

Planting a Program

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Last spring, our new Agricultural Resources Educator Heather Bryant, was busy learning about the regional characteristics of Grafton County—getting to know the people, the landscape, the finicky climate, and the beloved, if short, growing season. In between early spring farmers’ markets and farm visits, Heather was chipping away at plans for the Grafton County display vegetable garden. What eventually rooted, fruited, and grew out of these ideas was a small vegetable garden on the south lawn of the County Complex and an informal workshop series. Both ventures were aimed to give you, the backyard gardener, practical information and a chance to connect with the gardeners and resources in your community.

Encouraged by our success with last year’s program, we have expanded the 2010 Vegetable Gardening series into a 9-part program that covers topics from composting to garden lore to cooking with fresh vegetables. We are especially delighted to offer a parallel children’s program called “Growing Places”, which will take place at the same time and location as the adult workshop series. Designed and facilitated by Master Gardener Volunteers, these sessions will get your kids interested in the bugs, birds, and plants around them. Topics include discovering scat, pressing flowers, and two days of animal fiber—be prepared to meet some furry friends! Bring your kids, your grandkids, or your neighbor’s kids.

Most sessions will be held at the Grafton County Complex, in the gazebo located between the Courthouse and the Nursing Home. All workshops are open to the public and are free of charge. You may attend one or all of the sessions. For a complete schedule of the “Vegetable Gardening Series” and “Growing Places” visit the Grafton County web page at <http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Grafton/Grafton.htm> or call the office at (603) 787-6944.