



# Urban Farmer

master  
training program



## LEARNING OBJECTIVE

After completing the course participants will understand how implementing systems and standardized production practices expands a farm's capacity to produce food. They will have the knowledge to grow, harvest, plan, market, and finance an urban farm.

## WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS PROGRAM?

- **Anyone** with 2 or more years growing food
- **Entrepreneurs** who want to start an intensive urban produce farm.
- **Community members** who want to develop their skill set to increase food security and/or establish a community food system project in their neighborhood.
- **Master Gardeners** interested in intensifying their food production skills.
- **Educators** who want to bring production knowledge back to their organization.
- **Growers** interested in more intensive training programs, but not sure if they want to commit the time or \$.



## COURSE STRUCTURE

- Live Zoom lectures once a week.
- In-person field days (optional) at the Matteson farm
- Weekly homework is graded as complete/incomplete.
- Dedication to course materials outside of class is expected.



## INSTRUCTORS

Extension Educators Zack Grant and Kathryn Pereira are the primary instructors with guest lectures from topic experts. Local urban farmers will share their real-world experiences and lessons learned following some lectures.



## LOGISTICS

The 2024 program runs for 12 weeks September 23 - December 8. It is delivered on Zoom from 6 to 8 pm on Mondays with optional field day on Saturday September 28. Cost is \$150.

## TOPICS

- Business plan basics
- Compost and media-based growing systems
- Community development
- Composting
- Cover crops
- Designing a vision & mission
- Emerging specialty crops
- Farm finances
- Farm law basics
- Food safety
- Grants & funding
- Harvest and post-harvest handling
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Introduction to urban agriculture
- Irrigation
- Marketing
- Planning and record keeping
- Tools and equipment
- Transplant production
- Season extension
- Site selection
- Small farm
- Urban soils
- Weed management

**Applications open now - August 5, 2024**



If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact Sarah Batka at [sbatka@illinois.edu](mailto:sbatka@illinois.edu), 217-300-8636, or 8753 S. Greenwood, Suite 100 Chicago, IL 60619. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

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