



# COMMON GROUND

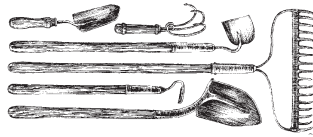
## ORGANIC GARDEN SUPPLY AND EDUCATION CENTER

### WINTER/SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

#### NEW BENEFITS WITH COMMON GROUND MEMBERSHIP!

Join Common Ground and contribute to the heart and soul of our community. We have been a resource center for 34 years . . . cultivating change, offering the best and most sustainable gardening supplies, and educational classes. We want the gardens of your life to feel good, look beautiful and be productive. To show our appreciation for your support, we are offering a 10% discount on most merchandise for a donation of \$50 or more, good for one year. Your contribution and support allow us to expand the educational classes and events, to update our cash register and computer system, and to provide better student and customer service. Chief among our expanded services, the soon-to-be-established demonstration garden, will be a wonderful resource for members of the Common Ground community.

Common Ground Membership qualifies you for discounts at Lyngso Garden Materials, The Urban Farmer Stores, and the Wild Bird Center in San Carlos. We highly value each and every member. We appreciate your love and support with donations and gifts of bequests, real estate, stocks, bonds and charitable trusts. Please talk to Patricia if this is of interest to you.



#### Product Highlights!

##### Tools

##### ARS Telescopic Pruning Shears

Risking your neck to take care of your trees? Come in and choose from a variety of long ultra-lightweight aluminum, long-arm pruners with sharp and durable blades. The unique revolving handle allows you to rotate the blade without changing your grip. The heavy-duty seven foot pruner cuts branches up to 3/4-inch in diameter.

##### Pole Saws

Light and strong, extends to 12' 10". Easy-cutting blade for efficient, precise cutting. Each tooth has 4 cutting edges. The Silky Brand impulse-hardened chrome-plated blade's conical cross section slides freely through each cut. The very best quality saws!

##### Digger's Root Guard Gopher Baskets and Rolls

Do gophers like to nibble on your roots? Stop them with an impenetrable wire barrier. Perfect to put in when you double-dig! Protect your roses, tomatoes, bushes and vegetable gardens with galvanized wire baskets available in 3 sizes. Also available in 2' x 25' or 4' x 25' rolls.



Product Highlights! continues on p. 2

#### Volunteers — Our Greatest Natural Resource



**Sergey Tsybanov** comes in on Saturdays and helps with accounting, restocking heavy bags of fertilizers, watering the nursery starts, entering names of students and customers who want to receive our e-news in our database. Sergey is very reliable, effective, efficient, and pleasant. He attends Gunn High School.

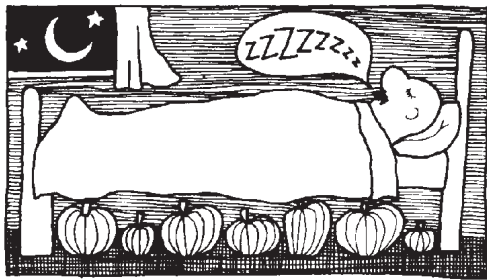
Sergey showed us fascinating photos from a summer trip to his homeland in Ukraine. He enjoys hiking, running, and working out at the "Y." We are grateful Sergey decided to volunteer with Common Ground. He has become quite an asset, and a joy to have helping on our busiest of busy days!

559 COLLEGE AVE.,  
PALO ALTO,  
CALIFORNIA 94306  
650.493.6072

[www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org)

Common Ground is a project of the  
501 (c) (3) non-profit Ecology Action.

CENTER HOURS: Tues.- Fri., 10:00 - 5:30; Sat. and Sun., 10:00 - 5:00



## WINTER / SPRING CLASSES 2007

To register, contact Common Ground at  
650.493.6072 or [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org).  
Seniors and low-income persons may request a \$4  
discount on classes.

