

Learn, Act, Grow @ the Library with Dr. George Place

Learn how to be a green-thumb attending free classes at the Newton Library

Dr. George Place, Director of the Catawba County Cooperative Extension, will host a free series of gardening workshops aimed at teaching participants how to plant and care for vegetable and flower gardens. “Feed the Soil” will be the first Learn, Act, Grow class focusing on the foundation of any garden, the soil. This class will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm at the Main Library, Newton (115 West C Street, Newton, NC 28658).

Subsequent classes, described below, will be offered monthly at the Main Library, Newton.

Feed the Soil – Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Soil is the very foundation of sustainable horticulture and agriculture. This course focuses on the texture, structure, density, and color of different soils and the dynamic relationship that exists among soil, water, and plants.

Garden Diseases – June 30 at 6:30 pm

Learn about common diseases of woody and herbaceous ornamentals caused by bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and viruses, and the cultural, biological, and chemical strategies for their control. Discuss diagnoses of plant problems, including identification of insect- and nutrient- related symptoms.

Fall Veggies – July 23 at 6:30 pm

Participants will discover where to start and what to choose for planting in the “cool” season. The class will cover important basic necessities and growing requirements, plus attendees will receive hands-on instruction on seed starting and transplanting.

Extending Shelf Life of Garden Produce – August 27 at 6 pm

This workshop is intended for growers who are interested in learning more about handling fresh fruits and vegetables once they have been harvested. Participants will learn approaches and technologies to maintain product quality and extend shelf life, limiting post-harvest disorders and loss of crops.

Cover Crops – September 17 at 6 pm

Cover crops are crops such as bell beans and oat grass that are planted in the fall and grown over the winter, then either worked into the soil in the spring to decompose before spring and summer planting, or harvested for compost. Dr. Place will discuss the cover crop species best suited to this area, along with how much seed you will need for your garden or tree crops, and how best to time cover crop plantings in the fall and “plough downs” in the spring.

Harvesting Small Fruit – October 22 at 6:30 pm

This workshop will discuss planting, pruning, and maintenance of blueberry, blackberry, strawberry, and grapes.

Tree Fruit – November 17 at 6:30 pm

You will learn how to select appropriate fruit tree varieties; prepare the planting hole; plant, fertilize, and prune your trees; set up an irrigation system; improve the soil with cover crops; and control pests and diseases.

For additional information, email poliver@catawbacountync.gov, visit the Main Library or call (828) 465-8664.



About: *The Catawba County Library System, headquartered in Newton, NC, serves the citizens of Catawba County with seven branches throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning. In addition to traditional services, the system provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*