

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

ID6717 SIMPLIFYING THE RULES – ESSENTIAL TOP TIPS FOR GROWING AND PICKING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Tutor: CHARLES DOWDING

Date: 1 DAY SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Learn the top tips for a healthy abundance of vegetables and fruits, without digging and with less weeding. It includes advice on making compost, using compost as mulch, propagating plants, using covers to speed growth and keep pests at bay, tips on slugs especially, polytunnels, watering, harvesting and storing produce.

Thirty years of growing vegetables in three locations, one garden on stony brash and two others on heavy clay, have taught me the wisdom of leaving soil uncultivated. I have also farmed on larger acreages, seen the weedy effects of using plough and rotovator, and run an experiment comparing dug and undug soil, so am well aware of the many differing results of varied soil treatments.

This course imparts the essence of my experiences in a garden context and gives you the understandings to better work with your soil, by not working it. Fertility and structure are improved by adding some organic matter on the surface to encourage soil life, the basis of healthy growth.

Many details and examples are given of best ways to grow vegetables from this starting point, with the result of many less weeds, healthier plants and extended seasons of harvest. There is a special emphasis on salads, which I grow commercially all year round, mostly outdoors.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Charles has grown vegetables organically and without digging for over three decades, mostly for sale, and recently has started a new garden on weed-infested pasture where he is experimenting with ways to clean soil, using different mulches and thicknesses of compost and manure. He sells salad bags and vegetables to local shops, writes books, gives lectures and runs day and monthly courses at his home near Castle Cary in Somerset.

TIMETABLE:

9.00–9.15am	Registration and coffee
9.15am	Morning classes
10.30am	Coffee
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
5.00pm	Classes finish

Please bring:

Bring along: questions from your garden

Notebook and pen

Please ensure that you bring outdoor clothing suitable for wet weather

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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