



2024 Grower Apprenticeship Program Calendar

Plan to meet every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30p and Saturday from 9:30-11:00a. Time/Dates will remain fixed, but the learning content may change depending on weather conditions and seasonal learning opportunities presented by the farm. Unless notified in advance, all farm workshops will take place at the South Chicago Farm: 9001 S. Mackinaw, Chicago IL 60617.

Each month will consist of the following learning blocks:

- 2 UGC Farm Foundation Workshops
- 2 Farm Foundation Technical Assistance Sessions with UGC Staff
- 1 UDC Solidarity Economy Workshop
- 2-4 Scheduled Times for Applied Learning - Group Farm Work (Without instructors)
- Special Events

In addition to the workshop/prescribed learning hours outlined below, you will be invited to commit an additional 4 hours to your farm learning onsite. It is recommended that two of those hours be on Saturday directly before or after the workshop (either 7:30-9:30a or 11:00-1:00p) so that you can be in community with your cohort members. Group farm work time is without the instructors and should be focused on applying skills learned independently.

Farm Foundation Workshops:

Primarily in- person workshops **with instructors**. Each session will focus on a farm foundation skill set and will provide opportunities for trainees to learn how to grow, ask questions and try on new enterprises they may want to include in their future operations.

Technical Assistance/Mentorship Hours:

In person dedicated time with UGC staff to ask questions about farm foundation skills that have been introduced, including direction and observations on farmwork needs for the day/week

Applied Learning - Group Farm Work:

Apprentices will work **independently without instructors** to build out designated farm space, apply farm skills, observe, learn from, tend to, and harvest produce. We have scheduled group work days to build community, collaboration and work towards shared goals.

Solidarity Economy Workshops:

Once a month classes led by Camille Kerr and team of Upside Down consulting. These classes are cooperative business focused and implemented to help vision collective roles, understand best practices, and begin to think about the business facing aspects of urban farming within a collective. **Classes are online and sometimes in person.**

**** Disclaimer: Due to working with the seasons the schedule may be altered or modified based on need. Please always check the live link in google classrooms for updates surrounding the schedule. If there are any questions or concerns please reach out to programming@urbangrowerscollective.org ****



March:

Farm Focus: Introductions; Visioning; Grounding

Coop Focus: Introduction to the Solidarity Economy

Wednesday-Friday 3/6/24-3/8/24 -	Chicago Food Justice Summit (Virtual & In-Person)
Wednesday, 3/6/24, 6:00-7:30pm	N/A
Saturday, 3/9/24, 9:30-11:00a -	N/A
Wednesday, 3/13/24, 6-7:30p -	Program Welcome & Orientation (Virtual)
Saturday, 3/16/23, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Tour & Crop Planning Prep (G's)
Wednesday, 3/20, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy (Zoom)
Saturday, 3/23/24, 9:30-11:00a-	Bed Building Workshop
Wednesday, 3/27/24, 6:00-7:00p-	Technical Assistance: Bed Building
Saturday, 3/30/24, 9:30-11:00a-	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

April

Farm Focus: Spring Planting/Seeding; Irrigation

Coop Focus: Decision Making

Wednesday, 4/3/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 4/6/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Crop Planning/Greenhouse Seeding (OG/GG)
Wednesday, 4/10/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance: Bed Building
Saturday, 4/13/24, 9:30-11:30p -	Farm Workshop: Drip Irrigation
Wednesday, 4/17/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 4/20/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Seeding & Transplanting (Spring Crops)
Wednesday, 4/24/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 4/27/24, 9:30-11:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

**** Disclaimer: Due to working with the seasons the schedule may be altered or modified based on need. Please always check the live link in google classrooms for updates surrounding the schedule. If there are any questions or concerns please reach out to programming@urbangrowerscollective.org ****



May

Farm Focus: Spring Harvesting & Food Safety; Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Coop Focus:

Wednesday, 5/1/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 5/4/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Wednesday, 5/8/24, 6-7:30p -	Intro to GAP Food Safety (pt 1 - Virtual)
Saturday, 5/11/23, 9:30-11:00a-	Intro to GAP & Harvest (pt 2 - In Person)
Wednesday, 5/15/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 5/18/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Direct Seeding & Transplanting (Summer Crops)
Wednesday, 5/22/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 5/25/24, 9:30-11:00 -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work (holiday)
Wednesday, 5/29/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

