

Currant Affairs

April 10, 2022 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

****Marks new and updated items in this issue**

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****April 12 & 13**

Alaska Food Protection Task Force Educational Workshop will be held virtually over Zoom on April 12 & 13. Each workshop will be a ½ day from 8 am – 12:30 pm. [Register here](#) and contact Lorinda Lhotka for more info - Lorinda.lhotka@alaska.gov / 907-451-2119

****April 13 – June 1**

Online Gardening Class Series offered by the **Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Extension Service** and taught by Casey Matney, the agriculture and horticulture extension agent for the Kenai Peninsula. Classes will be held online via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will outline the steps to getting your garden ready. The Zoom links to register for each class can be found at www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/kenai/. Send questions to camatney@alaska.edu / 907-262-3443.

- April 13 — Working with fertilizers and compost
- April 20 — Warming things up with plastic, glass and plastic mulch
- April 27 — Raised rows, raised beds and how to make them
- May 4 — Herb gardening, inside and out
- May 11 — Seeding directly into the garden
- May 18 — Planting potatoes
- May 25 — Hardening plants and transplanting to the garden
- June 1 — Composting – no time to waste

****April 14**

Know What You Grow: The Scoop on Invasive Plants - Session 8 of the **2022 KNOW YOUR LAND Series** brought to you by **Homer Soil & Water Conservation District** and the **USDA-NRCS**. Do you know what's growing in your backyard? It's possible that among your garden rows or favorite flowers and shrubs, invasive plants have taken root on your property. In this talk, we'll get to know some of the most problematic invasive plants in the Homer area - what they look like, why they're a problem, and most importantly, what you can do about them. No registration necessary. Click link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411182379>

****April 14**

Cooperative Extension Workshop - Chicken Academy. A backyard flock is fun and a great way to include Alaskan food security and sustainability. This class will enable a novice to start

their first flock. Breed selection, incubation, nutrition, coop design, disease management, cold weather tips and even chicken psychology will be covered. Join Zoom Meeting <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/89497213315?pwd=U0xHREVva3hVLOFYMWVBSIB3OXFTZz09>

April 16

Beyond Compost: Other Ways to Build Soil (Virtual) from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, taught by Ellen Vande Visse at the **Good Earth Garden School**, hosted by Alaska Mill & Feed. [More info](#)

April 18

Garden Insect Ecology presented by Alex Wenninger at **AMGA**'s monthly meeting at 7 PM

****April 19**

Cooperative Extension Workshop – Control of Weeds and Pests with Organic and All-natural products at 12 pm. Join our IPM team as they share their expertise of best practices to control weeds and pests with organic and all-natural products. Join Zoom Meeting here <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/82721606714>

April 22

Anchorage Parks and Rec is hosting a class on **Container Gardening** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here.](#)

April 23

Pre-emptive Protection from Plant Diseases (Virtual) from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, taught by Ellen Vande Visse at the **Good Earth Garden School**, hosted by Alaska Mill & Feed. [More info](#)

****April 26,**

Cooperative Extension Workshop - Composting Basics at 12 pm taught by Jodie Anderson. Composting can be one part of your personal sustainable lifestyle - Here are the basics of composting to allow you and your family, neighborhood, or community a chance to make a great soil amendment from garbage and how this actually helps the landfill! Register in advance for this workshop: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/82736156447> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

April 26

Wild Harvesting in the Boreal Forest (in person), a part of Anchorage Museum's Urban Harvest series, and taught by Tikaan Galbreath. Highly recommended. 6-7:30 pm. In connection with current museum exhibit, *Borealis: Life in the Woods*. [More Info.](#)

****May 2**

Plant Propagation Workshop offered by the **Alaska Botanical Garden** – [Read on!](#)

****May 13**

Anchorage Parks and Rec is hosting a class on **Raised Bed Gardening** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here.](#)

****May 16**

Peony Growing presented by Barbara Henjum at **AMGA's** monthly meeting at 7 pm

****May 26**

Cooperative Extension Workshop – Alaska's Farmers Market Season is Here! It's a big Dill! Join and Lettuce tell you all about Alaska's farmers' markets - they can't be Beet! But really, join the Alaska Farmers Market Association as they share what's in store for the 2022 market season. Learn where to find your nearest market and about their Farmers Market Toolkit project, National Farmers Market Week, and the Young and Beginning Farmers Coalition chapter. Kale yah! Join Zoom Meeting

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/89497213315?pwd=U0xHREVva3hVL0FYMWVBSIB3OXFTZz09>

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Seeds of Change's Summer Apprenticeship Program** ([flier](#)) and **Farm Field Trips** ([flier](#)).

****Farm Manager Position at Pilgrim Hot Springs** – [More info on the Kawerak website.](#)

****Fundraising for Orchard at Steller Secondary School** – [visit their GoFundMe page](#) to learn more and support the project.

