

SATURDAY GARDEN LECTURE DETAILS

SGL07643 SIMPLIFYING THE RULES – EASIER WAYS TO A SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDEN

Lecturer: CHARLES DOWING

Date: 17 FEBRUARY 2018

ABOUT YOUR LECTURE COURSE:

Charles will cover the following topics over the three sessions:

1 Save time with quicker methods

A look at many misunderstandings which have a common theme: they waste the gardener's time, from digging and washing pots to making large planting holes and separating bindweed roots from other compost ingredients.

I explain how these misunderstandings have arisen and illustrate quicker ways to achieve the desired result of healthy, happy plants, which includes sowing vegetable seeds at the best and most efficient dates.

2 Salad leaves all year

How to grow and pick large and repeat harvests from a small area, even in winter.

Exploring the wonderful range of plants to grow for salad leaves. I emphasise two ways above all of increasing harvests:

- 1 Sow the right plant for each different season, for example sow salad rocket in August not April,
- 2 Give plants sufficient space so that outer leaves can be picked over a long period. This also reduces slugs and disease.

Lots of illustrations to demonstrate these points, with an explanation of the benefits of compost mulches.

3 Succession planting and winter vegetables

Food in winter and the hungry gap too, both from fresh harvests and from stored veg, with my tips on easier ways to store harvests.

A look at garlic, onions, potato, parsnip, leeks and brassicas as well as salads, broad beans, spring onion and cabbage for the hungry gap.

I cover the value of good soil preparation, without digging, of making and using compost, and of sowing at the best time, especially after midsummer when shortening days mean that you reap rewards from adhering to precise sowing dates.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner.

ABOUT YOUR LECTURER:

Charles is an acclaimed innovator of no dig, organic growing since 1983, and since 2003 of new ways to crop salad leaves. His original, weed free methods give superb results in both small and large areas. He sells produce from Homeacres bio-intensive, no dig garden, has written nine books, writes for national and international magazines, runs a YouTube channel with over 1.5 million views, appears on tv and radio including BBC Gardeners World, and teaches extensively at home and abroad.

OUTLINE TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY: (This course will be held in the Auditorium.)

9.30 – 9.45am Arrival and registration with coffee available at the Auditorium (part of The Edward James Studios). (Garden entrance **not** the College entrance.)

10.00 Welcome and brief introduction (West Dean College speaker)

MORNING SESSIONS (2.5 hours plus coffee break)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

1.00pm Lunch (a chance to buy books and visit the gardens)

2.00 **AFTERNOON SESSION** (1 hour)

3.00 End of course – (further chance to visit the gardens)

HOW TO GET TO WEST DEAN

ROAD: West Dean College and Garden is situated six miles north of the historic city of Chichester (this journey normally takes 15 minutes) and 12 miles from the south coast. There is convenient road access from London (65 miles). West Dean Garden is signposted off the A286. The Auditorium is the first building on the right as you drive in.

RAIL: Trains to Chichester leave from London Victoria via Gatwick and from London Waterloo via Havant. Trains to Haslemere also leave from London Waterloo. A taxi from Chichester should cost approximately £16.

BUS: Number 60 bus runs half-hourly on Mondays to Saturdays from Chichester Bus Station (opposite the railway station) to West Dean.

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