### FRUIT TREE PRUNING

Kevin Raftery Saturday, January 6  
10:30-2:00 \$34

Bring your pruning shears, a bag lunch and a notebook! You will learn how to maximize tree health and fruit production and how to identify dead wood. Espalier care will be discussed. Meet at Common Ground, then proceed to a local orchard . . . rain or shine. *Kevin is a Certified Arborist with a degree in horticulture. He teaches at Foothill College and has been associated with Common Ground for over 30 years.*

### \* INTRODUCTION TO GROW BIOINTENSIVE

Jennifer Ungemach Saturday, January 13  
10:30-12:30+ \$24

We emphasize a whole-system approach that builds soil fertility in a relatively short time, so that fertilizer inputs (other than compost) become unnecessary, or almost so, thereby making the garden and farm sustainable. Learn the principles of double-digging, composting and soil-building, intensive planting, companion planting, carbon-farming (compost crops), calorie farming, and open-pollinated seeds. *Jennifer is a staff person at Ecology Action in Willits and liaison for GROW BIOINTENSIVE in Latin America.*

### ROSE PRUNING AND CARE

Carole Kraft Saturday, January 20  
10:30-12:30 \$24

Shape your rose bushes! Encourage beautiful profuse flowering with winter pruning and proper care. Learn about the very best soil and amendments for healthy happy roses. Mulches will be discussed. The class will go to a nearby garden for a demonstration. *Carole is an energetic and articulate horticulture consultant with 24 years of experience.*

### GRAFTING FRUIT TREES

James Kern Saturday, January 20  
1:30-3:30 \$26

Grafting allows you to have the variety of fruit you want on the appropriate rootstocks and to graft more than one variety onto new or existing trees. You will learn the plant physiology involved in grafting, different techniques available, and the steps needed to produce a grafted fruit tree. Scion wood included. Please

purchase grafting knives before class, available at Common Ground. *James is a Master Gardener, a member of the California Rare Fruit Growers, a landscape contractor, and a teacher at Foothill College.*

### \* THE ART OF HOME FARMING

Margaret Lloyd 5-part Series – Saturdays:  
January 27, February 17, March 3, March 24, April 14.  
10:30-2:00 Series \$210

Learn garden layout and design, soil preparation, seed propagation, and how to raise healthy edible crops. These methods make backyard gardening a diverse art that is manageable within a busy schedule, bringing highest quality, fresh, organic food to your table. You will make lasting friendships learning all about companion planting, proper tools, seed saving, transplanting, garden insects, harvesting techniques and much more. *Margaret worked for 2 years under John Jeavons and Carol Cox at Ecology Action's Sustainable Mini-Farm Research and Education Headquarters in Willits, CA. She worked with OIC International in Guinea, West Africa, providing support to rural farmers.*

### \* COMPOSTING

Carol Cox Saturday, February 3  
10:30-12:30+ \$21

GROW BIOINTENSIVE composting is the basis for growing the healthiest, most nutritious, and most disease-resistant plants. Learn the easiest and most effective way to compost. It is so fun and satisfying that we must warn you composting can become addictive! We will go to a nearby site and build our own compost pile. Bring a five-gallon bucket of "green material" (grass clippings, weeds, and/or non-meat kitchen scraps). *Carol is an excellent teacher, co-author of The Sustainable Vegetable Garden, and Garden Manager at the Ecology Action Research Garden/Mini-Farm in Willits, CA.*

### \* COMPANION PLANTING

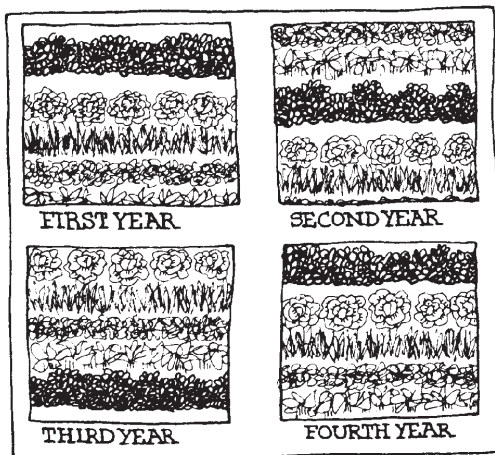
Carol Cox Saturday, February 3  
2:00-3:30+ \$21

Discover how to enhance your garden's health and productivity while attracting a beneficial insect population. Learn how to make efficient use of your garden space and the plants' natural properties by using methods that have been used for centuries.