****Seeds of Change** in Anchorage is advertising for a full time **Lead Greenhouse Grower**. Check out the [job advertisement here](#).

****Calling All Young and Beginning Alaska Farmers/Ranchers** the Alaska Farmers Market Association is helping kick off an Alaskan chapter of this group. The first step is to [take this survey](#) and reach out to Kyra Harty if you need more information - kyra@alaskafarmersmarkets.org / 907-235-4068 ext 20

****Northern County Farm Service Agency** (FSA) office in Delta Junction, Alaska is hiring a **full time Program Technician** (PT). The deadline to apply is **April 27, 2022**. Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude and enjoy working with the public. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. Here is the direct link to the position with information on how to apply: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/647240700>. Contact Donna Kramer at 907-761-7753 if you have specific questions regarding the position.

Catholic Social Services is offering a new Americorp opportunity: Growing Roots – Refugee Economic Empowerment. The successful applicant will work with a wonderful team on a great mission involving Fresh International Garden and Grow North Farm – [more details here](#).

Yarducopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) is accepting signups for gardeners looking for growing space, landowners offering space, and volunteers offering time to help make it all happen. Reach out to Yarducopia at garden@akaction.org or [their website](#).

Solid Waste Services [Curbside Composting Program](#) just opened for registration! Food scraps and yard trimmings make up about 1/3 of all residential solid waste. Composting helps promote community sustainability, reduces methane, and extends the life of the landfill. The program runs May through October for residents in SWS service territory in Anchorage. **Call 343-6250** today to register or find out if you are a SWS customer

The Microgrants for Food Security Program offered by the AK Division of Agriculture are accepting applications through **March 30 Deadline** – [more info on their website](#).

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association is hiring a **Youth Agriculture Project Manager** in Emmonak this summer. [Check out the job description for more info](#).

Alaska Botanical Gardens has listed their summer term positions in Horticulture and Education [on their website](#) - Be a part of the team during our peak bloom season!

Blue Market in Spenard is kicking off a **Talk and Tinker Series** and hosting regular pop-ups by local vendors. Currently featuring visits from **Farm 779, Raven's Creek Farms, and Common Root**. More to come. [See their events page for up-to-date details](#).

Alaska Seeds of Change has many volunteer opportunities this winter. Many of their summer interns and employees head back to school in the fall/winter, so it's a good time to step up to help this great organization. Sign up for a shift using [Seeds Sign Up Genius](#) here, or if it's your first-time volunteering, email volunteer@akseedsofchange.com for an orientation.

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage and the **Alaska School Garden Network** compile a list of public garden projects and volunteer opportunities – [you can view it here](#).

Vertical Harvest Hydroponics' [Sunny Pro XL](#) is a modular and convenient grow cabinet that can produce fresh produce all year. Could be a great fit for your organization or community.

FOOD PANTRIES, WINTER GROWERS, & SHOPPING LOCAL FOODS

Alaska Food Hub opened for its 7th season, with pick-ups in Homer, Soldotna, Ninilchik, and Seldovia, with more locations in the works.

ABG opened registration for their **Guided Gardening: Learning Summer CSA** – [more info](#).

Foundroot's Alaska-hearty seeds are for sale. [Mailed from Haines with love](#).

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at [AnchorageFood.org](#) (Address, hours, etc.)

Support Alaska's American Indian Producers - <https://www.indianagfoods.org/alaska-1> & check out Ag Alaska's list of AK farms - <https://agalaska.org/alaska-farms/>

Arctic Harvest has an [online winter farm stand](#), sells all sorts of veggies, meats, milk, eggs from growers in the Valley and further afield in AK. Submit your order from 3 pm Friday to 9 pm Sunday for pickup/delivery next week.

Blue Market carries lots of locally grown and fermented foods throughout the winter. You can find **Happy Mushrooms**, **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

City Farms is an indoor hydroponics farm in Anchorage. Their veggies can be found at New Sagaya, Natural Pantry, Fred Meyer, and Walmart. <https://www.cityfarmsalaska.com/>

Local Greens sell hydroponically grown veggies year-round in Anchorage. [Get a weekly or every-other-week subscription](#), and pickup at Double Shovel Cidery at your convenience

Far North Fungi grows and sells fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage & teaches fungi cultivation.

Anchorage Greens sells direct to consumers through a weekly Green Bag subscription as well as folks who stop by for on-site ala carte purchases. <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/>

Alaska Sprouts sells sprouts and microgreens online for pickup in Anchorage - <https://www.alaskasprouts.com/> . Read more about their story in a [2017 issue of Edible Alaska](#)

Space Farming Institute has an [8-week microgreens subscription](#) and sells hydroponic towers for growing your own plants at your school, home, office, etc. This is a wonderful non-profit and whether you're buying greens or a tower garden, well worth a visit to their Living Lab. Lots more info about their many programs and resources at <https://www.agronauts.org/>

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at riordank@gmail.com.