening

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BLOG CLASSES PICTURE GALLERY CONTACT

Classes & Handouts

WITC Classes ([click here for registration information](#))

All are on Thursday, 10:00 to Noon Webinars

- Feb 11, 2021- **Intensive Gardening**
Handouts (click on the title for the PDF file):
[Intensive Gardening PowerPoint Notes](#), [Intensive Gardening Comparisons](#), [Crop Rotations and Plants for Small Gardens](#), [Square Foot Gardening Basics](#)
- Mar 4-**Mixed Borders**
- Mar 25-**Ornamental Edibles**

Objectives

- o Advantages of Intensive Gardening
- o Space Saving Techniques
- o Planning
- o Plants
- o Common Problems
- o Tips for Success



Introductions

Your Goals for the Class?

Advantages of Small Spaces

- o Much less up-front investment
- o Areas fill in faster
- o Require less maintenance
- o Can be re-worked
- o Many plants do well in containers and raised beds
- o Can be closer to you



Space Saving Techniques

- o Intense
- o Vertical
- o Using smaller furniture, dwarf plants
- o Multi-functional uses



Developing Small Spaces

- Single theme, function, focal point
- Add perspective to make tiny areas appear larger
- Go vertical
- Bright colors in foreground
- Break it up



Intense Techniques

- o Raised Beds
- o Terraces
- o Square Foot
- o Lasagna
- o Straw Bale
- o Succession
- o Interplanting
- o Containers
- o Small sizes



Raised Beds



- o Basic unit of intensive gardening
- o Concentrate soil in small areas
- o Usually 3-4 feet wide & long
- o Form of wide-bed gardening



Square Foot Gardening

- o Based on Mel Bartholomew's book
- o A unique system to grow using 20% of the space, 10% of the water, 5% of the seeds, and 2% of the work of conventional gardens



Square Foot Basics

1. Layout: arrange your garden in squares
2. Boxes: build boxes
3. Aisles: space boxes 3' apart
4. Soil: 1/3 each blended compost, peat moss, and coarse vermiculite
5. Grid: place on top of box

www.squarefootgardening.com

Square Foot Basics

6. Care: never walk on soil
7. Select: plant using 1,4,9 or 16 plants per square foot
8. Plant: Plant on a pinch per hold, transplants in a depression
9. Water: by hand of sun-warmed water
10. Harvest: when you finish harvesting, add compost and replant with a new crop

Lasagna Gardening



- o Book by Patricia Lanza
- o Organic, Layering method to create better soil
- o Close planting and generous mulching

Lasagna Basics

- o Begin by covering any area with $\frac{1}{4}$ " wet newspaper
- o Build layer on top with thin layer of peat moss & water
- o Spread organic materials, alternate layers of green and brown for 12-20"
- o Cover with a layer of compost and plant.





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Straw Bale

- Is a version of hydroponic gardening
- Bale is growing medium, add water and high nitrogen fertilizer
- Nicely elevated
- Grow annuals and vegetables



Straw Bale Basics

- Saturate bales with water for a few days
- Add high nitrogen fertilizer in 2 applications in a week
- Bale will heat up, temperature will start to drop in about 10 days
- Once bale is about soil temp, dress with potting soil on top
- Make a depression on top for plants or seeds
- Best for low growing plants



Questions?

Have you used one of the
techniques?

Succession Planting

- o Planting after spots are vacated by spent plants
- o Variation: “relaying” consisting of multiple plantings of one crop to provide continuous harvest
- o Cool season crops are followed by warm season crops then by another cool season crop
- o Starting seeds for transplanting is key in our short gardening season to be successful

Interplanting

- o Growing two or more types of vegetables in same space
- o Needs careful planning on factors of growth pattern, nutrition and water needs, length of growing periods



Interplanting Basics

- o Plant long-season plants with short-season: ex. carrots and radishes
- o Smaller plants with larger plants: ex. Radishes at the base of beans
- o Shade tolerant plants in shadow of taller plants: ex. Lettuce with the tomatoes
- o Heavy feeders with less needy plants: ex. Cabbages with lettuce

Containers

- o Anything can be a container
- o Drainage holes on side or bottom, if on bottom container should be elevated
- o Don't underestimate the size of the mature plant, select dwarf varieties
- o Use a lightweight, porous growing medium
- o Fertilizer is a must during the growing season
- o Water thoroughly, best in the morning

Container Advantages



- o Can be used almost anywhere
- o Can move plants to take advantage of weather conditions
- o Little maintenance
- o Attractive

Container Limitations

- Require more water
- Frequent watering leach nutrients so need to fertilize
- Vine crops difficult to grow
- Large containers are heavy



