



University of California Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County

UC Cooperative Extension will launch the “Grow LA Victory Garden Initiative” in Highland Park, CA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highland Park residents will soon have an opportunity to learn to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Ten gardening circles are scheduled to be held throughout LA County. UC Cooperative Extension will launch one of 10 kickoff sites for the new “Grow LA Victory Garden Initiative” in Highland Park, CA. A series of four weekend classes in April 2010 will be offered at The Milagro Allegro Community Garden in Highland Park, CA.

The effort is part of UC Cooperative Extension’s new “Grow LA Victory Garden Initiative” for those who wish to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables. This initiative will help new gardeners learn to start their own gardens quickly and easily in a container, in the backyard or at a community garden, bringing together local families and neighborhoods to share their experiences, skills and produce. Participants will be able to turn this new interest in gardening into successful, productive gardens that will generate positive changes in their homes by helping to lower grocery bills and enhance opportunities to eat healthy, nutritious foods.

Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardener volunteers will organize and lead the garden circles and teach the basics of gardening. Each gardening circle will meet in April for instruction and hands-on activities.

“We hope these Victory Garden Circles will continue informally beyond the April trainings so participants can continue to share their new skills and produce surplus with their needy neighbors, local restaurants, local food banks and soup kitchens,” says Yvonne Savio, Common Ground Garden program manager.

The initiative brings together local gardening enthusiasts, UC Cooperative Extension’s LA County Master Gardeners, the Los Angeles Community Garden Council, the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, The Huntington Botanical Gardens, and many more partners as well as local organization that will be hosting the garden circles.

Highland Park, residents who wish to register or get more information should contact Milli Macen-Moore, at 1-800-863-5476, or milli@modern-sustainability.com. The Milagro Allegro Community Garden - Highland Park course will cost \$15 per workshop, or \$50 for the four-class series, and will be held from 10 am - 1 pm on April 10, 11, 17 and 18. Space is limited and advance registration is requested. Spanish translation will be provided.

For general information on the initiative, please contact Yvonne Savio, Common Ground Garden program manager, at (323) 260-3407, ydsavio@ucdavis.edu.