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# MEMBER NEWS



## OEC Warming Up!

April kicks off our Volunteer Garden Crew Days. Our nine new and eager volunteers will join us in the organic demonstration gardens every other Wednesday starting April 6th through late June. We begin each morning with a brief walk around the garden highlighting what's new and discussing varying topics from cover crops, pests and disease to ideal harvest times.



Image courtesy of Shawn Linehan

We just wrapped up another successful COG (Comprehensive Organic Gardener Series) program with 18 graduates. We enjoyed four evening classes and three full days in the gardens at Luscher Farm. This group was hands on in the garden planting, seeding, composting and even exploring our worm bin. Congratulations to our recent participants. We'll be running this series again in the fall, so stay tuned!

The OEC has two new classes in April partnering with Metro and Whole Foods in Portland.

- April 2, ['Early Veggie Growing'](#) from 10-11:30am at Luscher Farm
- April 13, 'Growing Food in the City' from 7-8pm at Whole Foods in the Pearl in Portland. We'll focus on container gardening and growing produce in small urban yards.

### [Other classes offered throughout April!](#)

#### Garden News

The soil temperatures are slowly beginning to warm up, we reached 51F in mid March. We'll be establishing a new aspar bed, planting Austrian Crescent potatoes and planting our tomatoes in the ground among other day-to-day gardening tasks. The arugula cover crop planted March 12 is looking especially delicious!

Don't forget to check out these other tilth-worthy [events](#)...

## Invite a Friend

Do you know someone who is interested in food systems that are healthy for people as well as the environment? Invite them to [become a supporting member](#) of Oregon Tilth! Members of Oregon Tilth receive the bi-monthly In Good Tilth Magazine, discounts to events and classes and more!

## Become a Fan!



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[Audio Recordings of Organicology](#) still available online!



### Plate & Pitchfork Spring Events



Plate & Pitchfork hosts dinners and events that highlight local and sustainable food. The OEC has been a beneficiary of these events for several years. Visit [P&P partner spotlight](#) for the OEC.

This year, P&P are adding some spring events to their usual summer dinner series. Read more about [Plate & Pitchfork](#).

### U.N. Reports Agroecology can Double Food Output



Natural methods such as insect-trapping plants and fowl for weed control have shown average crop yield gains of 80 percent in 57 nations. Recent projects in 20 African countries had resulted in the doubling of crop yields within three to ten years.

Read more on the [UN Agroecology report](#).

### Webinars from the USDA ERS Organic Farming Conference



Webinars are in session right now for the Organic Farming Systems Conference and end on Friday the 18th. But don't worry! Recordings are available online so you won't miss out! Topics include comparing organic and conventional agriculture, impacts of organic farming and more!

Read more on the [USDA Webinars](#).

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