Upcoming Gardening Classes

The College of Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Home Gardening program is your chance to learn from University of Hawaii horticultural staff as well as Maui Master Gardeners. These classes include planning and starting a new garden, common causes of plant problems, plant nutrition, container gardening and growing orchids, insect identification (good guys and bad), pest control, pruning, tree identification. The answers you need for a healthy garden can be found at our Home Gardening Classes

Orchids: You Can Grow them!

Have you ever wanted to grow orchids but were scared off by their "diva" reputation? Learn how to select orchids suitable for Hawai‘i and how to keep them alive once you get them. Yes, you can grow orchids!

Plant Nutrition 1

In a two part series, we will explore those things necessary to ensure strong healthy plants. In part 1, you will learn about soil and how its composition, pH, salinity, water movement and organic content relate to the availability of plant nutrients. We ask that you bring a sample of your soil to be tested.

Irrigation for the Home Gardener

Learn best management practices for irrigating your garden. Learn how to size your system and choose the proper emitters.

Plant Nutrition 2

In part 2 of this two part series, topics will include: basic NPK explanations, overview of soil fertility, importance of proper watering, role of essential micro-nutrients, and the application of amendments, fertilizers, mulch, and organic matter.

Gardening in Hawaii

Hawaii's year-round growing season makes it an ideal place to grow plants of all kinds. But paradise is not without perils for many plants. Insect pests and pathogens can decimate plants not adapted to the tropics. The key to a successful garden in Hawaii lies in selecting disease-resistant plants, which are well-adapted to your tropical growing conditions. Right plant, right place.

Common Causes of Plant Problems

Plant disease and pest problems are the result of a wide variety of factors. In this class, we will discuss the most common. Knowing the sources of these problems will aid in maintaining a healthy garden. We will also talk about steps to prevent problems before they occur.
**Worm Composting**

Worm composting is using worms to recycle food scraps and other organic material into a valuable soil amendment called vermicompost. Worms eat food scraps, which become compost as they pass through the worm's body. Use of vermicompost and worm tea promotes healthy plant growth. This two hour class explains why vermicompost is good for plants, what worms are best for eating nutrient-rich fruit and vegetable scraps turning them into nutrient-rich and how to create and maintain your own worm composter.

**Container Gardening**

Do you need a fresh start on the plant containers on your porch, patio, or deck? This session offers ideas for selecting types of containers, plant media, plant selection, placement, care and design.

**Pruning the Correct Way**

Learn the best strategies for pruning shrubs and trees and how to avoid common mistakes in pruning that can be damaging and quite costly in the long run. Learn to prune smarter not harder. Bring your favorite pruning tools for this hands-on workshop.

**Good Bugs: Beneficial Insects**

Biological control is the use of beneficial insects to control unwanted organisms. These beneficial insects include: predators, parasitoids, and pathogens (virus, fungi, bacteria etc.). This session covers the insect pests controlled by beneficial insects, and how to identify good bugs, and the gardening techniques that will enhance their presence in the environment.

**What's Bugging You? Garden Pests**

“What’s Bugging You? Garden Pests” helps the backyard gardener identify pests most commonly encountered in Hawai‘i. The two hour presentation categorizes pests by their feeding habits: piercing and sucking, biting and chewing, as well as, boring and tunneling. For each pest identified, you will learn the most effective integrated management techniques to control the pest while minimizing the impact to the surrounding environment.

**2013 Home Gardening Program**

Classes are held at the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension classroom. Advance registration is needed one week before the session you plan to attend. Each session is $25, or you may attend a 3-part series for just $60.

For more details and to sign up, contact:
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For any current gardening questions or problems, visit or call the Maui Master Gardener Help Desk, Monday through Friday at 244-3242 X 228 or email: mauimg@ctahr.hawaii.edu