June

Farm Focus: Summer Transplanting/Direct Seeding; Compost

Coop Focus: Setting our Values

Saturday, 6/1/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Direct Seeding & Transplanting (Summer Crops)
Wednesday, 6/5/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 6/8/24, 9:30-11:00 -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Wednesday, 6/12/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 6/15/24, 9:30-11:30p -	Farm Workshop: Seasonal Harvesting
Wednesday, 6/19/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 6/22/24, 9:30-11:00p -	Farm Workshop: Compost
Wednesday, 6/26/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 6/29/29, 9:30-11:00p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

July

Farm Focus: Pest Management; Seasonal Maintenance & Harvest

Coop Focus: Redefining Leadership

Wednesday, 7/3/24, 6-7:30p-	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work (holiday)
Saturday, 7/6/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work (holiday)
Wednesday, 7/10/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 7/13/24, 9:30-11a -	Farm Workshop: Pest Management
Wednesday, 7/17/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 7/20/24, 9:30-11:30p -	Farm Workshop: Tomato Trellis
Wednesday, 7/24/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 7/27/24, 9:30-11:30p -	Farm Workshop: Seasonal Harvesting
Wednesday, 7/31/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance

**** Disclaimer: Due to working with the seasons the schedule may be altered or modified based on need. Please always check the live link in google classrooms for updates surrounding the schedule. If there are any questions or concerns please reach out to programming@urbangrowerscollective.org ****



August

Farm Focus: Summer Harvesting; Crop Maintenance

Coop Focus: Conflict Resolution

Saturday, 8/3/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Wednesday, 8/7/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 8/10/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Pest Management
Wednesday, 8/14/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 8/17/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Wednesday, 8/21/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 8/24/24, 9:30-11a -	Farm Workshop: Seasonal Harvesting
Wednesday, 8/28/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 8/31/24, 9:30-11a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work (holiday)

September

Farm Focus: Succession Planting

Coop Focus: Building Facilitation Skills

Wednesday, 9/4/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 9/7/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Fall Crop Planting
Wednesday, 9/11/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 9/14/24, 9:30-11a -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Wednesday, 9/18/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 9/21/24, 9:30-11:00p -	Farm Workshop: Seasonal Harvesting
Wednesday, 9/25/24, 6-7:30p -	Technical Assistance
Saturday, 9/28/24, 6-7:30p -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

October

Farm Focus: Fall Harvesting & Food Safety; Seed Saving

Coop Focus: Setting a Vision for Next Year

*Onsite weekday hours will shift due to Daylight Savings Time

Wednesday, 10/2/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 10/5/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Vermicompost
Wednesday, 10/9/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 10/12/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Technical Assistance: Fall Bed Building
Wednesday, 10/16/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 10/19/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Seasonal Harvest Demo
Wednesday, 10/23/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 10/26/24, TBD -	Harvest Fest
Wednesday, 10/30/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work

**** Disclaimer: Due to working with the seasons the schedule may be altered or modified based on need. Please always check the live link in google classrooms for updates surrounding the schedule. If there are any questions or concerns please reach out to programming@urbangrowerscollective.org ****



November

Farm Focus: Farm Winterizing; Season Extension

Coop Focus: Purpose of the Co-Op

*Onsite weekday hours will shift due to Daylight Savings Time

Saturday, 11/2/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Winterize Irrigation
Wednesday, 11/6/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 11/9/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Technical Assistance
Wednesday, 11/13/24, 6-7:30p -	Coop/Solidarity Economy
Saturday, 11/16/23, 9:30-11:00a -	Farm Workshop: Bulb Planting
Wednesday, 11/20/24, 6-7:00p* -	Applied Learning - Group Farm Work
Saturday, 11/23/24, 9:30-11:00a -	Tentative Program Close

December

TBD Based on Weather

**** Disclaimer: Due to working with the seasons the schedule may be altered or modified based on need. Please always check the live link in google classrooms for updates surrounding the schedule. If there are any questions or concerns please reach out to programming@urbangrowerscollective.org ****