## INTRODUCING PERENNIAL VEGETABLES, FRUITS and HERBS

Jody Main Saturday, February 10  
10:30-12:30 \$24

It is time to plant asparagus, artichokes, strawberries, rhubarb, many herbs and . . . raspberries, blueberries, blackberries and grapes. These perennials can be easily placed within a landscape or vegetable garden and will produce bountiful crops for years to come. Plant bare root crops now, in their dormancy, and they will settle in before spring, then burst into growth. Bare root crops are less expensive, easier to plant and care for and are so tasty! This class will cover the basics of planting and caring for these lovely perennial crops organically, and incorporating them into the garden. Recipes included. *Jody is a local organic food and garden writer, educator, and consultant. Her specialty is designing gardens that include vegetables, herbs and berries.*



## SPRING GARDENING IDEAS

Adrienne Duncan FRIDAY, February 23  
10:30-12:00 \$21

Gamble Garden and Common Ground offer this special Friday morning class. Come explore this most fascinating of endeavors, growing veggies year-round. You can grow many wonderful plants, both edible and ornamental, with a little bit of practical know-how and observation of your own growing conditions. Class held at Gamble Garden's Carriage House. *At 83, local artist Adrienne and her husband eat a diet of home-grown vegetables and fruits grown on their one-fifth of an acre in Palo Alto.*

## \* COMPOST CROPS and ROTATIONS

John Jeavons Saturday, February 24  
10:30-12:30+ \$24

Learn how to grow the most food, calories, and soil-nourishing compost materials for this summer's garden with a dynamic plan for the health of your garden over the next 3 years. *John Jeavons is the Executive Director of Ecology Action and author of How to Grow More Vegetables, now in its 7th edition and used in over 130 countries around the world.*

## \* INSECT LIFE FOR A HEALTHIER GARDEN

John Jeavons Saturday, February 24  
2:00-4:00+ \$24

Learn how to maximize the eco-system diversity that produces the best garden, as well as *simple* steps to take if an insect challenge occurs. *John Jeavons is the Executive Director of Ecology Action and author of How to Grow More Vegetables, now in its 7th edition and used in over 130 countries around the world.*