Reuse

- o Coffee cans, kiddie pools, washtubs
- o Caution on reusing tires or anything that used petroleum due to heavy metals
- o Clean with solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water



Container Types



- o Clay – porous, breakable, cool, dry quickly
- o Stone – frost proof, heavy, cool
- o Ceramic – expensive, breakable
- o Metal – rust, hot
- o Wood- recommend non-treated or add plastic liner
- o Plastic – lightweight, inexpensive
- o Planting pouches







Garden of Len & Barb Rosen







Container Tips

- o For a natural look, plant odd numbers
- o Choose different heights and varied foliage
- o OK to crowd for instant impact
- o Plant similar need plants together







Questions/Comments

Any unique container ideas
that you would like to
share?

Vertical Techniques

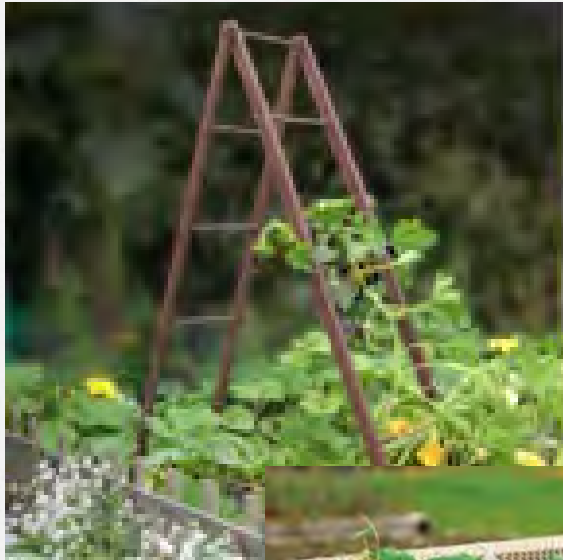
- o Trellis
- o Walls
- o Inverted
- o Espalier
- o Stacked



Trellis

- o Use for vining crops: pole beans, gourds, squash, cucumbers, peas, tomatoes
- o Adds vertical interest in the garden





Living Walls

- o Strong wall and mounting system
- o Firm backing
- o Moisture barrier
- o Planting layers
- o Openings for plants
- o Irrigation system







Inverted/Hanging

- Need strong hanging structure
- Same soil mix, watering as in containers
- Some plants to try: cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans



Espalier Techniques

- o Practice of controlling plant growth so it grows relatively flat on a structure such as a wall, fence or trellis
- o Is high maintenance, pick a slow growing plant such as apple, crabapple, juniper, viburnum



Stacked Techniques



Planning

- o Soil
- o Crop Rotation
- o Spacing: wide-row, skip rows use beds
- o Fertilizing
- o Water
- o Light



Plants



- o Dwarf, compact varieties
- o Always be planting something
- o Expand growing season
- o Amend soil with each planting with compost

Use Mini-Veggies



'On Deck' is first sweet corn developed for container gardening. The 4-5' plants produce 2 to 3 bicolored ears per stalk. Wait until the soil temperature is 55 degrees F. or above to plant; then sow 9 seeds per 24-inch container.

Dwarf Varieties

- o Mini-hostas
- o Dwarf shrubs
- o Slow growing varieties (often dwarfs are just slow-growing plants)



Top Economic Value

Tomatoes

Onions

Leaf Lettuce

Turnips

Summer Squash

Edible pea pods

Beans (pole, bush)

Beets

Carrots

Cucumbers

Peppers

Broccoli

Head Lettuce

Swiss Chard

Common Problems

- o Drainage
- o Not enough light
- o Too much nitrogen
- o Too much/too little water
- o Low/high temperature
- o Air Circulation
- o Insects
- o Diseases



Tips for Success

- o Select compact, dwarf, and mini varieties
- o Choose super productive plants, avoid ones that mature slowly
- o Break up open areas so a small space seems larger
- o Create a view with an arbor, pergola or small trees
- o Use color-place bold colors in front – they will catch your attention, the rest beyond will recede helping it feel larger

Books

- o *All New Square Foot Gardening*, Mel Bartholomew
- o *Lasagna Gardening*, Patricia Lanza
- o *Straw Bale Gardens*, Joel Karsten
- o *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Small Space Gardens*, Chris McLaughlin

UW-Extension Resources

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/>

- o [“Container Gardening”](#), A3382
- o [“Specialized Gardening Techniques”](#) A3384
- o [“Trellising, Staking, and Caging”](#) A3933
- o [“Vegetable Cultivars and Planting Guide for Wisconsin Gardens”](#) A1653

Thank You

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