



Mizzou Botanic Garden presents 2024 Brown Bag Seminar Series

Please join MUBG for these free and open to the public lunch hour programs presented by gardening experts. Programs are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 12

The Science of Compost: How to create “Super Soil”

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. • Columbia Public Library Friends Room.

Backyard composters, gardeners and plant enthusiasts are invited to learn about the science behind why compost is key to soil health: it unlocks soil nutrients, helps fight soil borne pests and plant diseases, enhances water conservation and diverts organics from landfills. This deep ‘dig ‘ into the topic will look into the micro-organisms and thermal phases that produce this essential soil amendment, and how to optimize the process.

Presenter Brenda Peculis is a City of Columbia Compost Ambassador and an emeritus faculty member with the University of Missouri Department of Biochemistry. Cosponsored by Daniel Boone Regional Library and the City of Columbia.



Daniel Boone
Regional Library



Tuesday, June 4

How to Bring Back the Buzz of Insect Pollinators on Flowering Plants

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. • Columbia Public Library Friends Room

Because of habitat loss and other adverse environmental factors, the mutually beneficial and essential relationship that has existed for millions of years between bees as pollinators and flowering plants is being disrupted. Bees rely on flower pollen and nectar for food, and most flowering plants rely on bees and other pollinators, for fertilization to develop seeds and fruits. Come hear how diverse plantings of native plant species to create habitat and food sources can help rebuild populations of native pollinators.

Presenters Michael Chippendale and Chris Starbuck, are emeritus faculty members of the MU Division of Plant Science and Technology in Entomology and Horticulture, respectively/ Chippendale has special interests in insect-plant relationships and Starbuck’s emphasis is woody ornamental plants. Cosponsored by Daniel Boone Regional Library



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Wednesday, July 10

An Introduction to Cover Crops

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. • Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture’s Agriculture Park

Cover-cropping is a practice getting a lot of attention for the low-cost diversity of ecosystem services it provides. Come hear how Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) has utilized different individual cover crop species and species mixtures, or “cover crop cocktails,” to regenerate degraded urban soils into productive agricultural ones! Plant selection, seed sourcing, planting, tending, and termination will be discussed as attendees tour the productive demonstration plantings at the Agriculture Park.

Presenter Tony Minnick, the Agriculture Park Director for CCUA, has a degree in environmental science with an emphasis in food systems from Loyola University Chicago. In his past 10 years as a grower, Minnick has experimented with many species and styles of cover cropping and has worked some real magic at CCUA. Cosponsored by Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture



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