## \* DOUBLE-DIGGING AND BED PREPARATION

Dan Royer-Miller Saturday, March 10  
10:30-12:30+ \$24

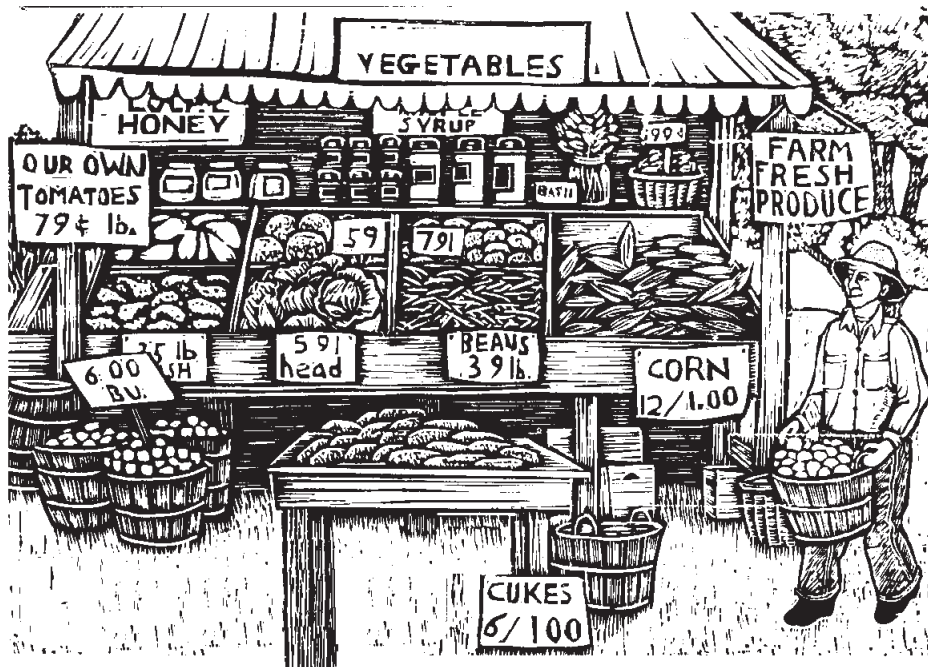
Double-digging is the first step in a GROW BIOINTENSIVE garden. Learn how easy, fun and productive this method can be. Loosening the soil 24 inches deep will build essential soil structure. Plants will grow much better, need less water, and weeds will come out easily. This ever-popular class includes a hands-on demonstration at a nearby garden. *Dan is in his second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.*

## \* SEED PROPAGATION

Margo Royer-Miller Saturday, March 10  
2:00-4:00+ \$24

It all begins with a seed! Learning the GROW BIOINTENSIVE seed propagation techniques will help you have a more productive and efficient garden. This class will explain the best soil mix, transplanting, pricking out seedlings from flats, proper watering, and planting by the phases of the moon. *Margo is in her second year as an apprentice at Ecology Action's Research Garden in Willits, CA.*





## GROWING TERRIFIC TOMATOES

Nancy Garrison

Saturday, March 17

10:30-12:30+

\$24

Learn which tomatoes have really great flavor, consistent production and are able to hold up under regular garden conditions. You will learn trellising methods, soil preparation, and the best planting locations for a bountiful harvest. Tomatoes can weigh 2 lbs, be bite-size cherries, and have beautiful colors ranging from pink, bright orange, light yellow, green striped and purple, as well as all shades of red. *As the University of California Cooperative Extension Advisor the and Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Nancy has been involved in tomato variety evaluations for 23 years.*

## BLUEBERRIES AND RASPBERRIES

Nancy Garrison

Saturday, March 17

2:00-4:00+

\$24

You will learn how to select, plant, and maintain blueberries and raspberries for home growing of more than 30 varieties. Included in the instruction will be special soil preparations, best varieties for the Peninsula and South Bay, and trellising techniques for the raspberries. *Nancy has vast knowledge on locally growing blueberries and raspberries based on her years of research with the University of California Cooperative Extension and in her home garden.*

## PROPAGATION BASICS

James Kern

Saturday, March 24

1:30-3:30

\$24

Planting seed is but one of many different means to producing plants for your garden or for market. Other methods we will discuss and practice are various types of cuttings, layering, divisions, and grafting. This class will have hands-on practice, so bring your clippers, gloves, and questions. You may find a solution for that hard-to-propagate plant you've been trying to grow. *James is a Master Gardener, a member of the California Rare Fruit Growers Association, a landscape contractor and is a teacher at Foothill College.*

## HOMEGROWN ORGANIC SALADS

Jody Main

Saturday, March 31

10:30-12:30

\$26

Grow bountiful crops of sweet buttery lettuce, spicy scallions, peppery radishes, and other crispy greens throughout the spring and early summer. A small bed can keep a family of four in bountiful salads that can include: Italian misticanza, arugula, radicchio, French mesclun, chervil, endive, frisse, Asian baby greens, bok choy, mizuna and spinach. Create a mix of braising greens by growing kale, chard and spinach together. Class includes easy planting, harvesting, and kitchen preparation instructions. A salad and dressing demonstration, snack and recipes will be provided. *Jody is a local organic food and garden writer, educator, and consultant. Her specialty is designing gardens that include vegetables, herbs and berries.*

