



The Arlington Food Assistance Center's (AFAC) Plot Against Hunger program promotes AFAC's vision of providing access to nutritious food for our neighbors in need by asking for donations of produce from local gardeners and farmers. We seek to educate AFAC clients and others in incorporating fresh produce into healthy diets.

[afac.org/plot-against-hunger/](http://afac.org/plot-against-hunger/)



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

The Arlington County Office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs based on research in Agricultural and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Science, 4-H Youth Development and community viability to help people in Arlington improve their lives.

[arlington.ext.vt.edu/](http://arlington.ext.vt.edu/)



Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture

Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA) is a nonprofit dedicated to building a resilient, community-driven urban agriculture sector so that we have a fair, healthy, sustainable food system for all Arlingtonians. FOUA advocates for community-driven support for urban agriculture in county and school policies, builds awareness through educational, outreach and social events, and facilitates connections & promotes urban agriculture businesses & programs.

[arlingtonurbanag.org/](http://arlingtonurbanag.org/)

The "Arlington Reads, Arlington Grows" garden at Arlington Central Library grew out of the joint initiative of the Library and AFAC Plot Against Hunger volunteers, who dug the original garden near the Library's east entrance in May 2010. In June 2010 the garden was dedicated and containers were added on the patios.

The past nine years have seen an expansion of the square-foot gardens and perennial plantings, improved borders and fencing, and benefits from the nearby native plant garden. From the start, this has been a cooperative and education-oriented effort.

**JOIN US!**



## Gardening Talks at the Arlington Central Library

**Wednesdays, 7:00 pm**  
in the garden (tennis court side)  
unless otherwise noted



1015 N. Quincy St, Arlington 22201

**March—September 2020**

**March 11: Seed Starting & Plant Propagation.** Learn the best techniques for growing seedlings throughout the seasons. Free seeds. *Bluemont Room.*

**March 18: Vegetable Garden Design for Success.** Best location? How to layout? Plan your garden for the best vegetables, & how to use flowers to attract pollinators. *Bluemont Room.*

**March 25: Soil is Everything—Testing, Enhancing, Fertilizing.** Healthy, nutritious soil is a basic building block for successful gardening. Learn how to care for your soil. *Bluemont Room.*

**April 1: Fruit for your Garden – Berries, Bushes, Brambles, Trees.** Learn the best varieties of fruits for northern Virginia gardens and how to grow them. *Bluemont Room.*

**April 8: Perennial Food Crops.** Establish perennial food plants suited to northern Virginia, using permaculture techniques. Enjoy your crops year after year with little maintenance. *Bluemont Room.*

**April 15: Balcony & Container Gardening Basics.** No room? No problem! Grow herbs, vegetables, and flowers on your patio, balcony, front stoop, or back deck. *Rabbit Hole, 1st Floor Children's area.*

**April 22: Growing Vegetables in the Shade.** Too much shade? Learn techniques and best varieties for growing vegetables in areas without full sun. *Bluemont Room.*

**April 29: Garden Structures for Support & Pest Control.** Learn to support tomatoes, vines, and other crops, increase growing space, and keep out those squirrels and other critters. *Outside by the garden.*

**May 6: Tomato Love.** Tips & tricks to get the best tomato crop. Fertilizing, pruning and recognizing pests and diseases. *Bluemont Room.*

**May 13: Keeping the Garden Growing—Summer Nutrient Management.** Ever experience a summer downturn in your beautiful vegetable garden? Learn what those veggies need to keep on producing. *Bluemont Room.*



## 2020 SCHEDULED TOPICS

*(see location in description)*

**May 20: Foraging for Wild Edibles.** Find edibles in our urban area, by foraging in wild (and not so wild) areas. *Outside by the garden.*

**May 27: Growing Herbs for Health & Flavor.** Herbs are the spice of life and can boost your health. Grow your own! Basic techniques on planning and planting a culinary and medicinal herb garden. *Bluemont Room.*

**June 3: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**June 10: Weeds 101 – Keep those Weeds at Bay.** Learn how to identify and keep the area's top ten weeds out of your garden and yard. *Outside by the garden.*

**June 17: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**June 24: Good Bugs, Bad Bugs, Happy Garden.** Learn from an expert how to manage insects and pests and attract beneficial insects to your garden, the sustainable way. *Outside by the garden.*

**July 1: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**July 8: Top 10 Vegetable Diseases.** Our area's hot, humid summers make vegetables vulnerable to diseases. Learn how to control the occurrence and spread of plant diseases. *Outside by the garden.*

**July 15: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**July 22: Preserving the Harvest – Canning, Freezing.** Enjoy your produce year-round. Learn how to can and freeze safely with proven techniques. *Bluemont Room.*

**July 29: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**August 5: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**August 12: Vegetables for Fall & Winter Harvest.** Grow vegetables nearly year-round. There's still time to grow and enjoy them now and into the Spring! *Outside by the garden.*

**August 19: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**August 26: Cover Crops for Healthy Soil.** Sow cover crops to add nutrients & structure to your soil during the winter months. *Outside by the garden.*

**September 2: NO GARDEN TALK.** Visit Master Gardener Clinic inside.

**September 9: Growing Season Extension and Winter Sowing.** Protect your crops from the chill with hot caps, cold frames, row covers & other techniques. Plus learn winter sowing techniques to start spring seeds early, outdoors, and in milk jugs. *Bluemont Room.*

**September 16: Planning Bio-Controls for Next Year's Garden.** Fall is the time to prepare your soil for healthy growing next season. Learn techniques and best practices. *Bluemont Room.*

**September 23: Making Teas & Using Herbs from Your Garden.** Teas and herbs have many benefits. Learn what your herb garden can offer for enjoyment and health. *Bluemont Room.*

**September 30: Savoring the Harvest.** How to prepare delicious dishes from the garden and farmers' market produce. Learn to use new foods to delight family and friends. *Bluemont Room.*