## Product Highlights! . . . continued

### Compost Thermometer

Has a 20-inch probe. The welded, stainless steel design allows this product to be left in the compost and not removed for storage. It can withstand the chemical and biological weathering of the compost. The 1.8"-diameter dial is hermetically sealed with a clear polycarbonate lens. It can measure temperatures ranging from 0-200 degrees F, or 0-100 degrees C. Full composting instructions included.

### Heirloom Trowel and Transplant Trowel

Never lose your garden tools again! Bright sunny yellow epoxy covers rugged, one-piece, stamped steel construction. Strong and durable, contoured to fit comfortably in the palm of the hand. Very popular! Get one of your very own and see why!



## Kids

### Wicked Cool Sustainable Solutions for the Earth

An activity and coloring book for little and big people. Especially for our young gardeners, a wonderful addition to your bookshelf! Recommended by a wide spectrum of educators, from Montessori teachers to college professors. This book guides readers of all ages toward solution-oriented activities that help them become problem-solvers, while having loads of fun.

### Children's Wheelbarrow!

Little hands can move the earth with this thick and rugged design. The deep tray can hold a remarkable amount of material, giving kids the pride of accomplishment in lending a helping hand in the garden.

### Children's Shovel

Incredibly lightweight at only one pound; this is the ideal first tool for children who are learning how to garden. The steel head is secured to a sanded hardwood handle. A perfect addition for school and family gardens alike.

## Books

*Growing Medicinal Herbs in as Little as Fifty Square Feet* by Louisa Lenz-Porter. Discover the common medicinal herbs that can be easily cultivated in your own backyard. Both a step-by-step guide to growing and using medicinal herbs and a quick guide to common herbal remedies for a wide range of ills. A wonderful bonus is the comprehensive bibliography of reference books and articles.

*California Native Plants for the Garden* is a must-have title for every California gardener. Learn about the amazing diversity of our area, and how to bring it into your own backyard! Authors Bornstein, Fross, and O'Brien each have over 25 years' experience with California natives, and they come together in this book to provide the most comprehensive information on using California natives in the garden. Discover the rewards of gardening with our native species! This is a bestseller!

*The Organic Rose Garden* by Liz Druitt. Create beautiful blooms and heavenly scents without the need of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Druitt explains the basics of organic rose gardening and offers reviews and tips for over 175 rose varieties. An invaluable resource section details sustainably managed rose nurseries, environmentally responsible garden products, and helpful further reading.



Illustrations are selected from *The Cook's Garden Catalogue* and *The Gardens for All* Books by Dick and Jan Raymond.

## **Common Ground Organic Garden Supply and Education Center**

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit project of Ecology Action, an organization dedicated to GROW BIOINTENSIVE® food-raising. These gardening and mini-farming techniques, researched and developed by Ecology Action over a thirty four-year period, allow you to grow all your food while maintaining and improving the fertility of the earth. This method is being taught and used in over 130 countries worldwide.

### **At the Center you are able to:**

- Attend hands-on classes and events in organic gardening and sustainable lifestyles.
- Choose from hundreds of open-pollinated edible, medicinal and ornamental seeds and starts.
- Condition and feed your soil with our broad selection of organic composts, fertilizers, and mulches.
- Care for your plants with the best-quality tools and natural disease and pest products.
- Be inspired with our wide selection of books, magazines, cards, and gift items.
- Become a member, volunteer, and make new friends.

*“Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant gardens they are saying, let’s stay here. By the connection to the land, we are connected to one another.”*



*Layout and design by Glenda Jones*

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**Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center**  
**559 College Ave.**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94306**  
**650.493.6072**



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